

TRACK N' FEATHERS



The Galloping Goose Historical Society of Dolores, Inc.
(A 501(c)3 not for profit corporation)

SPRING/SUMMER, 2006



Galloping Goose No.5 slowly passes the Los Pinos Tank (MP 325.5) performing a photo run-by for its passengers on The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad – June, 2006.
(What looks like grainy spots in the sky are Cliff Swallows that nest in the shade of the tank.)

Galloping Goose No. 5 Operates on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad June, 2006

Again this year Galloping Goose No. 5 operated by special invitation on the *Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad* from Chama, New Mexico to Antonito, Colorado. The schedule was June 7th through June 13th with a variety of runs – and photo run-bys – along the line.

As most railfans know the "C&TS" is a 64-mile long remnant of the Denver & Rio Grande Western's line from Alamosa, Colorado to Durango and Silverton. The C&TS is jointly owned by the states of Colorado and New Mexico. It is now being operated under joint agreement between the states by the Cumbres & Toltec Management Corporation.

The operating schedule (revenue runs) was the same as last year's: June 8, Chama to Antonito – June 9, Antonito to Osier and return, June 10 – Antonito to Chama – June 11, Chama to Osier – and June 12, twice from Chama to Cumbres Pass and return. A lot of beautiful scenery, narrow gauge railroad operation, and oodles of fun! Come and join us next year!

We would like to thank all of the individuals who made this operation successful. First of all to the C&TS management and staff for inviting us and setting up the whole thing – especially Tim Tennant (new manager of the C&TMC) who was extremely busy with seeing to it that the railroad itself would even operate this summer. To the several "Pilots" from the railroad who oversaw our operation out on the line. To Neilson-Skanska Construction Company who again supplied the truck to transport the Goose from Dolores to Chama and return. And, last but not least, to all of our Goose crew members who not only operate the Goose but also volunteer many hours in preparing it – mechanical work, loading supplies, etc. Thank you all!

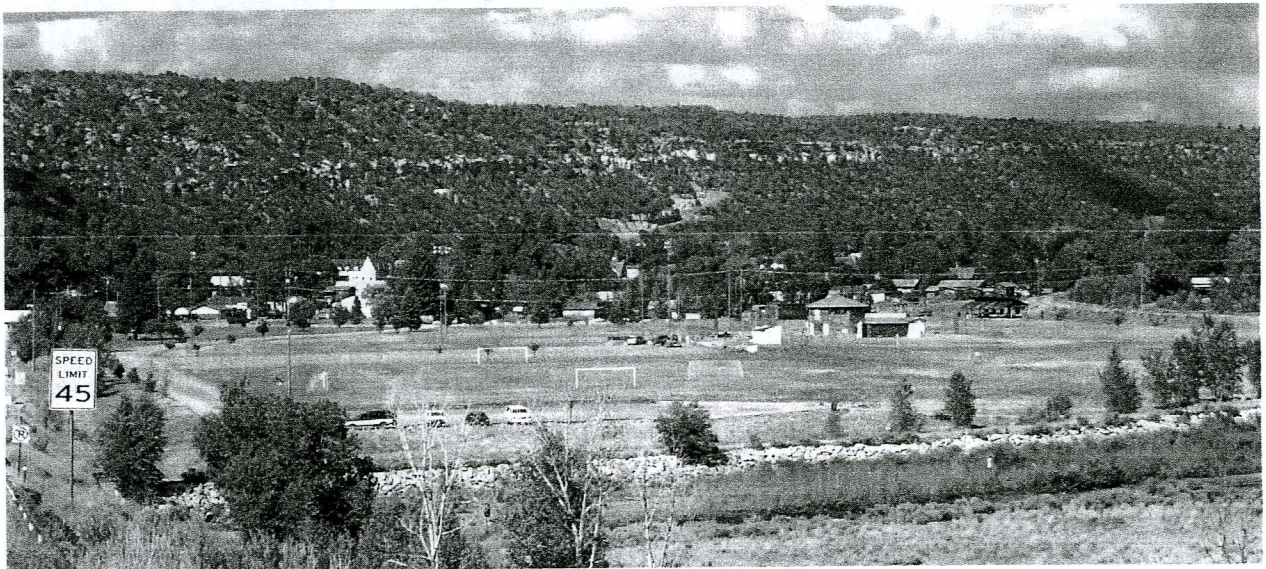
Track Laying Project

In our last issue we reported on the *Galloping Goose Historical Society's* (GGHS) plan to begin laying track along Central Avenue within the town of Dolores. This was to be the first big step in eventually laying track from Dolores, Colorado to Mancos, Colorado on the old *Rio Grande Southern Railroad* grade. That plan seemed to be close to becoming a reality.

At the 11th hour, in late February, the Dolores Town Board informed us that there were too many "red flag" issues that had *just then* come to their attention and that the project would not begin until those issues were resolved. The project came to an abrupt halt. Needless to say, we were very disappointed and discouraged.

At another meeting with the town on March 1st, it was suggested that we might consider laying track in Joe Rowell Park on the west end of town. (Ironically, just such a plan was proposed to the town several years ago and that plan was dismissed by them as being unsuitable.)

