

## Steamer CITY OF ALPENA

The CITY OF ALPENA was one of several elegant paddlewheel steamboats operated by the popular Detroit & Cleveland Line out of Detroit. The line dated to 1849 and eventually included 10 large vessels, serving ports all over Lake Erie and Lake Huron. The D & C's "Coast Line to Mackinac" began operations in 1881 when one of their iron steamers initiated regular service to ports along Michigan's Lake Huron shore. Their first ship, though popular and successful, was succeeded by the larger and faster steamers CITY OF ALPENA and CITY OF MACKINAC in 1893, designed to meet the transportation needs of Northeast Michigan's fast-growing lumber towns.

The impressive new CITY OF ALPENA and her sister were 285 feet long and driven by 2,000-horsepower steam engines. They carried as many as 400 passengers along with significant cargoes of "package freight" ...merchandise and foodstuffs to supply the needs of local communities. They provided a critical link to big cities like Toledo, Detroit and Saginaw, in the years before completion of railroads and highways to the communities of booming Northeast Michigan.

The CITY OF ALPENA was taken off the "Coast Line to Mackinac" in 1921 when the lumbering industry had moved to the West Coast and railroads connected most of the towns in the region. She operated afterwards on Lake Michigan as the CITY OF SAUGATUCK, and ended up in the late 1930s as a barge, carrying pulpwood and later petroleum products. The once-proud ship was eventually broken up for scrap in 1957.

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