

**A**BOUT 250 people travelled on the last train between King's Lynn and Hunstanton on Saturday night, more than had ever done so on that train during 107 years of the line's history.

The 9.5 p.m. out of Lynn, returning from Hunstanton at 10.16, brought out scores of railway enthusiasts.

The occasion was described variously as "terrible," "sad" and "poignant."

Mr. L. W. Cogar, of Fernwood, Castle Rising Road, South Wootton, who had helped his son, Peter, to prepare a census to challenge British Rail's figures for the line, placed a wreath on the front of the six-coach diesel.

The wreath, part of which was taken from the side of the line at Wolferton, read: "Goodbye Hunstanton railway, 1862 to May 3rd, 1969. Is this really the end?"

Mr. Neville Pickling, of Begovt Street, Lynn, placed a small sign on the front bidding farewell, and Mr. Michael Thomas, of the Railway Reinvigoration Society, put another wreath on the front at Hunstanton.

## CROWDS

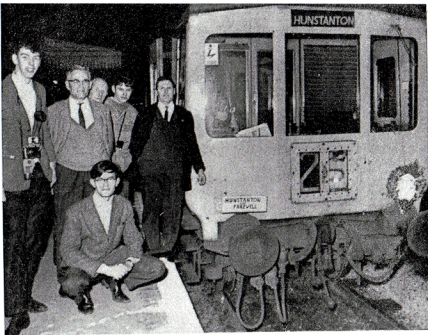
Knots of people waited at the unmanned stations to witness this piece of railway history being enacted. There were large crowds at Hunstanton and Hazeckham.

About 200 people lined the platform at Hunstanton as the train gathered speed, setting off a series of sharp explosions as the wheels rolled over some fog detonators. The camera flash bulbs popped, hands waved, then all was silent.

Mr. Fred Smith, a retired railway man, who spent nearly 43 years of his 50 years' service in the Hunstanton signalbox, said: "This is a sad day."

Among the people on the platform were Mr. T. C. R. Legge, chairman of Hunstanton U.D.C., and his wife.

As the train came to the end of the line back at Lynn among nearly 100 people waiting was the M.P., Mr Derek Page. "A very sad and poignant occasion," he said.



Some of the rail enthusiasts who travelled on the last train. The driver, Mr. Eddie Ashton, is on the right.