

THE Calliope

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DELTA QUEEN
STEAMBOAT MAIL

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FROM THE STEAMBOAT DELTA QUEEN

March, 1974

Delta Queen Spruced Up and Fit As '74 Season Begins

The DELTA QUEEN is spruced up and pretty and is steaming into the 1974 cruise season with new improvements valued at \$1 million.

The improvements range from a new bowthruster for better maneuverability to a uniphone, installed on the sun deck with the calliope and geared to provide added dimensions to the sound and power of the Delta Queen's "steam pi-nanna."

The bowthruster is a tunnel-like mechanism on the bottom of the boat. It contains two propellers and is hydraulically operated from the pilot house.

The equipment will do just as its name implies — thrust (or turn) the bow. The bowthruster on the Delta Queen is first to be installed on a riverboat such as the Delta Queen, although they are used on river barges.

Bill Muster, president of the Delta Queen Steamboat Co., said the bowthruster is important to the operation of the Delta Queen for these reasons:

• It will enable the Delta Queen to land and depart with greater speed and facility, thereby assuring that the boat will be able to adhere more closely to its schedule.

• It will provide more maneuverability and speed in passing through river locks.

• It will provide passengers with a smoother ride by eliminating bumps.

• AND — the bow thruster will enable the Delta Queen to make easier, faster turns in its races with the Belle of Louisville and the Julie Belle Swain.

"The function of the sternwheel is to push the Delta Queen," said Muster. "We've needed something to provide more maneuverability."

New Galley

The Delta Queen also has added a new galley which includes a walk-in refrigerator-freezer which will enable the boat to carry up to 10 days' supply of produce at a time.

Of course, the Delta Queen will be taking on fresh food supplies daily to insure the continued high quality of its menus and around-the-clock snack service.

Oak Paneling

Three walls of the Mark Twain Lounge, a popular Delta Queen watering spot have been

lined with original oak paneling dating back to the construction of the boat 1926.

A mirror is mounted on the Lounge's fourth wall, the back bar.

The oak paneling is in strips, eight feet wide and six feet high. The paneling originally had been in a stairwell that was removed to make room for expanded crew quarters.

The panels were removed intact, the paint scraped off and installed in the Mark Twain Lounge adding to the gay, steamboat era atmosphere of the boat. The panels have been varnished and they are fireproof.

The Mark Twain lounge has been reduced in size as part of the program to expand the crew quarters. The tables have been removed, but the bar and bar stools remain.

Rooms Improved

Many of the cabins have been expanded with bathroom facilities added. The bathroom facilities are steel.

"We sought to retain as much of the old atmosphere and decor of the steamboat as possible," said Muster, "but when this is applied to passenger comfort and convenience we chose steel."



...Bill Muster Photo

Best Part Of The Cruise? Just Being On The Boat

New Boat Name

'River Queen' People's Choice —So Far

The most-suggested name for the new steamboat now being built by the DELTA QUEEN Steamboat Co. is River Queen so far.

The \$15.5 million boat, now under construction at Jelfboat, Inc., Jeffersonville, Ind. will be named prior to its launching later this year.

"Naming the boat is an important decision," said Bill Muster, president of the Delta Queen Steamboat Co. "It is the first vessel of its type to be built in this country since 1926 when the Delta Queen itself was completed. She'll also be the biggest, the prettiest, the safest, the most elegant, the most comfortable, the most elaborate and the most glamorous in the history of river steamboats."

The boat will include such features as a swimming pool, a sauna, beauty parlor, cinema-scope theater, automatic elevators and individual sound and communications systems in each stateroom.

The plea for help in naming the boat has been extended to the public. Muster emphasized, however, that the name of the boat will not necessarily be based on the results of a popularity contest.

The second most-suggested name is Delta Queen II followed by Delta Princess and Mississippi Queen. Tied for fifth are the names American Queen and Ohio Belle.

Seventh is Delta King, then New Delta Queen, Spirit of '76, and Mark Twain.

The name Liberty Belle is eleventh, then City of Cincinnati, Abe Lincoln, New Orleans, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, sponsored the legislation that assured the present Delta Queen will remain in overnight passenger service at least through 1978.

The name Natchez also has received strong support.

Some names were suggested though in check.

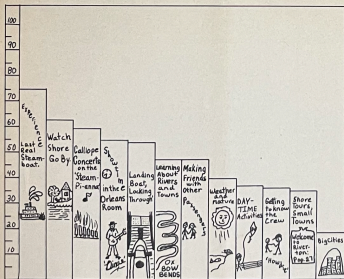
One suggested Eric Wagner (master of the Delta Queen) as the name for the new boat while another suggested the boat be named Betty Blake. (Betty is vice president and general manager of the Delta Queen Steamboat Co.) Another name suggested for the new boat was "Proud Presley," apparently from a fan of Elvis. Another was Muster's Buster.

Other names suggested so far include: Ohio Belle, Stars and Stripes, Delta Belle, Delta Consort, Robert E. Lee, Delta Princess, Queen City Princess, Queen of the Delta, Miss Dixie, Miss Scarlett, Southern Charm, River Belle, Mark Twain's Huck Finn, Princess Delta, Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer, Samuel Clemens, American Queen, River Lady, Americana, Seawater, The Whispering Belle, Ohio Queen, Copper Queen, Exhibition, Delta Lady, Centennial Queen and Super Queen.

John Fitch, Island Castle, Constellation, Tallulah, Beauregard, Rhet Butler, Belle Meade, Delta Duchess, Mary Jane, 19th Century Queen, The Aquatic Queen, The Queen of Aquas, Miss Regina, Gina Belle, River Lady, Southern Pride, Cincinnati, Majestic Lady, Queen City Queen, Cincy's Favorite Lady.

Queen of Peoples, Alpha, Dove Camellot, The Good Ship Lollipop, Grand Princess, Evangeline, Florida, Cynthia, Evelina, Laurel Lyric, Jasmine Jewel, Jasmine Breeze, Natchez Breeze, Swanee Lyric, Gay Garnet, Southern Crown, Delta Dawn, Mississippi Belle, St. Louis Belle, Mississippi Soujourner, River Spirit, River Nymph, and Erie Lily.

Muster said every name that will be considered. He added, however, that the company still is open to suggestions and he welcomes more suggested names for the new boat.



What do DELTA QUEEN passengers enjoy most about cruising on the grand, old steamboat?

They enjoy cruising on the grand, old steamboat.

That is what a large majority of 1973 passengers stated on comment sheets that were filled out at the conclusion of each 1973 cruise.

The passengers were asked to list their favorite activities during the cruise. A large majority responded that what they liked best about the cruise was experiencing the real steamboat.

(The DELTA QUEEN is the last steamboat in overnight passenger service in the U.S.)

Ranked second on the list of passenger favorites was viewing the picturesque river shores from the deck of the boat.

Listed third was the calliope concert on

board the boat followed by showtime in the Orleans Room.

Apparently, the DELTA QUEEN carried some aspiring river navigators last year because passing through the locks and the landing of the boat was ranked fifth among passengers' lists of favorite activities.

Next on the list of favorites was learning about the river and shore towns coupled with making friends with other passengers.

Passengers also listed the weather and nature as the best part of their cruise.

The weather was followed by leisure social activities while sing-alongs, daytime activities and getting to know the crew were tied for ninth place among the passengers' list of favorites.

Those were followed in order of preference by shore stops and litter river towns and finally, sightseeing in the big cities.