

TRACK N' FEATHERS



The Galloping Goose Historical Society of Dolores, Inc.

FALL/WINTER, 2005

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



RAILFEST: Galloping Goose No. 5 participated in *Railfest 2005* in August on the *Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad*. In the above photo, we see the Goose crossing the Tefft Bridge eastbound (by the timetable) at about milepost 478 on the return trip to Durango from Silverton on Sunday, August 28, 2005. This picture was taken during one of the many photo run-bys so popular with our riders on Galloping Goose runs. (David Fluit photo)



CUMBRES & TOLTEC: Galloping Goose No. 5 returned to the *Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad* in June, 2005. In the photo at left, Fred Springer gives a railroad history lesson to passengers – Fred is a wealth of information. The Goose had not operated on the C&TS since 1998 – the year it was restored to running condition. It was a real success for us and the railroad. It looks as though, at this writing, the C&TS will be operating under different management next season. However, we (the GGHS) still plan to operate there in June if the details can be worked out.

(Larry Spencer photo)



GGHS Board members Jerry McKenzie and Larry Spencer attended the mid-May work session of the *Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec* at Chama, New Mexico. They were on the crew helping to refurbish caboose #0306 that is used in special excursion service. At left Jerry puts the finishing touches on some trim work. The photo below shows the finished product taken at Chama during the time Goose No. 5 was operating there in June. (Spencer photos)



RGS DOLORES DEPOT PAINTING



In November, the Dolores depot got a much-needed fresh coat of paint. The contractor was Whitaker & Sons of Dolores. Above left shows the scaffolding in place after “corn blasting” the old peeling paint off while above right shows the finished product. It may be hard to tell much of a difference if you are seeing this in black & white but believe me, there is a big difference! (Spencer photos)



Rudolph guides Goose No. 5 into the depot for the Christmas Season holiday festivities. (You can just pick out his red nose.)



The “Santa Claus Train” in G scale setup in the museum.

Museum and Gift Shop – The RGS museum and GGHS gift shop in the Dolores Depot was again open through the summer season only through the efforts and sacrifices of volunteers. Most of these people have other obligations, like jobs. Pledging to serve as a volunteer for any organization is a big thing for most people. It can be especially frustrating when it seems we are always short of people to work and those who do volunteer are very often asked to work more than their shift. The museum has always been free but we have considered charging an entrance fee, or at least asking for a donation at the door, to boost revenue for paying the bills – like heat and lights.

Thanks to one and all – Too often we forget to thank all the people who “make it happen.” This entire organization would cease to exist if it were not for our volunteers and supporters of every kind. At the risk of leaving someone out, we will just say – **Thank you everybody!!**

Track laying project – In October, Tom Garrison and Larry Spencer presented a plan for laying track in the town of Dolores. The town board has accepted the plan subject to agreements that have yet to be finalized. The plan calls for beginning the construction in late April or early May of this year. The cost estimate at this time is \$25,000.00 but may go as high as \$35,000.00. We also anticipate an extension of this initial track laying for approximately two more blocks during the summer of 2006 as funding and agreements with the town allow.

We have, as of this writing, only about half of the total needed in the “track fund” account. The Dolores Town Board and the GGHS’s Board of Directors will not finalize any agreement until funds are in hand or committed to in writing. Donations are needed as soon as possible to finalize agreements and contracts so we will be able to begin the construction soon after the ground thaws in the spring. Donations received as designated for the “track fund” will be used only for that purpose. If you care to donate to the GGHS’s general operating fund please do so, (a portion of that donation may eventually be used for track laying.) Donations are tax deductible.

Other financial issues – As described on page 2 of this issue, the Depot building in Dolores received a badly needed fresh coat of paint in November. In October of last year your board of directors decided it was way past time to do just that – paint the building. A bid (out of three submitted) of \$7,240.00 was accepted and the job completed. The bill was paid out of our general operating fund.

The problem now is that at the time the decision was made to go ahead with the painting project, the board was under the impression that there were commitments of donations to pay for the paint job. With the exception of a \$1,000.00 donation from one of our benefactors, other anticipated donations did not materialize. Consequently, the Society now finds itself with insufficient general funds to operate through the end of May, (the 15th of May being the opening date for our summer season.) The minimum shortfall at this point is about \$2,600.00. That amount does not include money for such things as restocking the gift shop, printing advertising brochures, contingency, or emergency spending. Other projects are now on hold due to lack of funds.

The GGHS has always relied on the generous giving of our members and other supporters to maintain an adequate level of operation from a business standpoint.

If you are able, please send a special undesignated donation of whatever amount you care to. If your regular dues are past due, now would definitely be a good time to send that money to bring your membership up to date. Thank you!

GGHS - BITS & PIECES

Up-coming Events

Late May - About Memorial Day, the inaugural run of Galloping Goose No. 5 within the town of Dolores on new rails, (see the article on page 3). Look for your next newsletter due out by the end of April. Hopefully we will be able to report that the construction is on schedule and underway.

Early June - Anticipated operation on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad.

Late August -Operating Motor No.5 on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad at Railfest 2006. The Narrow Gauge Convention is also being held in Durango this year during Railfest

C&TS -Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad have asked for our help in getting word out to our members who are Colorado resident taxpayers. You are asked to send a letter to the State of Colorado, Governor Bill Owens at 136 State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203-1792. Please urge the Governor and Colorado to continue it's funding of the C&TS. Express your concern as a Colorado resident taxpayer of the need to preserve this living history and heritage. Mention also loss of jobs, tourist income, tax revenue etc. Thank you.

Denise Bowyer - Business Manager

The Galloping Goose
Historical Society of Dolores, Inc.
P.O. Box 297,
Dolores, Colorado 81323