



## News Release

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### ST. MARYS CHALLENGER STEAMS INTO GREAT LAKES MARITIME HISTORY THANKS TO BECKER BOILER CO.

Currently the oldest steam powered vessel still trading on the Great Lakes, the self-unloading cement carrier St. Marys Challenger turns 101 on February 7, 2007 – a maritime milestone and the first vessel of her kind in the history of the Great Lakes to enter a second century of active service, thanks to the skilled craftsmen of Becker Boiler Co., Milwaukee, Green Bay, and Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

For over 20 years Port Engineer Kevin Rogers of the St. Marys Challenger, which docks for two months in S. Chicago, IL for maintenance and repair, has depended on the exceptional talent of the technicians at Becker Boiler to repair everything from boilers to structural steel. “Whatever the repair, they have a quality solution that I can depend on to keep us in service.” states Rogers. Bruce Albanese and Terry Phelps are the Becker Boiler technicians presently repairing the ship. Bruce has worked on the St. Marys Challenger on behalf of Becker Boiler for 30 years and Terry for 10 years, actually living onboard the ship during the repair period.

Challenger is formally owned by St. Marys Cement’s US affiliate St. Marys Cement Inc. (US) Detroit, MI, and lists Charlevoix, MI as its home port. Each year it delivers 63 loads of cement, valued at \$1 million each, to terminals in Milwaukee, WI and Ferrysburg, MI.

Overall Dimensions (metric)	
Length	551’01” (167.97m)
Beam	56’00” (17.07m)
Depth	31’00” (9.45m)
Capacity (mid-summer)	10,250 tons (10,415 mt) at a draft of 21’09” (6.63m)
Power (steam)	3,500 i.h.p. (2,611 kW)