



**April 2002**

## **AROUND THE PORT**

**Amid signs of a U.S. economic recovery, cargo volume at the Port of Long Beach climbed to the equivalent of 362,983 container units in February, a 16.5 percent increase compared to February 2001, and the biggest monthly percentage increase in 20 months.**

“Retailers are replenishing their inventories and American consumers continue to buy as the economic news improves,” said port Executive Director Richard D. Steinke. “While the 16 percent increase is over our weakest month for all of last year, this is still good solid growth for this time of the year.” Typically, the winter is the port’s slowest shipping season.

**In February, both imports and exports jumped. Reflecting the resiliency in consumer spending, imported container cargo increased 30.4 percent to 202,276 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), the biggest monthly percentage increase for imports in three years.**

The port’s leading imports include consumer goods such as electronics, clothing, toys and shoes.

**Exported container cargo climbed 10.4 percent to 83,334 TEUs, also the biggest monthly percentage export gain in 20 months.** The port’s leading exports include factory equipment, plastics, chemicals and cotton.

With more loaded containers exported overseas, the number of empty containers shipped through the port fell 4.5 percent to 77,373 TEUs. Nearly all of the empty containers were shipped to the Far East to be refilled with cargo that is then shipped back to the United States.

**The \$2.4 billion, 20-mile-long Alameda Corridor freight rail expressway is on schedule to fully open for trains on April 15 following a series of invitation-only grand opening events.**

The opening of the Corridor – one of the Southland’s largest public works projects -- marks the beginning of a new era in intermodal transportation, making it possible to move cargo faster across the United States and to markets overseas.

The project eliminates a major bottleneck, the traffic conflicts at 200 street-level railroad crossings throughout southeast Los Angeles County where motorists have had to endure long waits while trains passed.

The project will funnel train traffic from four rail lines onto a single, two-track consolidated line where trains can travel at higher speeds. Along the Corridor, newly constructed overpasses will take motorists

over the rail line.

**The Alameda Corridor connects the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles with transcontinental rail yards operated by Union Pacific and Burlington Northern & Santa Fe near East Los Angeles.**

The Corridor parallels Alameda Street along most of the route. The northern half of the Corridor runs within a 10-mile-long, 33-foot-deep trench.

The Long Beach and Los Angeles ports are among the partners, each having contributed nearly \$200 million toward the costs. The financing also included a \$400 million federal loan, nearly \$350 million in state grants, and \$1.2 billion in bonds which will be repaid by user fees – a \$30 toll for a 40-foot-long cargo container and \$15 for each 20-footer.

**Not only does the Alameda Corridor speed cargo and ease traffic congestion, it also reduces air pollution because trains will travel at a more efficient speed and waiting automobiles will no longer be idling at the train crossings.**

The construction of the Corridor, which began in 1997 after more than 15 years of planning and right-of-way acquisition, also created thousands of jobs.

**After rejecting two previous rounds of bids, the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has voted to award a \$9,090,900 contract to Coast-Felguera to build and install a traveling shiploader for the Pier G bulk terminal.**

Coast-Felguera is a joint venture of Coast Machinery Movers of South El Monte and Felguera Parques y Minas of Madrid, Spain. It was the low bidder, winning out over a \$9,150,000 bid submitted by Koch USA of Kirkland, Wash.

The new shiploader is required under the South Coast Air Quality Management District's amended Rule 1158. State Assembly Bill 1775 requires replacement of the existing shiploader by Jan. 1, 2004.

**The Board of Harbor Commissioners has awarded a \$7.9 million contract to Sully-Miller Contracting Co. of Anaheim to grade and install drainage and utilities at the 30-acre Pier E, Slip 2 landfill.**

Sully-Miller was the lowest of five bidders. The project, to be completed by the end of the year, will create an additional container storage area for California United Terminals, giving CUT a 100-acre container terminal.

**The readers of Cargonews Asia have voted the Port of Long Beach the best seaport in North America for a seventh consecutive year.**

The newspaper honored the port at the 16th annual Asian Freight Industry Awards dinner March 14 in Hong Kong. It also honored Long Beach Container Terminal Inc., the Orient Overseas Container Line subsidiary that operates the Pier F container terminal, which readers voted the best container terminal operator in North America for the fifth straight year.

**Richard Steinke, chairman of the American Association of Port Authorities and also executive director of the Port of Long Beach, told Congress last month that at least 52 U.S. public port agencies intend to apply for Department of Transportation Port Security Grants totaling \$222.8 million.**

This far exceeds the \$93.3 million appropriated by Congress.

Steinke testified on behalf of AAPA during a hearing of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Marine Transportation.

According to AAPA, the grant applications will range from \$100,000 to \$50 million; 27 respondents indicate they intend to request \$1 million or more.

