

WESTERVILLE LINE

First Car Run Over Columbus Central to That Suburb

Cars to Begin running regularly Next Thursday

Ohio State Journal – August 25, 1895

The Columbus Central Street Railway yesterday opened the new line to Westerville. The occasion was one of great moment to the residents that thriving suburban town and was observed in appropriate manner. The citizens have long anticipated the completion of the road and looked forward with a great deal of pleasure to the time when they could ride into the city on an electric car. At least the day came and their rejoicing knew no bounds. The road is practically completed and during the course of the afternoon a car bearing a number of the officials of the road and a band, with Secretary Gerry Meeker of the company as motorman, pulled out of Minerva Park for Westerville. When the party arrived at that place they were greeted by the entire population, old and young, with waving banners and flags and a series of shouts such as the town had seldom heard in its history. The band was playing and as the car moved up the streets of Westerville, with the surging crowds on either side, the scene was one to be remembered.

The distance from Minerva Park to Westerville is five miles and the road is finished the entire distance, with the exception of the small amount of work to be done on Alum Creek Bridge. This is a single span bridge, 105 feet long and is built entirely of steel. One-third of the width is reserved for the use of vehicles, the bridge being on the line of the Clinton and Blendon turnpike. The cost of the structure will be about \$10,000. It is expected to have the bridge completed by Wednesday and the road will be opened to the public on Thursday. The new road runs to the north corporation line of Westerville and it is possible that a spur will be built running out to the fair grounds. The road will be one of the finest suburban lines in the country and of great accommodation to people living in that part of the county.

Scenic Railway at Park Opened.

The Columbus Central fully awake to the entertainment of their patrons, yesterday, inaugurated the scenic railway. This popular amusement at nearly all public resorts is the invention and patent of an Ohio man, Mr. La Marcus Thompson, formerly of Licking County, but now of Chicago. Mr. Thompson's first construction of one on any extended scale was at Atlantic City, N.J. He afterward constructed similar ones in London, Black Pool and Great Yarmouth in England, Glasgow, Scotland, and Paris. After selling the right in Europe for \$50,000 he built one at the World's Exposition and at the mid-winter fair in San Francisco that during its continuance carried nearly a million passengers. He has later built similar attractions of the kind at Ludlow, Ky., Cleveland, O., and an extensive one three-quarters of a mile in length at the Southern Exposition in Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. Thompson has given personal supervision to the construction of the one at Minerva Park, and although not so extensive in plan it has all the attractive features of the larger ones, and is perfectly safe in its construction.

At its completion Mr. Thompson decided to have a family reunion to celebrate its formal opening at Minerva Park. Special cars of the company were provided and filled by relatives and their families.

Upon arrival at the park the spacious pavilion of the scenic railway was tastefully decorated and a table with menu to please the most fastidious was prepared by Mr. Foerster. The afternoon and evening was enjoyable passed in social intercourse, alternating with rides and dives into elfin shades, plutonian scenes and suggestion of tropical jimjams. Among the guest with their families were: Mrs. M.J. Squien, Aurora, Ill.; Mrs. M.A. Warburton, Indianapolis; Mr. O.M. Thompson, Battle Creek, Mich.; Mrs. Alice E. Thompson, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Scofield, Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Rarey, Mr. and Mrs. L.T. Scofield, Mr. and Mrs A.S. Hentig, Mrs. Electa Starr of this city, Mr. and Mrs. M.H. Lewis of Blendon, Mr. and Mrs. D.C. Curtis of Galena and Miss Estill of Delaware.