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July 2001

AROUND THE PORT

U.S. demand for Asian-made consumer products and Asia's appetite for U.S.-made raw materials both slowed in May, as reflected in a drop in cargo containers shipped through the Port of Long Beach.

The equivalent of 367,572 twenty-foot-long container units were shipped through port cargo terminals in May, a decrease of 9.6 percent from May 2000. The decline was the steepest monthly drop for the port in nearly nine years.

The number of inbound cargo containers in May fell to 196,120 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), a decrease of 10 percent from May 2000. Imports include such consumer goods as clothing, toys, shoes and household products. The number of outbound cargo containers in May dropped to 81,108 TEUs, a 17 percent decline from last year. Exports include such raw materials as plastics and wastepaper.

The port successfully met a June 11 deadline to comply with the South Coast Air Quality District's amended Rule 1158 for controlling the emission of airborne matter from the storage, handling and transportation of coke, coal and sulfur.

As required under Rule 1158, the port made improvements to bulk-material-handling facilities, including the enclosing car dumps and conveyors, paving of a new rail yard, and paving under existing conveyors.

Looking at ways to ease potential traffic congestion on area freeways, the Port of Long Beach has completed a joint Long Beach/Los Angeles waterfront transportation study that recommends changes in terminal operations and major infrastructure improvements.

The study, by Meyer, Mohaddes Associates and financed by the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, calls for longer terminal gates hours and longer off-site warehouses operating hours. It recommends expansion of rail yards and improvement of area bridges and the Long Beach (710) Freeway.

The Port of Long Beach is currently attempting to persuade state and federal legislators to help fund improvements to the 710 Freeway, and to finance the replacement of the four-lane Gerald Desmond

bridge with a six- or eight-lane bridge. The projected cost of the new bridge is \$280 million.

Port officials welcomed Panamanian Vice President Arturo Vallarino on June 12. Vallarino was in town to promote trade with the Republic of Panama and maritime services through the Panama Canal.

Considered one of the great engineering feats of the world, the 51-mile-long Panama Canal connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans through a narrow canal in Central America. It is one of the world's two most strategic artificial waterways, the other being the Suez Canal.

Elected in 1999 as Panama's first vice president, Vallarino's trip to Long Beach coincided with Panama's Trade Week.

Ninety years of memories, milestones and maritime innovations at the Port of Long Beach have been captured on film and will be on display throughout the summer in the lobby of the port Administration Building at 925 Harbor Plaza.

The photo exhibit features 100 historical and present-day photographs depicting the story of the port's growth since 1911.

Was the port founded on June 2 or June 24? The S.S. *laqua*, a coastal steamer, was the first ship to dock at the port's newly built municipal pier, when it offloaded 280,000 feet of lumber on June 2, 1911.

The Port of Long Beach wasn't officially dedicated, however, until June 24, 1911, when Long Beach Mayor Ira Hatch and the municipal band led a parade of citizens from Pine Avenue and Ocean Boulevard down to the inner harbor's new Pier 1.

The port's 2000 Annual Report, which features cargo statistics, maps, stories about the major events of 2000 and a look back at the 90 years of the port's history, is now available.

For a copy, call (562) 590-4121 or go to the port's website, www.polb.com, and click on the port's guestbook.

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has approved distribution of an Environmental Impact Report on the development of a 285-acre terminal at Pier J.

The Pier J mega terminal would be created by consolidating the two existing terminals currently home to Maersk Sealand and China Ocean Shipping Co., and by adding 115 acres of landfill. The project is scheduled for completion in four phases over the next 10 years.

Two public hearings have been scheduled for 1 and 6 p.m. on July 16 for people wishing to comment on the Pier J Environmental Impact Report. The commission is expected to decide in August on whether or not to certify the report.

The Pier J project is part of the ports \$2-billion decade-long project to develop five 300-plus-acre mega-terminals.

