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April 2001

AROUND THE PORT

Reflecting a slowing economy, container cargo volumes declined in February at the Port of Long Beach to the equivalent of 311,712 twenty-foot-long container units (TEUs) - a decrease of 7 percent from February 2000.

Containers filled with imports fell to 155,148 TEUs, a decline of 12.5 percent from a year ago. Exports decreased to 75,520 TEUs, a drop of 7.8 percent from February 2000.

With a cutback in U.S. consumer spending, retailers have scaled back orders for many imported goods, such as clothing, shoes, toys and household merchandise, made in Asia. Another possible contributor to the port's decline in cargo may be that many businesses in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan closed for a week in observance of the Chinese New Year in late January. These annual business closures typically result in lighter-than-usual shipments between those countries and Long Beach.

Port officials have urged the California Public Utilities Commission to exempt the port and businesses within the port from rolling electricity blackouts. Port Executive Director Richard Steinke testified at a PUC hearing on Feb. 27 in Santa Ana, seeking the exemption.

Steinke cited the importance of safeguarding vessel movements, health and safety issues, potential national security threats, and the impact on the national economy. The PUC has yet to respond.

The California's energy crisis hit home at the port on March 19 and 20 when the port administration building and six of the port's customers were temporarily blacked out for the first time, losing power on one day for about 15 minutes to two hours each.

The port and Hanjin Shipping Co. celebrated Hanjin's planned move next year to a new 375-acre container terminal on Pier T with a ceremonial lease signing on March 5.

Dr. John Kashiwabara, president of the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners, was joined at the ceremony by Hanjin Senior Executive Vice President **W. P. Choi** and other top Hanjin officials. Other port officials included fellow Harbor Commissioners **Carmen Perez** and **Roy Hearrean**, and port Executive Director **Richard Steinke**.

The port and Hanjin agreed last fall to a 25-year, \$1 billion lease under which Hanjin will operate the port's newest and largest container terminal - Long Beach's first mega-terminal. With only two major contracts yet to be awarded for the first phase of the two-phase terminal construction project, the port is on schedule to complete the first 260 acres for Hanjin by July 2002.

The readers of CargoNews Asia magazine have voted the Port of Long Beach the No. 1 seaport in North American for a sixth consecutive year.

The award was presented at the magazine's Asian Freight Industry Awards dinner on March 16 in Hong Kong. Also honored at the ceremony was Long Beach Container Terminal Inc., which was the "Best Container Terminal Operator in North America" for the fourth year in a row.

The Board of Harbor Commissioners has approved an \$11.6 million contract with Brutoco Engineering and Construction Inc. of Fontana to widen the Gerald Desmond Bridge.

The low-bid contract calls for Brutoco to remove and relocate the sidewalk for the bridge to make way for another traffic lane. Currently there are two lanes in each direction. The project will create a new lane ascending to the top of the bridge in each direction that merges into the two descending lanes.

All five members of the Board of Harbor Commissioners traveled to Washington D.C. last month to meet with elected and appointed federal and state officials to discuss trade-related issues.

The port's Executive Director **Richard Steinke** and Director of Government Affairs **Gus Hein** accompanied Commissioners **John Kashiwabara**, **Carmen Perez**, **John Hancock**, **John Calhoun** and **Roy Hearrean**.

During the three-day trip, port officials met with representatives from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Association of Port Authorities and the Federal Maritime Commission as well as numerous legislators including California's senators. Issues discussed included federal funding for port projects and port security.

An estimated \$80.5 million contract to build a 50-acre intermodal rail yard and to complete the first phase of Hanjin's Pier T container yard is out to bid. The Board of Harbor Commissioners has voted to begin advertising for bids. The contract will be awarded in May.

This is the last of the major contracts to be awarded for the first 265 acres of the Pier T container terminal project. Completion of the first phase is scheduled for July 2002. The contract out for bid also includes the moving of nearly 2 million cubic yards of fill material from Pier E Slip 2 and the Navy Mole to re-grade the 110-acre area for the second phase of the new 375-acre Pier T terminal due to be

completed in 2003.

Get a free port map and port Reference Guide and Tidetables! The port is offering the free gifts to visitors to the port web site who fill out an on-line survey seeking ideas and suggestions for a redesign of the web site.

Caltrans is suggesting alternate routes for truckers to take during its year-long rehabilitation of the Long Beach (710) Freeway between Pacific Coast Highway and the San Diego (405) Freeway. The work will take place on weeknights during the initial phase, necessitating lane closures.

During the lane closures, truckers headed northbound from the port are advised to take Ocean Boulevard west across Terminal Island to the northbound Harbor (110) Freeway. Or they can take the Terminal Island (47/103) Freeway north to Sepulveda Boulevard, go west to Alameda Street and then head north again.

Truckers headed southbound into the port are advised to take the Harbor (110) Freeway, and then the eastbound Seaside (47) Avenue/Ocean Boulevard across Terminal Island. Or they can use the southbound Alameda Street from the San Diego (405) Freeway.

The value of trade that entered the port's general purpose Foreign Trade Zone No. 50 climbed to \$70.6 million in the fiscal year 1999-2000, an increase of 9.4 percent over the previous year, according to a report prepared by FTZ operator Metro International Trade Services Inc.

