



The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad built its narrow gauge Ouray Branch in 1887, but the San Juan Mountains between Ouray and Silverton were too formidable to allow the building of a railroad directly connecting the two towns. The Rio Grande Southern was founded in 1889 by Otto Mears to go around the most rugged part of the San Juan Mountains and also reach the mining towns of Rico and Telluride. Construction began in 1890 from a connection with the D&RG Ouray Branch at Ridgway, Colorado, to a connection with the D&RG Silverton Branch at Durango. The RGS shops were at Ridgway, where the "Galloping Goose's" were built and maintained and which today is the wonderful Ridgway Railroad Museum.

This D&RGW caboose is one of many things to explore at the Ridgway Railroad Museum.



Inside the nicely maintained D&RGW caboose.





D&RGW hopper at the Ridgway Railroad Museum.



Decal detail.