



This "highest-powered and largest merchant ship" ever built in America was 705 feet long overall, 24,289 tons gross registered, with a beam of 86 feet, and moulded depth of 47 feet. Her service speed was 20 knots, which made her the fastest cabin ship in the world. She was named the MANHATTAN because she was thoroughly American in style, equipment and workmanship.

The vessel was not only mechanically perfect, but was a ship for luxury and pleasure. It required one hundred and sixty-nine different companies to provide the beauty and charm of the interior of the "floating palace."

A swimming pool, spacious rooms, attractive salons, and deep cushioned lounges added to comfort, while thick piled rugs, draperies of heavy damask, sparkling clusters of lights, and rare hand-carved woods were evidence of exquisite beauty.

The new "Queen of the Seas" sailed proudly down the Delaware on her trial run July 23, 1932. Three days later she maneuvered pompously into her new berth in New York City. The City greeted her namesake with hilarious demonstration and evident pride.

There was just cause for rejoicing, for, with the birth of the MANHATTAN, America emerged from a maritime barrenness of three and a half decades. America's hope was awakened. A rightful heir had come to claim a great Nation's place in sea power.

At midnight on August 10, 1932, with the dock crowded with well-wishers who would not sleep, but with eyes filled with pride, watched the vessel depart on her first North Atlantic crossing.