

CLOSE WINDOW



June 2004

AROUND THE PORT . . .

The total number of cargo containers shipped through the Port of Long Beach climbed to the equivalent of 441,061 twenty-foot-long units in April, a 10 percent increase over the same month a year ago.

In the midst of the Port's busiest spring, the April total was Long Beach's third highest monthly total and the March total the second highest ever -- after only the total for July 2002.

In April, the number of inbound containers rose 13.3 percent to 227,046 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). Outbound containers increased 6 percent to 79,825 TEUs. Empties, nearly all headed overseas to be re-filled with goods, climbed 7.3 percent to 134,190 TEUs.

The Port unveiled its new, \$9 million Pier G ship loader with an event in May marking total compliance with air quality regulations governing the transportation and storage of petroleum coke.

Joining in the festivities were Assemblymember **Alan Lowenthal**, D-Long Beach, Long Beach Mayor **Beverly O'Neill**, Harbor Commissioner **James Hankla**, and **Carol Coy** of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Installation of the ship loader completes the Port's five-year, \$35 million program to reduce petroleum coke dust. Other projects eliminated all outdoor coke storage areas, enclosed conveyor belts and transfer towers, installed new truck-wash facilities, and acquired street sweepers to regularly vacuum roadways. The program has reduced coke dust from 21 percent of samples in 1997 to less than 5 percent in recent samples.

With truck traffic and freeway congestion among the region's most

challenging issues, the Port of Long Beach has launched a monthly newsletter, the Interchange, to report on potential solutions such as extended truck gate operations at waterfront shipping terminals and inland warehouse and distribution facilities.

May's initial issue of the Interchange looked at proposals by Assemblymember Lowenthal and industry groups for day-use container fees. To subscribe, send an e-mail to the Port's Trade and Maritime Services Division at cox@polb.com.

A joint venture of Manson Construction and Connolly-Pacific has completed the pile driving for a \$74 million wharf extension at the Total Terminals International facility at Pier T.

When completed this fall, the wharf extension and dredging project will extend the wharf from 3,700 feet to 5,000 feet. The project is part of the final phase of construction for the \$585 million, 375-acre container terminal.

Two more gantry cranes are under construction for the TTI terminal by Shanghai's Zhenhua Port Machinery Co. in China. The cranes are scheduled for delivery in September. The two cranes will give TTI a total of 14 ship-to-shore cranes.

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has approved an initial \$860,000 budget for design engineering services for a series of improvements for the California United Terminals facility.

The projects include a new truck gate, 300 additional refrigerated container spaces, demolition of the Chiquita warehouse and redevelopment of the Slip 3 wharf area.

The Slip 3 improvements include replacement of the container wharf, and widening and deepening of the slip. The new truck gate would feature optical character recognition technology and radiation portal monitors.

The north 40 acres of the facility would be re-paved. Demolition of the Chiquita warehouse would make room for redevelopment of another 11 acres for temporary container storage.

On a warm, sunny Saturday, more than 1,730 people toured the Port, getting a close-up look at some of the world's largest vessels and a few sea lions, too, as part of this May's World Trade Week festivities.

The Port hosted a full day of public harbor cruises, taking visitors out on 13 narrated cruises.

The Port of Long Beach is indirectly funding a \$4 million Bluff Erosion and Recreation Project that will include construction of a 199-seat amphitheater, skating plaza and playground.

Five years ago, the Port paid \$5.8 million to the City of Long Beach so it could demolish Building 300 at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard to make way for the Pier T container terminal. City officials had looked at Building 300 as a possible temporary home for the Police Department.

The money, the equivalent of six years of rent for a comparable building, went to a city Tidelands Fund earmarked for capital projects including the Bluff Erosion and Recreation Project.

Reporting on the nation's top 10 container ports, the Standard & Poor's bond-rating company awarded its second-highest rating to the Port of Long Beach – AA minus with an upgrade in outlook from stable to positive.

S&P cited the Port's strong growth in Asian imports, and it noted that Long Beach's intermodal rail and container traffic is facilitated by the Alameda Corridor rail project.

Overall, S&P forecast that Asian imports to the U.S. would grow at a compound annual rate of 5.6 percent through 2025.

With U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta visiting to mark the occasion, the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority repaid a \$573 million Department of Transportation loan used to build the 20-mile-long freight rail expressway.

ACTA issued bonds to pay off the federal loan 28 years early, saving the joint powers authority \$65.8 million. The loan had been a key component of the financing for the \$2.4 billion project linking the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles with transcontinental rail yards near East Los Angeles.

ACTA was able to sell the bonds because two years of operation confirmed revenue forecasts, and a recent IRS ruling confirmed the tax-exempt eligibility of a portion of the bonds.

One of Zim Israel's newest container ships, the 4,800-TEU *Zim Barcelona*, made its maiden call at the SSA Terminals facility at Pier A.

