

# Queen of the West Quietly Navigates Columbia River with WESMAR Bow Thruster

American West Steamboat Company has introduced another specialty cruise vessel to the Pacific Northwest. The Sternwheeler, Queen of the West, leaves from Portland, Oregon, year 'round and navigates the majestic Columbia, Willamette & Snake Rivers.

Built by Nichols Brothers Boatyard on Whidbey Island, Washington, the Queen of the West is an authentic sternwheel driven cruiseship that blends elegant features and glamorous ambiance with the technology and comfort of today. Built to the hull dimensions and paddlewheel configuration of the classic sternwheeler Portland, the vessel is 230 feet long, 50 feet wide, carries 149 passengers and holds a crew of 41.

Sternwheelers were common on the Columbia River in the nineteenth century, and were a critical aspect of local transportation during explosive pioneer migration. These vessels were used extensively because of their tremendous versatility, but like the famous sternwheelers of the Mississippi, they presented a challenge for captains intent on safely navigating through any weather conditions. A tremendous knowledge of the Columbia was required. Twentieth century sternwheeler captains now have a tool that makes their job



*230' Sternwheeler Queen of the West Uses a WESMAR Bow Thruster to Navigate the Narrow Multnomah Channel.*

easier: Bow Thrusters.

Safe and smooth navigation is critical when the Queen is cruising through turbulent waters in narrow spaces. To guarantee safe docking, gentle lateral movement around obstructions, and smooth proportional thrust, the American Steamship Company requested that Nichols Brothers install the bow thruster with the best performance on the market.

The result was that Nichols installed the WESMAR DPC 250. Greg Nichols of Nichols Brothers recommended American Steamship Co. use WESMAR because of the tremendous past success of the product.

Now the Queen of the West navigates the narrow Multnomah Channel, a picturesque waterway that winds for 19 miles down-river from Portland, separate from the

mainstream Columbia River, with ease. Along this route passengers enjoy a variety of fascinating houseboats, vegetation, water birds, beautiful farmland, and tranquil waterfront. They can close their eyes and imagine traveling along the Columbia in a sternwheeler during 1895. They have no idea they are being safely propelled by an efficient, noiseless, bow thruster.