Metro's facilities in Carson and Wilmington employed 100 full-time workers and 250 part-timers during the fiscal year. Metro served as a distribution center for such industries as electronics, alcohol and tobacco, apparel, metals, satellite equipment, auto parts and industrial machinery.

Within a Foreign Trade Zone, importers and exporters can defer duties or taxes while their products are being repackaged or assembled.

Maersk Pacific Ltd. has joined nearly a dozen other major terminal operators on the eModal.com Internet web site, providing information on the status of container cargo at its Pier J terminal in Long Beach.

EModal hit a major milestone last month when the number of containers that could be checked on its web site cleared the 200,000 mark. EModal now provides container information for six of the Port of Long Beach's eight container terminals including California United Terminals, International Transportation Service, Long Beach Container Terminal, Pacific Container Terminal and Stevedoring Services of America C-60.

The *Chastine Maersk*, another of the Danish shipping line's 6,600-TEU container ships, made its maiden call to Maersk's Pier J Terminal in Long Beach on March 19.

Like its sister ships, the *Chastine* is 1,138 feet long and 141 feet wide and among the largest vessels to call at the port. The ship calls at U.S. West Coast ports, the Far East, Southern Asia, Europe and then

returns across Asia back to Long Beach.

On its second attempt, Long Beach-based Sea Launch successfully placed the first of a pair of digital audio broadcast satellites into orbit last month from its ocean-going platform at the equator.

The March 18 launch of the XM-1 satellite, nicknamed Rock, will allow Washington-based XM Satellite Radio to beam up to 100 channels of radio programming to U.S. subscribers.

A launch in January had to be aborted just seconds before XM Satellite Radio's other satellite, nicknamed Roll, was to be fired into orbit. Sea Launch later determined that there were no problems. The launch of the Roll satellite has been rescheduled for May.

Last month's launch was the fifth success for Sea Launch.

The port is seeking a contractor for a \$47.5 million expansion of the Pier J terminal currently leased to International Transportation Service.

Extending the pier is the first phase of a decade-long redevelopment of one of the older piers at the port. The project calls for the development of 262 acres of existing land and the creation of 53 acres of new land to form a 315-acre mega terminal.

The extension contract is to be awarded this month. The first phase project is to be completed by 2003.

California United Terminal was among the winners of the Pacific Maritime Association's annual 2000 safety awards.

The association recognizes companies in various safety-related categories, including reducing lost time incidents.

The International Seafarers Center in Long Beach is looking for a person to manage the center's daily operations.

Duties including light bookkeeping, record keeping and general office administration. For more information, call (562) 432-7560. Interested candidates can fax their resume to (562) 432-6610.

The Propeller Club's annual Secretaries Day harbor cruise will be held April 25, with the vessel leaving from Shoreline Village in downtown Long Beach. Space is limited to the first 150 who sign up. For more information, call (818) 951-2842.

Cal State Long Beach President Robert Maxson will be the speaker for the International Business Association's annual education and scholarship luncheon April 27 at the Hilton Long Beach hotel. For more information, call (562) 432-8128.

Trade with Costa Rica will be the focus of the Long Beach Community College District

California-Mexico Trade Assistance Center's Latin American Seminar Series from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 27.

The class will be held at Long Beach City College - Liberal Arts Campus at 4901 E. Carson St., Building. N, Room 101 in Long Beach. Cost is \$45. To register, call (562) 938-5016 or send an e-mail to citd@lbcc.cc.ca.us

Get your appetite ready. The ILWU and the Propeller Club have scheduled the 14th annual Seafood Feast for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. June 13 at the World Cruise Center, Berth 93, in San Pedro.

The event honors the memory of longshore workers who died while working on the waterfront. Funds go toward scholarships for local high school seniors. For more information, call (818) 951-2842.

PORT PEOPLE

The World Trade Center Association of Los Angeles-Long Beach will honor the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners during its 12th Annual World Trade Hall of Fame Dinner and Awards Ceremony on May 3.

The members of the board are President **John Kashiwabara**, Vice President **Carmen Perez**, **John Hancock**, **John Calhoun** and **Roy Hearrean**.

The trade center association has inducted 45 honorees into its World Trade Hall of Fame for their contributions to trade. Honorees have included **C.C. Tung**, chairman and CEO of Orient Overseas Ltd.; and **Choon Hoon Cho**, chairman and CEO of Hanjin Group/Korean Air.

Harbor Commission President John Kashiwabara served as the honorary chair for the 46th Annual Boys & Girls Clubs of Long Beach Gala on March 24.

More than 400 people attended the charity event to raise money for the club's programs for needy local youth.

Port Executive Director Richard Steinke has been elected chairman of the board-elect of the American Association of Port Authorities.

Steinke will be installed as chairman during the AAPA's annual convention Oct. 4 in Québec City, Québec. The AAPA represents more than 150 public port authorities in the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The port's Director of Trade and Maritime Services Wilma Powell was among a group of four panelists to speak on the city's drive to promote tourism, trade and technology during the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Economic Outlook Conference.

Powell joined **Joseph Prevratil**, the CEO of the Queen Mary, and **Chip Park**, chairman of Tech Coast

Cork, on one of three 90-minute forums offered to attendees during the six-hour event. The founding partner of the Keesal, Young & Logan maritime law firm, **Samuel “Skip” Keesal**, received the annual Entrepreneur of the Year award.

E-MAIL NEWS BULLETINS!

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

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