

TRACK N' FEATHERS

The Galloping Goose® Historical Society of Dolores, Inc.
(A 501(c) 3 non-profit Corporation)

SUMMER, 2008



RGS Passenger Coach 256 Moved



Above left – Jeff Gardner of Nielson-Skanska Construction Co. supervises the initial lift of the coach from the old foundation. Above right – the coach is moved onto the street by a pair of heavy-duty forklifts for loading onto the truck.



Above left – The coach is loaded and readied for the 3-mile trip to the site where it will be restored. Above right – it is being placed on wooden timber cribbing at Truelsen's mill where it will stay for most of the restoration project.

On July 24th, RGS passenger coach 256 was moved from the site it had occupied since about 1954. The coach was moved to the lumber mill owned by Val Truelsen which is located about 3 miles east of Dolores on Colorado Highway 145.

As reported in earlier editions of *Track N' Feathers*, the coach was built by the *Jackson & Sharp Company* in Wilmington, Delaware in 1880 for the Denver & Rio Grande railroad and then sold to the Rio Grande Southern in 1891. The RGS used this coach – and others like it – in regular service until about 1933 when the railroad began using their Motor fleet for transporting passengers, the US Mail and light freight. (In those days, the RGS called the Galloping Geese "Motors.") When 256 was retired from hauling passengers, it was modified to be used as living quarters in work-car service and renumbered 0256. A kitchen was added and a partition wall to separate the kitchen from the living area.

The coach has been used as a private residence since the mid 1950s and from then until now it had evolved into something other than a typical railroad passenger coach. An addition (add-on building) had been constructed onto one side of it and a large portion of that side was cut out as a passageway between the two. Over the years other modifications were made inside the coach for wiring, plumbing and framing for insulation of the outside walls. Nevertheless, the basic structure of the coach remains as it was when built in 1880.

The first job in moving the coach involved quite a bit of preparation work. Over 200 man-hours were spent on removing electric wiring, plumbing, and internal fixtures and appliances in the kitchen and bathroom. Also, great care had to be taken in the process of separating the coach from the addition so it was not damaged. (See photos below.)



Above left – Ed Latham cuts through the roof rafters connecting the coach and addition. (Fortunately, these rafters did not penetrate the coach roof.) Above right – the side of the coach that had been covered for over 50 years by another interior wall in the addition is exposed. The floor joists in the addition are also now exposed and disconnected from the coach. Notice the “walk-through” opening cut into the side of the coach. This will eventually be closed again as part of the restoration project.

The GGHS owes a huge debt of gratitude to (in case we leave somebody out) everybody who helped move RGS Coach 256 to its new, temporary, home. To the volunteer members of the Society (especially Lew Matis, Ed Latham, Jerry McKenzie, and Larry Spencer) who did most of the preparation work described above. To the GGHS Board of Directors and Business Manager for giving direction and support to the importance of accomplishing the move. To Karl Schaeffer, Director of the Ridgway Railroad Museum, for traveling to Dolores on the day of the move to add his expert advice and labor to the effort. To *David Bowyer Productions* for documentation and video. To Val Truelsen for aiding in the preparation and offering his property for the coach to be stored on during the restoration. However, most importantly, to Gary Merrifield, Jeff Gardner, and their crew from *Nielson-Skanska Construction Company* of Cortez who provided the manpower and heavy equipment needed to haul the coach to its new location. Thank you all!

The restoration project is expected to cost in excess of \$50,000.⁰⁰ Funding will come from a grant(s) and donations from individuals. A great deal of the work will come from volunteer labor but most of the parts and supplies (i.e. replacement windows, seats, interior and exterior woodwork) must be purchased. Contributions are needed. If you wish to contribute please specify that funds sent for this project are for “Coach 256.” All donations are tax deductible. Read more on this story in the next newsletter.

Galloping Goose #5 schedule at Railfest on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. August 21 – 24, 2008

Thursday, August 21 - 8:25AM: Durango to Cascade Round Trip \$64.00 Includes tour at Tacoma Power Plant

Friday, August 22 - 9:30 AM: Durango to Silverton One Way \$89.00 Includes bus return transportation from Silverton.

Saturday, August 23 - 9:00 AM: Silverton to Elk Park Round Trip \$39.00 Photo opportunity with #315 at Elk Park

3:45 PM: Silverton to Elk Park Round Trip \$39.00

Sunday, August 24 9:00 AM: Silverton to Durango One Way \$89.00 Includes bus transportation to Silverton to meet the Goose

Contact the D&SNGRR for reservations and ticketing at 970-247-2733 (toll free 1-877-872-4607) or visit their web site at www.durangotrain.com

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2008 TO 2009 MEMBERSHIP
Due on 9-1-2008

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

Name: _____	\$ 30	Individual Annual
Address: _____	\$ 40	Family Annual
City: _____ State: _____	\$ 50	Business Annual
Zip: _____ PH #: _____	\$ 500	Life Sponsor
e-mail address _____	\$ 1,000	Patron
	\$ 5,000	Benefactor

Donation for Motor #5 Maintenance _____
 Donation for Coach #256 Restoration _____
 Donation for RGS Lost Canyon Track Laying _____
 Donation for GGHS Operating Fund _____

SOUVENIR ITEMS:

GGHS Coffee Mug	\$ 12.00	_____
GGHS Pen	\$ 4.00	_____
GGHS (Silver San Juan) Patch	\$ 5.00	_____
Annual 9 (Galloping Geese) on the RGS) Book	\$ 35.00	_____
Belt Buckle #5, pewter	\$ 23.00	_____
Sunset on the Rio Grande(VOL 2 ONLY) SPECIAL	\$ 30.00	_____
Return of the RGS DVD or Video - includes Return of #5		_____
Program + D&S Railfest - TRACK FUNDRAISER	\$ 23.00	_____
Ash Adult T-shirts S,M,L,XL,XXL(Specify) _____	\$ 17.00	_____
Ash Kids T-shirts 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, (Specify) _____	\$ 12.00	_____
Lapel Pin	\$ 6.00	_____
Motor #5 Magnet	\$ 2.00	_____
Postcard Motor #5 in front of Dolores Depot	\$.75	_____
Coker Print - #5 at Depot in 1950(signed & numbered)	\$ 25.00	_____
GG #5 Goose #5 model "HO" or "HON3" in original		_____
Freight Box mode or in passenger car mode	\$ 170.00	_____
GG#5 "N" Gauge	\$ 198.00	_____

Colorado Residents please add 3% SALES TAX _____

GRAND TOTAL _____

Credit Card # & Type: _____ Exp Date: _____

Check or money order also accepted: Check or M/O/ # _____

ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING & HANDLING

**Annual Meeting of The Galloping Goose Historical Society
of Dolores, Inc.**

Will be held at 12 o'clock noon in Flanders Park (behind the RGS Depot) in
Dolores, Colorado on

Saturday, September 13, 2008

The meeting will begin with a catered luncheon provided by the Ponderosa Restaurant followed immediately by the Business Meeting. The agenda for the business meeting will include reports from the President, Vice President, Treasurer and other Board members and committees, other new and old business as necessary, and concluding with the election of GGHS President, Vice President and Board of Directors members whose terms are up for reelection. (In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held in the banquet room of the Ponderosa Restaurant located at 8th St. and Railroad Ave. in Dolores.)

-Coming in the next issue of *Track N' Feathers*-

A pictorial report on this summer's operations on the *Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad* and at "Railfest" on the *Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad* and continuing coverage of the restoration of RGS Coach 256

Please visit the Galloping Goose Historical Society's web site at www.gallopinggoose5.com



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of Dolores, Inc.
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