



Historical White Lake

Steamer Argo

By Barbara Bedau Brow

White Lake Area Historical Society

The Argo was built in 1901 by the Craig Shipbuilding Company in Toledo, Ohio. It had a steel hull and was 174 feet in length. It was operated by A. Booth & Company of Chicago, Ill.

In 1902, it was purchased by J. H. Graham of St. Joseph, Mich.; remodeled during the winter; had 85 staterooms built.

In 1903, Graham and Morton Transportation Company of Michigan City, Indiana, became the owners. The Argo made her first appearance on White Lake on 27 June 1904.

In August 1904, several members of the Congregational Ladies Aid Society planned to ride the Steamer Argo to Ludington. It was stated that if twenty-five people would go the price for the round trip would be just 50 cents. The ship was scheduled to leave the dock at 7:15 a.m. the following week.

As the day of the excursion dawned, the sky was inky darkness and the weather threatening, so a few of the people intending to go were disappointed and stayed home.

Eighty-six people braved the weather and enjoyed a pleasant trip. The clouds disappeared

around 8:30 a.m. and everything was bright and pleasant.

Alterations were again made to the Argo later in 1904 to enlarge the cabins and move the staterooms.

In 1910 the Argo was sold to E. W. Seymour of Chicago, Ill.,

and the name was changed to RACINE.

December 1917 saw the vessel sold in New York to the French government with a new home port of Brest, France; the name was changed to RENE.

It was reported in 1938 that the ship was still in service.

