

TRACK N' FEATHERS

The Galloping Goose Historical Society of Dolores, Inc.

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SUMMER/FALL 2013

FROM CATERPILLARS TO SNOW: Unusual Events Add Excitement to 2013 Excursions

Galloping Goose No. 5 journeyed to the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad twice and the Durango and Silverton Railroad once for three excursions in 2013. Overall the excursions were very successful, but unusual events added some out-of-the-ordinary excitement to the excursions.

The fun began on our first excursion on the C&TS during the first week of July. The aspen forest north of Chama for the past two summers has had a huge infestation of Western Tent Caterpillars that stripped most of the trees of their early leaves. When the caterpillars dropped to the ground in search of food or to pupate, they were of such numbers that the rails became a slippery mess for any train working up the 4% grade. Some days, train crews had to walk ahead of the train sprinkling sand on the rails by hand. On No. 5's first journey up the pass, we encountered the caterpillars about a mile below Cumbres Pass. Motorman Louie Vallejos had to use a light foot on the gas peddle and a lot of sand to keep No. 5 from stalling. In the photo below you can see some of the dozens of caterpillars clinging to the lower parts of No. 5.

In mid August, No. 5 was taken to the Durango and Silverton Railroad for five days of operations. Ridership was very good with the exception of the last day when the numbers were quite low. Highlights of the excursion included a round trip to Silverton spread over two days with an over night stay in Silverton, and operating one day with D&RGW Locomotive 315 a 2-8-0 manufactured in 1895. For over six decades it was on display in Durango, first at Brookside Park and later at Santa Rita Park. In 2007 a six year restoration was completed by the Durango Railroad Historical Society, a dedicated group of volunteers. Since restoration it has operated on both the Durango and Silverton Railroad and the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad. In 1950 it was featured in the Movie *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

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Not everyone gets to see the Labato Trestle up this close! Because we had to stay on the C & TS right-of-way, those of us taking photos had to scrunch together for this photo run-by. Truly another memorable experience while riding Goose No. 5.

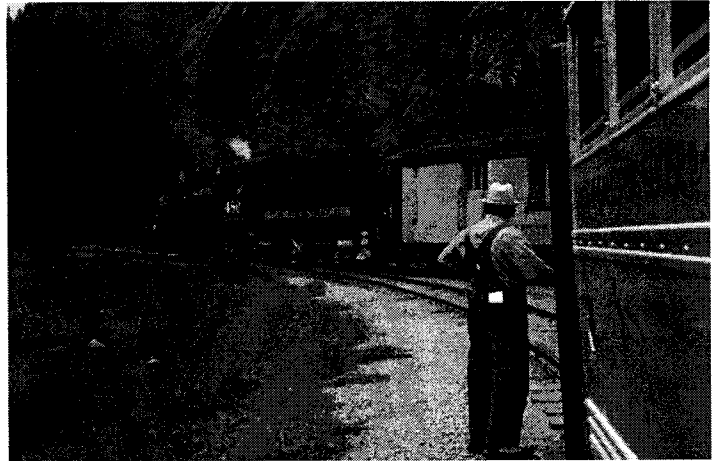
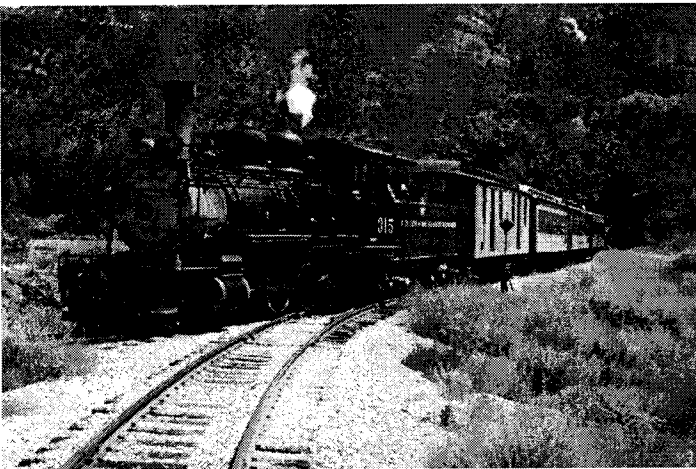


Above are some of the caterpillars that hitched a ride to the top of Cumbres Pass on the flangers of No. 5. One caterpillar is no match for a train, but when they number in the tens-of-thousands, they do make for a great story!