**As part of the annual World Trade Week festivities, the port will be hosting its annual FREE harbor cruises on May 11, offering a close-up look at one of the world's major seaports.**

The 90-minute narrated cruises will depart every half-hour from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The boats will depart from the Pine Avenue Pier, which is located between the Aquarium of the Pacific and Shoreline Village in downtown Long Beach.

Come early! Free tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets may be picked up at the Pine Avenue Pier only on the day of the cruises. Validated parking will be at the Aquarium of the Pacific parking garage at Shoreline Drive and Chestnut Avenue.

**The first two cranes for Hanjin Shipping Co.'s new 375-acre Pier T container terminal are scheduled to arrive in Long Beach on April 11.**

Built by Shanghai Zhenhua Port Machinery Co. (ZPMC), the bright red-orange cranes departed from China on March 18 aboard ZPMC's Zhenhua 6.

Standing 350 feet high with their booms raised, they are among the world's largest. Twelve cranes have been ordered for the new Pier T terminal.

**The port welcomed the container ship Zim Mediterranean on March 16 during its maiden call at SSAT's C-60 terminal.**

The vessel is the first of six new 4,800-TEU vessels to be deployed on the Zim Container Service, which call in the Far East, U.S. West Coast, Panama Canal, U.S. East Coast and the Mediterranean and then back.

Aboard the Zim Mediterranean for the maiden call festivities were Capt. **Karsten Lemke**, a Zim senior vice president who relocated from Long Beach to Zim's Norfolk, Va., headquarters, and **Richard Scott**, who retired last year from Pier J's International Transportation Service (ITS).

**If you still haven't seen it yet, check out the port's redesigned web site – [www.polb.com](http://www.polb.com) -- with its new, more colorful look, an updated layout, new photographs and improved, easier-to-use navigational tools.**

**The port's free e-mail news bulletin service now has more than 400 subscribers.** To subscribe, send a blank e-mail to [polb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:polb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Or go to the subscribe page at [http://www.polb.com/html/7\\_contacts/subscribe.html](http://www.polb.com/html/7_contacts/subscribe.html).

**In about a year, Toyota will begin shipping its newest line of cars, the youth-oriented Scion, through its Long Beach Pier B auto terminal.**

As previewed last month at the New York International Auto Show, the Scions will include the compact boxy bbX, which was compared in style to a mail delivery truck, and the ccX sports coupe. Toyota will build the Scions in Japan, and sell them only in California Toyota dealerships through early 2004.

**Great Western Steamship Co. of Florida has reached a new space-sharing agreement with Zim Israel Navigation Co.**

Great Western is taking 300 slots per week on the Zim Container Service calling at SSAT's C-60 container terminal.

**"Women Who Export" is the subject of an April 4 breakfast panel hosted by Long Beach City**

### **College's Center for International Trade Development.**

The event, also sponsored by the Port of Long Beach, will be held at the Westin Long Beach Hotel. For more information, call (562) 435-9472.

**“Avoid the Traps and Pitfalls of Cargo Piracy: Who is Watching Your Cargo” is the topic at a Harbor Transportation Club dinner meeting April 4 at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach.**

For more information, call (562) 434-7393.

**Rancho Los Amigos Foundation, which conducts fund-raisers for Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey, will honor the Port of Long Beach at its annual Amistad Gala on April 6 at the Westin Long Beach Hotel.** For more information, call (562) 401-7053.

**Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., will be the speaker at an April 9 luncheon meeting of the Foreign Trade Association at the Omni Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.**

For more information, call (323) 730-1011.

**John Burch of Calcot Ltd., the California cotton growers cooperative, will be the speaker at the International Trade Club luncheon April 16 at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach.** For more information, call (562) 434-7393.

**The Propeller Club will host its annual Secretary's Day harbor cruise and lunch on April 24 aboard Spirit Cruises' motor yacht Spirit.**

The boat will depart from Shoreline Village at 11:30 a.m. and return at 1:45 p.m. Space is limited to 150 people. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call (818) 951-2842.

**The International Business Association and the Airport Area Business Council will jointly host a “Salute to Education” luncheon April 26 at the Hilton Hotel Long Beach.**

The program includes the awarding of the Port of Long Beach's annual scholarships to students at Cal State Long Beach and Long Beach City College. For more information, call (562) 432-8128.

**The Steamship Association will celebrate its 75th anniversary at its 53rd Annual Dinner Dance May 4 at the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City.** For more information, call (213) 627-0634.

## **PORT PEOPLE**

**Wilma Powell, the port's director of trade and maritime services, will be honored April 18 by the Cal State Long Beach Women's Resource Center for her contributions to the advancement of women.**

**The Soroptimists have honored Geraldine Knatz, the port's managing director of development, as one of their 2002 “Women of Who Make a Difference.”**

**Capt. James A. Common, a port pilot who retired in 1994 after 33 years with Jacobsen Pilot Service, died on March 20. He was 82.**

During his extensive sea career, his jobs included the towing of the Queen Mary and the moving of the Spruce Goose. Everyone at Jacobsen will miss him.

**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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