

# TRACK N' FEATHERS

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

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## FALL 2011

### Railfest 2011

Story by Louie Vallejos

Photos by Larry Spencer

Growing up in Dolores near the Rio Grande Southern tracks, I have faint memories of trains passing our house, but I mostly remember Galloping Goose #5 sitting in Flanders Park after the railroad was abandoned. What an irony that now, 60 years later, I'm Motorman on #5 during the 2011 Railfest on the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

Tuesday August 16<sup>th</sup>: The Goose was "readied" and loaded on the trailer in preparation for its trip to Durango. A major servicing was performed previously in the week in preparation for Railfest.



*The spectacular panoramic photo above shows the Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> rock and mud slide that closed the D&S for several days about two weeks before Railfest. In the photo below, note the shattered stumps on the right side of the photo next to # 5. The slide contained an estimated 100,000 tons of rock and mud.*



Wednesday August 17<sup>th</sup>: Larry, Lew, Jerry, Bill, Katherine, and I arrived at the Durango Depot at 8:00 a.m. to attend a mandatory safety meeting for all visiting crews to Railfest. The meeting was held in the museum next to the round house and several issues were discussed by three individuals from the D&S. I thought the meeting was very informative, such as the non-use of cell phones anywhere on D&S premises while on duty. Once a person became accustomed to it, you didn't even miss it, and it was favorable to not carry one.

At 11:00 the goose was pulled around to the front of the depot, and we loaded passengers for the "shake-down" run to Rockwood. Our pilot was Steve Otten. On the way, the brakes didn't seem to work quite as

well as they should, so at Rockwood during our lunch, we adjusted them, and on the return trip they worked great.

Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup>: After our daily goose inspection, passengers were loaded for our first revenue trip to Cascade Wye, which included a tour of the Tacoma hydro electric plant. Our pilot for the day was Paul Carson. A boxed lunch was provided for all passengers, and we ate under the pavilion at Cascade. During the trip, we did several "run-bys." When we returned to the depot, the annual Railfest reception was in process. The doors to the museum were opened, and our pilot had us pull the Goose partially inside so that the guests were able to see it up close. Charley Diserdinando and Charlie Schumacher were guest speakers and their topic was the history of the Strater Hotel. Mr. Schumacher is a master woodworker who has worked at the hotel for over four decades, repairing and rebuilding the beautiful antique

(Continued on page 2)

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! SEE THE COLORED INSERT.**

## (Rail Fest 2011 continued)

furniture found throughout the hotel.

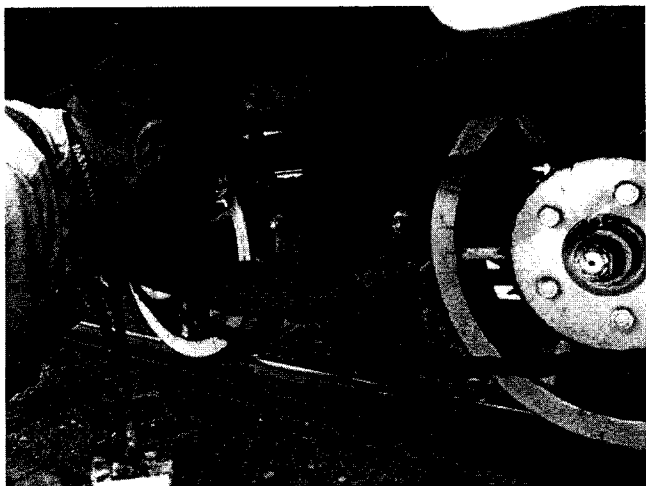
Friday August 19<sup>th</sup>: During our inspection this morning, we noticed the marker lights on the back of the goose weren't working and that one of the bulbs was broken. We couldn't find any on board or any place open in town where we could purchase some. The next thing that happened was after turning the Goose on the turntable and moving it on to a lead track, the hand rail of the turntable barely brushed the back of the Goose, causing a minor scratch. The operator of the turntable felt badly. Our trip today was to Silverton, and just north of Durango Paul noticed a black bear and her cub, which was a special treat for our passengers. South of Silverton, we passed through the August 2nd rock and mud slide that covered the track and partially blocked the river, creating a small lake along the river. The Corp of Engineers estimated 100 thousand tons of material in the slide,

Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>: This morning we wiped the dew off the windows and readied the Goose for its return trip to Durango with the Eureka following behind. We had to pull into the siding at Elk park to allow the regular train from Durango to go by. In the evening, the parade of trains took place in Durango. Five trains including the Eureka and Motor #5, arrived approximately ten minutes apart and were parked between the museum and the depot for display. The event was open to the public and people could walk among the trains and talk to the crews. A record number of eighteen photo run-bys were done, thanks to Paul and Larry.

Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup>: Our final trip for the fest was to Cascade and back, which again involved lunch and a tour at Tacoma.

Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>: The Goose was uneventfully loaded and returned to Dolores.