At the regular Dolores Town Board meeting on May 8, 2006, the Mayor and Trustees were given a letter outlining the history of various proposals to lay track in the town and some of the problems the GGHS has previously encountered with the town and those projects. The letter also says in part that, "we believe that it is unethical to spend any more money or time on any project within the town that may not come to fruition due to lack of support." The letter ends with a statement that it is our continued desire to work with the town in a cooperative effort to lay track and operate the Goose within the town limits (probably in Joe Rowell Park.) However, the GGHS Board of Directors has taken the position that the Town Board must now decide whether or not to give full written support for the track laying project. Until that happens we will have to be content with operating as a visiting piece of railroad equipment on other railroads. (The picture below shows Joe Rowell Park from Colorado Highway 145 coming into Dolores.)



2006 Operating Schedule

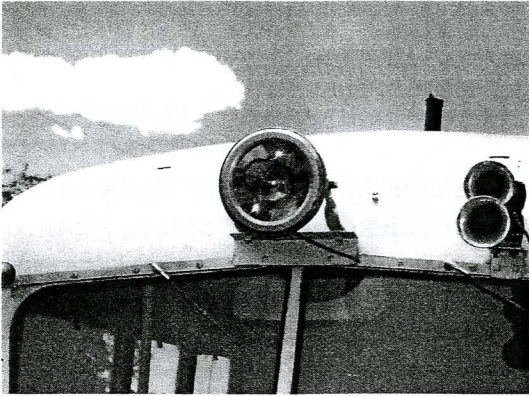
August 12th – Escalante Days in Dolores, Colorado

Every hour on the hour from 11:00 a.m. thru 3:00 p.m.
Operating on 100 yards of track in front of the Dolores Depot. No fare – donations accepted.

August 23rd thru August 27th – Railfest and the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Durango, Colorado

Offering various runs. Please contact the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad for official schedule and ticketing information at www.durangotrain.com or call 1-877-872-4607 (toll free) or 970-247-2733

Galloping Goose Maintenance



Large headlight reflector recoated with nickel plate



New rear wheels ready for installation

When Galloping Goose No. 5 was being restored in 1997/1998, it was decided that it would be rebuilt to operating condition, not just for static display. That project came to life with its return to the rails on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad in late May, 1998.

A tremendous amount of money and time went into the complete restoration of Goose No. 5 at that time but the job did not end there! Since then, each year has seen many hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars spent on maintaining this wonderful machine. This past year was no exception.

Late last year the GGHS Board of Directors decided to purchase four new wheels to replace the badly worn ones on the rear. The new wheels were bought from the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden, Colorado. They were a "surplus" cast iron set they had that were not going to be used for Goose No. 7. The entire bill amounted to almost \$3,000.00. That included purchase, freight, "flame hardening" (because cast iron lasts longer that way), and machine shop work to fit them to the axels and reassemble the truck set and break rigging. The picture above right shows the new wheel set ready for installation in early April of this year. The removal and reinstalling process – including break adjustments – is performed on site in front of the depot in Dolores by dedicated volunteer labor headed up by GGHS President and "chief mechanic" Wayne Brown. This story is but one example of the ongoing maintenance process. Those of you who have ridden with us out on the line, so to speak, have also witnessed the effort by the crew to keep things running smoothly, like keeping the breaks adjusted and oiling the bearings and whatever else needs attention. It can be a lot of hot, dirty, greasy work but well worth it!

Summer Volunteers

The Galloping Goose Historical Society is still (as always) in great need of volunteers to help keep everything going – especially the Gift Shop and Museum in the Dolores depot through the summer months. Please help – we need you! If you live nearby or are just visiting near here for the summer months, give us a call (970-882-7082.)

Railfest and National Convention

As shown in the summer schedule on the previous page, **Railfest** on the *Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad* is to be held this year in conjunction with the **National Narrow Gauge Convention**. Railfest is from Tuesday, August 22nd thru Sunday, August 27th. The Narrow Gauge Convention is scheduled from Monday, August 21st thru Saturday, August 26th. For the D&SNGRR visit their web site at www.durangotrain.com and for the convention at their web site - www.narrowgauge2006.com. Many of the activities this year in Durango will center on celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad's arrival in Durango. (Please note that ticketing for Galloping Goose No. 5 is only handled by the D&SNGRR.)

GGHS Annual Meeting will be held on September 9, 2006 at 12 O'clock Noon In Dolores, Colorado

The meeting will be held in Flanders Park behind the Depot

(All photos courtesy of Larry Spencer)

GGHS - BITS & PIECES

Annual Meeting - Lunch for the meeting will be catered by Ponderosa Restaurant and the menu is as follows: Barbeque beef, barbeque chicken, baked potato, pinto beans, Sourdough biscuits, fresh vegetables and a variety of deserts. Beverages are also provided. If you plan on joining us please telephone the depot at (970) 882-7082 as we do need to know how many meals to provide.

Members - For members who mailed in 2005-2006 dues within the last 3 months, I apologize for the delay in getting your new membership card and letter to you. I am just now getting caught up from our busy spring preparations for Chama and other pressing projects. Your information will be mailed shortly.

GGHS Web site - Our local high school computer department are now working on a new web site for the society as part of their credit. Sorry for the inconvenience to our members since our site was dropped, but we hope to have it on line before too long.

Railfest - We hope to see many of you during Railfest. I know you will be having so much fun riding #5 and D&S steam but I hope you will make time to drop by the Dolores Depot and museum and visit with us too.

Denise Bowyer - Business Manager

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