What did our villagers produce?

The first factory in Saugatuck was a TANNERY in 1834, using the bark of hemlock trees for the tanning of leather. Following close behind, the sawmill workers cut pine timber for LUMBER, then, as the pine forests diminished, the mills switched to machine-intensive wood products such as SHINGLES, LATHE, BARRELS and FRUIT BASKETS. At the same time new settlers engaged in subsistence farming, then FRUIT GROW-ING, and other commercial crops. BOATBUILDING was both early and late, nearly 200 boats were launched between 1845 and 1912, and in the 20th Century, River Queen houseboats were built in Douglas and luxury yachts constructed near the mouth of the river. In 1923 the American Twisting Company in Saugatuck began making TWISTED PAPER CORD PROD-UCTS, and beginning in 1953, workers were turning out FROZEN PIES on Culver Street. Today only two industries remain, both in Douglas: Haworth, which makes components for OFFICE FURNITURE including chairs, tables and file cabinets, and Douglas Marine

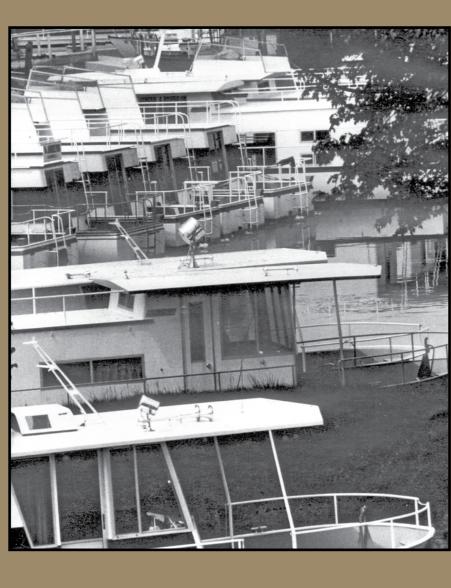
which builds the Skater brand of PLEASURE BOATS.



More than 200 boats were built in Saugatuck beginning about 1845. Here the J. S. Crouse, in this photograph nearly ready for launch in 1898.



During the winter, the crews and builders worked on other projects. Here some construction workers put the finishing touches on a Butler Street building.



There was a burst of boatbuilding in the mid 20th Century including a houseboat built by the River Queen Boat Co. and later by U. S. Industries in Douglas.

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS INDUSTRY TIME LINE

