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TIE LINES – February 2000

AROUND THE PORT...

With another strong month of imports in December, the Port of Long Beach broke its record for yearly container cargo volume - handling the equivalent of 4,408,480 20-foot container units, or 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs), in 1999. The volume represented a 7.6 percent increase over 1998's 4,097,689 TEUs. Long Beach remains the nation's number one container port.

The California Transportation Commission is set to meet on Feb. 22 and 23 in Los Angeles to approve the transfer of the southern end of the Long Beach (710) Freeway from the City and Port of Long Beach to Caltrans. The segment of the Long Beach Freeway being relinquished to the State of California is between Pacific Coast Highway and Ocean Boulevard.

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners voted unanimously Jan. 31 to terminate its sublease with AMC Long Beach, the firm selected six months ago to operate a barge building and ship repair facility on the site of the former Long Beach Naval Shipyard. The board voted to take legal action to evict AMC from the office they occupy on the shipyard site and to regain possession of the facility. Harbor Commissioners said they acted after AMC failed to meet the terms of its sublease, despite repeated requests and warnings by the port over the past six months.

The Board of Harbor Commissioners has authorized an environmental study for a proposed cruise terminal at the Queen Mary complex. The Environmental Impact Report is expected to take seven to nine months to complete. Queen Mary officials expect the terminal to open in 2001.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board will allow the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority to release ground water into the Dominguez Channel while ACTA officials complete a study to assess the potential effects of the ground water on the channel. New state rules limit the amount of copper, lead, silver, mercury and heavy metals released into ocean-bound waterways, including the Dominguez Channel that runs from Carson to the harbor.

The Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles have embarked on a jointly funded study to update information on the species inhabiting the San Pedro Bay. The year-long study will evaluate the area's physical and biological characteristics, address seasonal variations and the presence of invasive species, and compare the ecological characteristics of various types of habitats.

The data currently being used by the ports is based on biological studies of San Pedro Bay that are now 15 years old. Numerous changes have taken place in the harbor since then, including major landfills, channel deepening and the implementation of improved water quality control programs.

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge has ruled against a class-action lawsuit filed by owner-operators driving for two trucking companies in Los Angeles and Long Beach. The court ruled that the drivers are independent contractors rather than direct employees of the two companies.

With sledgehammers held high, State Sen. Betty Karnette, Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal and California Transportation Chairman Dana Reed took celebratory swings Jan. 14 at the last remaining toll booth for the Vincent Thomas Bridge. The public officials were celebrating the end of toll charges for drivers heading across the bridge.

Hyundai Merchant Marine recently granted free ocean carriage to two containers filled with medical supplies as part of its ongoing outreach to help needy people in South Korea. The 40-foot and 20-foot containers, filled with used radiation therapy equipment, is scheduled to arrive in Busan, South Korea, in mid-February from New York and Charleston. The refurbished medical equipment will be set up in a non-profit Catholic medical center in Taegu, South Korea, where oncologists will provide free radiation therapy to the poor.

United Alliance partners, Hanjin, Cho Yang, DSR-Senator and United Arab Shipping Co., are increasing capacity on their joint China America Express Service. The service initially ran with five Hanjin vessels, each of 2,670-TEU capacity. Hanjin will replace the ships by August with 4,024-TEU-capacity vessels. The capacity of the service will increase by 50 percent, from 138,840 TEUs to 209,250 TEUs.

Hanjin Shipping was named the 1999 Carrier of the Year by Tatung Co. of America. The Taiwan-based company presented the award to Hanjin to show its appreciation for the shipping company's dedication and commitment to providing the electronic, home and industrial equipment manufacturing company with exceptional service.

Marian Shipping of Long Beach hosted a celebratory reception last month onboard the M/V Star Tuva for shipping executives to commemorate the 50th shipload of steel wire rod from Mexico. The cargo is shipped through the Cooper/T. Smith Terminal on Pier F.

A 10-week course in transportation and logistics management will be offered through California State University Long Beach's Extension Services.

Classes for the Global Logistics Specialist Module Two course will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on

either Tuesdays or Thursdays, between March 7 and June 17 at the Long Beach World Trade Center. The cost is \$1,495. Call (562) 499-2160 for more information. Module One of the GLS program, "Overview and Introduction to Global Logistics," started Jan. 27; Module Three, "Legal, Financial & Risk Management Issues," begins March 15; Module Four, "World Trade and Government/Regulatory Bodies," starts April 26; and Module Five, "Customer Service, Technology & Industry Trends," begins May 17.

California Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush will be the keynote speaker at the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce's California Visionaries 2000 Leadership program. The Feb. 17 luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. in the International Ballroom at the Long Beach Hilton Hotel, 2 World Trade Center. The cost is \$30 per person or \$500 for a corporate-sponsored table. Call (562) 436-1251 ext. 230 for more information.

The Foreign Trade Association will host representatives of the Hong Kong port during its luncheon on Feb. 22. The chairman of the Hong Kong Port and Maritime Board, Peter Thompson, will be the keynote speaker. The luncheon, at the Long Beach Hilton Hotel, begins with registration at 10:45, presentations at 11 a.m. and lunch at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members and walk-ins. Call (213) 627-0634 ext. 204 for more information.

The tragic consequences of illegal stowaways entering the U.S. inside cargo containers will be the focus of the International Business Association's monthly luncheon on Feb. 25. Tom Graber, area port director and assistant district director for inspections, from the Immigration and Naturalization Services will discuss the "Human Cargo Tragedy." The luncheon begins with a reception at 11:30 a.m. at The Reef, 880 Harbor Scenic Drive, Long Beach.

The cost is \$25 for members; \$30 for non-members and \$18.50 for students. For more information, call Judy Nelson at (562) 436-1251 ext. 226.

The future of trade will be the focus of an all-day conference sponsored by the Foreign Trade Association and the Los Angeles Freight Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association. Tradewatch 2000 will feature more than 15 industry specialists speaking on a variety of subjects, including transportation infrastructure, logistics and regulatory issues and the World Trade Organization. The conference is from 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Feb. 29, at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel, 5711 W. Century Blvd. The cost is \$150 for the program or \$50 for the luncheon only.

Call (818) 951-2841 or (213) 627-0634 ext. 204 for more information.

PORT PEOPLE...

Hyundai America Shipping Agency Inc. has appointed **Horace Harrison, Jr.** as president of the company. A veteran in the shipping industry, Harrison is the former president of Hyundai America Shipping, Pacific Northwest. His most recent position was serving as the president of California United

Terminals.

Port of Long Beach Planning Director **Robert Kanter** has been selected as the port industry representative on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) to the U.S. Dept. of the Interior. The ISAC reports directly to the Secretary of the Interior and will advise on both land and water invasive species issues.

Five port employees were among the 250 students in Cal State Long Beach's Global Logistics Specialist graduating Class of 1999. The employees were Managing Director of Development **Geraldine Knatz**, Director of Trade and Maritime Services **Wilma Powell**, Manager of Transportation Planning **Kerry Cartwright**, Public Affairs/Special Projects Manager **Kim Kabar** and port attorney **Dominic Holzhaus**.

Douglas A. Thiessen was recently hired as the port's Assistant Chief Harbor Engineer. Prior to coming to Long Beach, Thiessen worked a year in the City of Los Angeles' public works department and 15 years with Port of Los Angeles in a variety of positions, including program manager for the development of the APL terminal.

Bill Kumer has been promoted from a Port of Long Beach senior civil engineer to the position of Deputy Chief Harbor Engineer, special projects. Some of his new responsibilities will include developing a professional development program for the engineering staff, overseeing the Engineering Division's design and upcoming work documents and overseeing the port's container cranes.

The port welcomes **Garry Buries** as its new capital projects coordinator in the Engineering Division. Buries, who worked in the port's administration and maintenance divisions from 1982 to 1985, comes to the port from the Metropolitan Water District and will be specializing in project scheduling.

California Gov. **Gray Davis** has appointed former Long Beach Harbor Commissioner **Alex Bellehumeur** to the state's World Trade Commission. Bellehumeur sat on the port board from 1990 to 1996. The port's Trade and Maritime Division hired Rachel Lyon as its new assistant administrative analyst. Lyon will be responsible for the division's administrative tasks and provide staff support for trade, marketing and customer service. Prior to coming to the port, Lyon was a sales representative for Gateway computers.

E-MAIL NEWS BULLETINS!

The port issues a free Internet version of Tie Lines and e-mail "news flashes" on breaking news.

To sign up, send a blank e-mail to
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