Work has begun on an \$11.6 million Port of Long Beach project to add another traffic lane to the Gerald Desmond Bridge linking Terminal Island and downtown Long Beach. During the 11-month project, there will be periodic closures of the bridge mostly on weeknights and weekends.

The port contracted with Brutoco Engineering and Construction Inc. of Fontana to remove and relocate the sidewalks for the Gerald Desmond Bridge to make way for the additional 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.

More than 1,200 people delighted on tasty denizens of the sea at the 14th annual ILWU/Propeller Club Seafood Feast on June 13.

Folks dined on swordfish, shrimp, smoked salmon and other culinary delights to help raise money for scholarships. A presentation of \$8,000 worth of scholarships was made to 11 area students.

One of Hyundai's newest and largest containerships, the *Hyundai Dominion*, made its maiden call in Long Beach on June 1. The ship is 954 feet long and can hold as many as 6,479 TEUs.

Built with one of the largest main engines (80,680 horsepower) in commercial shipping, the Dominion docked at California United Terminals.

Port officials welcomed the Columbus Hong Kong, a 604-foot-long containership with the capacity to hold 1,730 TEUs.

The Columbus Line vessel, which made its maiden call on June 21 at the International Transportation Service terminal, is on the shipping company's Far East route, stopping at ports in Asia, the U.S. West Coast and Latin America.

The Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce has launched a website, www.harborassn.com, that provides access to the organizations newsletters, a calendar of upcoming events, a summary of advocacy issues and links to members.

Marine Terminals Corp. has acquired Stevens Shipping and Terminal Co. of Savannah, Ga. Based in Oakland, Marine Terminals provides stevedore services at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

The Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce will host its 7th annual Harbor Cup Challenge on July 12 at the Cypress Golf Club in Los Alamitos. For information, call (310) 417-3929.

"A Primer on the Regulatory Process and How Our Industry Can Work with Our State Regulatory Agencies" is the topic for a Propeller Club program 7:30 a.m. July 13 at the offices

of Keesal, Young & Logan, 400 Oceangate, 14th floor, Long Beach. For information, call (818) 951-2841.

The Harbor Transportation Club will host its second annual HTC Trade-que from 5 to 10 p.m. July 19 at the Cabrillo Marina in San Pedro.

The event includes an exhibit of services by representatives of the computer, logistics, trucking, security, insurance and other industries. For information, call (562) 434-7393.

“The Past, Present and Future of Foreign Trade Zones” will be the topic of a Foreign Trade Association program on July 25. The time and place is to be determined. For information, call (213) 627-0634.

PORT PEOPLE

The Long Beach City Council confirmed Mayor Beverly O’Neill’s recommendation that John Hancock be reappointed to a second six-year term on the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners.

Hancock is president of Bancap Investment, a real estate investment and development company and of Hancock and Associates, a financial services firm.

The Board of Harbor Commissioners have approved the re-appointment of Commissioner Roy Hearrean as the port’s representative to the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility Joint Powers Authority Governing Board, which oversees the Union Pacific-operated rail yard on the western boundary of Long Beach.

Hearrean appointment is to a five-year term. Port Executive Director **Richard Steinke** also is a member of the board.

Chief Wharfinger Marva Stewart was among 34 people graduating from Leadership Long Beach, a program created in 1989 to ensure Long Beach would always have well-trained leaders.

The program’s alumni include the port’s Director of Trade and Maritime Services **Wilma Powell** and Director of Administration **Toni Whitesell**.

Port officials paid tribute last month to Los Angeles City Councilman Rudy Svorinich Jr. as he prepared to leave as the chairman and as an eight-year member of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA) Governing Board.

Svorinich has to relinquish his ACTA post following the end of his term in office on June 30.

Malcom O. McLean, who revolutionized the shipping industry with the introduction of using large cargo containers in shipping goods, died of heart failure on May 25. He was 87.

McLean's introduction in 1956 of moving cargo by using containers that could be loaded directly into and out of vessels changed the way goods are moved around the world.

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 polb-subscribe@yahogroups.com

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