

JAUNT OVER 5 RAILROADS

400 Make “Backyard” Tour of Industries in Columbus

(Columbus Dispatch, June 5, 1956) More than 400 of the city’s business and professional leaders boarded a special train at Union Station Tuesday morning and left on a 6 1/2 -hour jaunt over five railroads.

The entire day is being spent on a back-door tour to reveal the might of some 800 Columbus industries from “the other side of the tracks.”

Hosts for the occasion are the Pennsylvania, New York Central, Chesapeake & Ohio, Baltimore & Ohio and Norfolk & Western railroads.

ALL DETAILS were arranged by the Railroad Community Committee and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Guests rode in air-conditioned coaches along tracks that customarily are reserved for freight trains, heard spokesmen for the five railroads explain each system’s Columbus facilities and name the firm whose backyard they were passing, and ate a box lunch, courtesy of their railroad hosts.

The operation was complicated by necessity of changing the motive power and train crew whenever the nine-coach special rolled onto tracks of another company.

THUS, THE B&O locomotive pulled the train east over the joint Pennsy-B&O trackage; was replaced by an Ohio Central (NYC) engine at Columbus General Depot; a Bib Four (also NYC) diesel took over at West Columbus Yards; the Norfolk & Western steam locomotive hooked onto the train at the 2nd Av interchange; and the C&O diesel pulled the train from Valley Crossing back into Union Station.

Success of the second Rail Industry Tour was revealed by the fact that 419 businessmen, industrialists and civic leaders signed up for the excursion, as compared with only 187 on the first such tour two years ago.