



CROWD AT WINDOW—A happy crowd of Cub Scouts crowd before a window in one of 20 coaches which carried many youngsters on their first train ride Saturday.

OLDSTERS ENJOY RIDE, TOO

Excursion for Youngsters Carries 930 on First Trip

Columbus Sunday Dispatch (January 16, 1955) –

Kids all over Columbus are taking their first train ride, thanks to a novel trip sponsored by the Railroad Community Committee Saturday.

The journey was to Xenia and back, a distance of about 120 miles. Riding on the special 20-car train were 930 youngsters and 420 parents and adult friends.

Most of the children were Cub Scouts, who received the original invitation to ride from the committee (the Cubs are studying railroads this month.) But a few Brownies and other children wanted to go, too, and were accommodated.

The Youngsters got a good look at the locals Union Depot, enjoyed the passing scenery, saw the Xenia Station, which is more than 100 years old, and were treated to ice cream by the committee.

The railroad group, which is out to show youngsters how nice train riding is and better its public relations in general, cut prices in half for the trip.

Response to their invitation to Cub Scouts was just about overwhelming.

Travelers in Union Depot were amazed when the children started pouring into the waiting room late Saturday morning. The youngsters set up such a roar that rail officials had to use a special portable loudspeaker to issue boarding instructions.

Once on the train, whose 20 cars had to be brought from New York to meet the extra demand, the children squirmed in their seats impatiently until the 11:35 a.m. starting time. For many, it was their first train ride. The train returned in mid-afternoon.

Other trains are to make the same trip on Sunday, next Saturday, and possibly a week from Sunday. A total of about 3700 children and adults are expected to ride the trains.

Committee-affiliated railroads include the New York Central, Pennsylvania, Baltimore & Ohio, Chesapeake & Ohio and the Norfolk & Western.



INSPECT LUNCH — Youngsters and one of the mothers who rode on the "Cub Scout Special" Saturday take a preview look at what's inside a big lunch bag they brought along. From left to right are Mrs.

Dorothy Baumgarner, 983 E. 20th Av; Janet Wohlers, 8, of 899 E. 18th Av; Susan Gardner, 7, of 1462 Clara St; Ramon "Butch" Mayo, 10, of 1063 Dublin Rd, and, partly hidden, Doug Wilson, 8, of 1110 Elmwood Av.



TICKET PUNCHED.—One of the Cub Scouts who rode on a special train to Xenia and back Saturday was Dan Aleshire, 9, of Worthington. Punching the lad's ticket is Conductor H. A. Highfall, of 633 Belvidere Av.—(Dispatch Staff Photos.)