



COLUMBIA RIVER

Crew Sleeper – Stabled at Council Bluffs

The *Columbia River* was built in 1949 by American Car & Foundry as the *Western Wonderland*, a 12-roomette (single), four-bedroom sleeper. It was converted to an 11-bedroom car, the No. 1611 *Sun Slope*, in 1965. The car resembles traditional passenger sleeping cars because upper berths still remain in some rooms. In 1989, it was named the *Columbia River*.

Winding through Washington and Oregon, the Columbia River received its name when Captain Robert Gray, aboard the American vessel *Columbia Rediviva*, anchored 10 miles from its mouth. On May 19, 1792, Gray gave his ship's name to the river that became a major source of commerce and trade.

By 1860, the Oregon Steam Navigation Company, a predecessor of Union Pacific, began steamboat operations on the river. Later, a railroad was built to bypass rapids in portions of the river. Up the Columbia River and down the Pacific coast, the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company, another UP predecessor, operated steamboats such as the *Columbia* and the *T. J. Potter*. The *Columbia* was the first vessel fitted with Thomas Edison's new electric lighting system powered by a portable generator. This generator is now at the Smithsonian.

Traveling by rail through the Columbia River Gorge is one of the most beautiful vistas on the Union Pacific system.



Configuration: Columbia River is a seven-bedroom Sleeper Car for crew only. Each bedroom has a private restroom. There are two shared showers, one at each end of the car. (Sleeps seven crew only)