



CITY of CLEVELAND III - Pilothouse - July 1949 G.P.B.



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Gordon P. Bugbee took these views aboard CITY OF CLEVELAND III in July 1949.

1916 season only, the D & C steamers sported dark blue stacks with a broad yellow band. Then, for a short time in the early 1940s, the stacks were light blue with a very broad silver band and a black smokeband at the top. Your Editor believes that the boats looked very good with this stack livery, but obviously the owners did not, as it did not last. There was one other change to the CLEVELAND's stacks. In the 1940s, probably to make the CLEVELAND's funnels look "streamlined" for the cruise trade, oval-shaped sleeves were placed around them, but the sleeves were shorter than the stacks themselves, and the overall effect was just plain ugly! WESTERN STATES had her single funnel altered in the same manner, but to no better effect.

The end of the line for the D & C fleet came in 1950, its last year of operation. But the line went out with a real bang, and it certainly was not a pleasant one. During the second-last week of June, CITY OF CLEVELAND III was taken off the Detroit - Buffalo line and sent to Grand Haven, Michigan, with members of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce aboard. There, she picked up members of the Benton Harbor Chamber of Commerce for that Chamber's fourth annual cruise. The ship cleared Grand Haven at about 11 p.m. on June 22nd. On Friday, the 23rd, the ship simply circled in Lake Michigan because of foggy weather, and she arrived at Harbor Springs at 8:30 on the morning of Saturday, the 24th. She cleared Harbor Springs at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, and was to have arrived at Detroit in time on Sunday for the passengers to attend a baseball double-header between the Detroit Tigers and the New York Yankees. They never made it to the ballpark.

At about 6:15 a.m. on Sunday, June 25, in a low-lying fog that blanketed Lake Huron and reduced surface visibility to less than 1,000 feet, the