What a tremendous sense of accomplishment it was for me to have served along with Larry Spencer as Motorman for Goose # 5. This has given me the good fortune of operating the Goose the full length of the D&S in both directions, an opportunity that few people are given. Thanks to the Society for their encouragement and the opportunity to become Motorman.



*During the shakedown run Motorman Louie Vallejos checks the brake adjustment on the power truck of Motor #5. In the fall of 2010 the Society replaced all the brake linkage components due to wear that caused the brake shoes to misalign on the wheels. The shakedown was the first time the crew had to adjust the brakes in normal operating conditions.*



*Saturday evening, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> the "Parade of Trains" was held in front of the D&S depot in Durango. The event featured five steam locomotive and Motor #5. People were given close access to the equipment and able to talk to the crews. The whistles on the locomotives were blown at the same time, and needless to say, # 5's horn was drowned out by the whistles !*

## GGHS WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS

Board member Larry Spencer has worked with Fred Erb, who generously manages our website, to improve and enhance the site [www.gallopinggoose5.com](http://www.gallopinggoose5.com). Click on the "Photos" button and you'll find photos from this year's Rail Fest on the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and several past years' excursions on the D&S and the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroads. Thumbnail images pop up when you click on a specific excursion so you get an overview of the photos available. The "News" button will take you to past and recent events. Currently there's a great story and photos by Larry about a hike several members took to the site of the Gallagher Trestles in the fall of 2010. A final button you should check frequently is the "Schedule" button. We are currently negotiating four possible excursions in 2012, including a reunion of all seven geese at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden in June, a Fourth of July excursion and a fall color excursion in late September on the C&TS, and Railfest on the D&S in August. Be sure to monitor the "Schedule" link on our website for updates on these excursions and other up-coming events.

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2011 – 2012 Membership  
Due on 9/1/2011

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00.....Individual Annual  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00.....Family Annual  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00.....Business Annual  
State, Zip Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ \$500.00.....Life Member  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000.00.....Patron  
\$5,000.00.....Benefactor

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Donations:**

Gallopig Goose No. 5 on-going maintenance..... \_\_\_\_\_  
RGS Passenger Coach 256 restoration..... \_\_\_\_\_  
GGHS General Operating Fund ..... \_\_\_\_\_

**Souvenir Items:**

Gallopig Goose **baseball cap** (embroidered)..... \$18.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_  
Gallopig Goose **baseball cap** (ironed-on patch)..... \$18.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_  
Gallopig Goose No. 5 **belt buckle** (pewter)..... \$23.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chasing the Narrow Gauge , Vol. 1 & 2**(book)..... \$62.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_  
**R.G.S. Story** (Sundance Books) 12 vol. set – call for pricing and availability... \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sunset On The Rio Grande Southern** (book) \_\_\_\_\_  
Autographed Special (Vol. 2 only)..... \$35.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Return Of The RGS** (DVD) Bowyer Productions  
3 film special edition.....\$25.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Railroad Classics** (DVD) Bowyer Productions  
6 film special edition..... \$25.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_

**T-shirts – Adult,**  
(Please circle size and style) S, M, L, XL, XXL..... \$17.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_  
**T-shirts – Child,**  
(Please circle size and style) 6-8, 10-12, 14-16... ..... \$12.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_



GGHS Logo



Running Goose

Gallopig Goose silver pen.....\$4.00 each or 2 for \$7.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Lapel pin..... \$6.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mouse Pad** with #5 at Taft Trestle on D&S ..... \$13.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Gallopig Goose No. 5 at the Dolores Depot in 1950*  
(Coker painting – signed print 12x18)..... \$27.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Gallopig Goose No. 5* painting in watercolor  
By H.L. Scott 12x18..... \$25.00 (ea) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Wayne Bus Body** (Goose No. 5) **HO gauge operating models:**  
(Tourist configuration only)..... \$255.00 (ea) (only two left) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Pierce-Arrow** (Goose No. 7) **HO gauge operating models:**  
(Freight configuration only)..... \$255.00 (ea) (only two left) \_\_\_\_\_

**All prices include shipping and handling within the U.S.**

Colorado residents please add 3% sales tax..... \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL**..... \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card type ( ) # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Check or Money Order also accepted – Check or Money Order # \_\_\_\_\_

## **Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar!!**

**Winter Hours at the Museum:** We are now in our winter schedule which runs until May 15, 2012. The museum and office hours are 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You might catch us open on other days when some of us are working on other tasks, but the best times to reach us are the above hours and days. You can always leave a message on our voice mail, and we'll try to return your call within a few days.

**Christmas Shopping Days at the Museum:** We will be open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm for Christmas shopping for local and visiting GGHS members and all other folks looking for presents for RGS and railroad fans. For great stocking stuffers, we're offering 10% off all souvenir items through December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Dolores Merchants' Open House and Tree Lighting, Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 pm to 9 pm:** The celebration will begin with the tree lighting and a Yule Log fire in the Town Hall parking lot with free hot chocolate, candy, and cookies. Local businesses will be open late, offering great deals!