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The Fall Color Special in late September on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad turned out to be a very special event despite the aspen trees and oak brush continuing to wear their bright green summer colors. The C&TS invited Motor No. 1 from the Ridgway Railroad Museum to operate in conjunction with No. 5. Motor 1 is a replica of the original Rio Grande Southern No. 1 and was built by Karl Schaffer of Ridgway. Passengers and railfans were delighted to see the two railcars operating together, and several passengers took advantage of riding in the open stake bed of No. 1 for an additional fee. No. 1 is so small it can accommodate only one passenger in the cab. On day four an early fall snow storm moved through the high country and treated passengers and crews to unique experience of operating in wintry conditions. The subdued lighting and visibility delighted all the photographers as well. We were also treated to watching, not one, but two older locomotives pull a double headed freight train up the west side of Cumbres Pass on our last day. No. 315 again was featured and was coupled with D&RGW 463, a 1903 outside frame 2-8-2 that recently was restored to operating condition. No. 463 is one of only two surviving K-27s, out of 15, built for the D&RGW. And a final event was that we got to introduce a new volunteer to the crew operating No. 5. Gary Gregory is a retired telecom worker who lives south of Rico and is interested in helping to maintain and operate No. 5. Gary brings a good knowledge about gasoline engines, an interest in local history, and a great deal of enthusiasm to be involved with No. 5. He was able to operate No. 5 on two days under the guidance of our two veteran motormen Larry Spencer and Louie Vallejos.

The three excursions of 2013 were very successful for both the GGHS and our devoted passengers. With the exception of a few days of low ridership in the first two excursions, we were full or nearly full on most days. Our portion of the revenues improves our financial outlook for the winter, but equally important is promotion of the educational component of our mission statement. While having No. 5 on static display at our museum in Dolores contributes to our mission, giving people an experience riding on it adds dramatically to their understanding of the importance it played in the lives of the people and communities it served in Southwest Colorado for eighteen years..



Above: (L) No. 315 on the tail of the wye at Event Park on the D&S. (R) Motorman Louie Vallejos watches a daily train pass at Elk Park. Below (L) Replica Motor No. 1 follows in a snow storm near Cumbres Pass in late September on the C&TS. (R) Double header 315 and 463 await departure of No. 5 in Chama on a cool September morning.

GALLOPING GOOSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DOLORES, INC.

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2013 - 2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Due on 9/1/2013 - Membership dues are from September 1st to September 1st

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

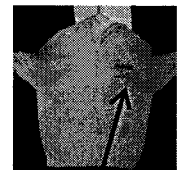
Name: _____	individual Annual \$30.00 _____
Address: _____	Family Annual \$40.00 _____
City: _____	Business Annual \$50.00 _____
State: _____ Zip: _____	Life Member \$500.00 _____
Phone: (____) _____	Patron \$1,000.00 _____
E-mail: _____	Benefactor \$5,000.00 _____

Special Donations:

Galloping Goose No.5 on-going maintenance	\$ _____
RGS Passenger Coach 256 restoration	\$ _____
GGHS General Operating Fund	\$ _____
Museum Display Fund	\$ _____

Souvenir Items:

Ceramic Coffee Mug (No. 5 photo & Running Goose) \$17.00 (ea) (heavy item; high shipping costs)	_____	NEW ITEM
Galloping Goose Baseball Cap (embroidered) \$18.00 (ea)	_____	
Mouse Pad (Motor 5-Teft Bridge or Silverton Narrows) \$14.00 (ea)	_____	
Tin Feathers Galloping Geese Book (CRRM Stan Rhine)\$14.00 (ea)	_____	
R.G.5. Story (Sundance Books) – call for pricing and availability of Volumes	_____	
Hooded Sweatshirt 50/50 Cotton Poly Blend , with embroidered logo Light Gray (7.5 oz, \$53.00.) or Dark Gray (10.5 oz., \$59.00) (Please circle color and size) S, M, L, 1X, 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X	_____	NEW ITEM
T-shirts - Adult , (Please circle size) S, M, L, XL, XXL \$17.00 (ea)	_____	
T-shirts - Child , (Please circle size) 4-6, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16 \$13.00 (ea)	_____	
Galloping Goose Silver Pen \$4.00 each or 2 for \$7.00	_____	
Lapel pin. (RGS Herald or Running Goose)..... \$7.00 (ea)	_____	
Galloping Goose No.5 at the Dolores Depot in 1950 (Coker painting - signed print 12x18..... \$30.00 (ea)	_____	
Galloping Goose#5 watercolor (H.L Scott).....12 x 18 \$28.00 (ea)	_____	
6 X 6 Tin Plate (Running Goose or RGS Herald)..... \$13.00 (ea)	_____	
8 X 8 Tin Plate (GGHS Society Logo)..... \$15.00 (ea)	_____	
24" Lanyard Swivel Hook (Motor 5 & Running Goose) \$ 8.00 (ea)	_____	
License Plate (No. 5 at C&TS Rock Tunnel or D&S Silverton Narrows)..... \$20.00 (ea)	_____	NEW ITEM



Hooded Sweatshirt and Logo
NEW ITEM
NEW ITEM
NEW ITEM
NEW ITEM

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 # _____

*** * * TIME TO RENEW YOUR GGHS MEMBERSHIP * * ***

The Galloping Goose Historical Society wants to take this opportunity to ask you for your continued support. Membership dues are used to cover the depot/museum insurance, artifact insurance and operating expenses, as well as insurance for Motor No. 5 excursions. Without the support of our friends and members, we cannot accomplish our goals of preserving the history of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad, providing the excursion opportunities for our visitors to ride on Motor No. 5, and learning about the history of the Galloping Geese.

We greatly appreciate your support over the years and ask that if you have not renewed your dues for the period 9/2013 to 9/2014 that you will consider doing so.



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