

TRACK N' FEATHERS

The Galloping Goose Historical Society of Dolores, Inc.

(A 501(c) 3 non-profit Corporation)

FALL/WINTER, 2007



Then and Now



Here are a couple of Galloping Goose No. 5 pictures for all of you Goose fans! The one at left was taken soon after the rails were pulled up in Dolores when the Rio Grande Southern was being dismantled – circa late fall 1952. The poor old girl was apparently unceremoniously just pushed off into the dirt when she was delivered. Five members of the *Dolores Rotary Club* had purchased this Goose from the scrapper for \$250.00! We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to those men! They had the foresight to save this historic piece of the RGS as a reminder of Dolores' railroad heritage. The old depot building was dismantled soon after this picture was taken. (GGHS Museum collection)

The "new" RGS Dolores depot was built in 1991, the front door of which is located about 40 feet to the right of the Goose in the picture above. Railroad Avenue in Dolores (Colorado Highway 145) now occupies most of the foreground you see in this picture.

To the right is Goose No. 5 as she is today parked in front of the new depot. This picture was taken on January 8, 2008 after a light snowfall the day before (about 10 inches). Those of you with a keen eye (or a magnifying glass) can see that when Goose was restored to operating condition in 1998 most of the original dents were left as they were when she was delivered to Dolores in 1952. If you look closely at the bottom of the door and along the bottom edge of the bus body there is evidence of damage from some sort of mishap – not unusual for RGS operations. One possibility (from photographic evidence) is that this damage happened when she derailed one snowy winter day at the highway grade crossing on Dallas Divide and ran into an ice encrusted snow bank. (Larry Spencer photo)



RGS Passenger Coach 256 Update

In the summer issue of *Track and Feathers* we talked about the issues surrounding moving and restoring the coach. We have yet to reach an agreement with the Dolores Chamber of Commerce as far as them sharing a portion of the coach as a visitor's center. The anticipated placement of the coach – for static display and possibly Chamber use – is in front of the Dolores Town Hall which is next door to the GGHS depot. In any case, we have now been given until June 1st to remove the coach from its current location on private property.

