


COLUMBUS, NEW MEXICO — If Pancho Villa's ghost happens to float into town today, he's in for a big surprise. The place he did his best to destroy that dark night (March 9, 1916) 75 years ago is alive, well and thriving. Villa's last visit with his guerrillas left 18 Americans dead and much of the town ablaze. U.S. Army soldiers and townspeople killed 100 Villistas. But, the town declined and it faded further when the Army post was closed in the 1930s and further still when the railroad took up its tracks in 1961.

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