The *Barcelona*, built by Hyundai Heavy Industries of South Korea, is being deployed in one of Zim's round-the-world services. The *Barcelona's* sister vessel, the *Zim Piraeus*, is scheduled to make its maiden call in Long Beach on June 1.

Two of China Shipping Container Lines' newest vessels made their first calls at the Total Terminals International facility on Pier T: the *Xin Yan Tian* on May 15 and the *Xin Lian Yun Gang* on May 23..

The vessels are among eight 5,600-TEU ships built last year for China Shipping in Dalian, China. The ships are 917 feet long and 132 feet

wide. They operate at a service speed of 26 knots.

The *Xin Lian Yun Gang* and the *Xin Yan Tian* are in a transpacific service calling in China at Qingdao, Shanghai and Ningbo, as well as Busan, South Korea, and Long Beach.

Marking the launch of a new China express service, the container ship *Hyundai Explorer* arrived May 11 at the California United Terminals facility.

The *Explorer* is one of five 2,800-TEU vessels in a new express service between northern China and the U.S. West Coast.

Where's the beef? Hawaii cattle will be able to get to the U.S. Mainland faster now that Matson Navigation has launched a new direct cargo service from Maui and the Big Island of Hawaii to Long Beach and Oakland.

The new Paniolo Express service will shorten the eight-day journey of island-bred cattle to the mainland to only five days. The cattle will be loaded in new "cowtainers" before being shipped aboard the roll-on, roll-off vessels *Matsonia* and *Lurline*.

Previously, cattle were barged to the Big Island then transshipped to U.S. West Coast slaughterhouses.

***Extreme Engineering*, a Discovery Channel program on the most ambitious engineering projects of our times, will feature the Port of Long Beach and a look at today's giant container terminals. The cable television program is tentatively scheduled to air on July 28.**

Discovery Channel crews filmed at the Port, visiting the Total Terminals International container terminal on Terminal Island – a nearly 375-acre facility that is the port's largest shipping terminal and one of the largest in the world. They also interviewed Port Executive Director Richard Steinke and others.

The *Extreme Engineering* series has included programs on the world's longest tunnel in Switzerland; the new Hong Kong Airport, one of the world's busiest and largest civil engineering projects; the Delta Works of Holland, a series of massive, computer-controlled sea barriers and dams; Boston's Big Dig, a \$16 billion highway widening project; the widening of the Panama Canal; and the New York City subway system.

Sea Launch, home ported at the Port of Long Beach, successfully rocketed a six-ton DirecTV broadcast satellite into orbit on May 4 from an ocean-based platform at the equator.

It was the 10th consecutive success for Sea Launch, an international partnership that includes Boeing. DirecTV is a leading satellite digital television provider.

Cargo handling at the Port of Long Beach quickly returned to normal following a one-day work stoppage on April 30 by many independent truck drivers protesting high fuel prices.

Truck traffic was about 85 percent below normal at Port shipping terminals. Several truck caravans slowed traffic on Southland freeways during the morning rush-hour commute; and three truckers briefly abandoned their big-rigs on one major freeway causing a lengthy backup of traffic.

The truckers were seeking a surcharge to offset the recent run-up in fuel costs.

Scott Arves, president of the transportation sector for Schneider National, will be the speaker for the Los Angeles Transportation Club luncheon June 8 at the Marriott Norwalk Hotel. For more information, call (562) 856-9197.

Got a craving for octopus salad? Octopus is just one of the many delicacies on the menu for the annual ILWU/Propeller Club Seafood Feast scheduled this year on June 9 at the Port of Los Angeles' Berth 54 warehouse in San Pedro.

Sponsors include the Port of Long Beach. Proceeds from the event support the ILWU/Propeller Club Memorial Scholarship Fund. For tickets, call (818) 951-2842. Tickets are not sold at the door. Children under 16 are not admitted.

Module One of a four-week global logistics specialist program will begin June 9 at Cal State Long Beach. Offered by the Center for International Trade and Transportation, the program will provide an overview on global logistics and supply chain management.

For more information, call (562) 296-1170.

Billie Greer, an aide to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, will be the speaker at the Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce luncheon June 10 at Simon's Restaurant at Ports O'Call Village in San Pedro. For more information, call (818) 951-6088.

PORT PEOPLE. . .

As part of its annual Maritime Transportation Month festivities in May, the California State Legislature honored Port consultant Gill V. Hicks – known as the godfather of the Alameda Corridor – for his outstanding, on-going contributions to the maritime transportation system.

Beginning as a Port of Long Beach planner, Hicks worked for two decades on taking the Alameda Corridor from conception to construction. Hicks, the new president of the Harbor Association of

Industry and Commerce, is once again working for the Port, this time seeking solutions to ease truck traffic.

Barry Sedlik, former president and CEO of the World Trade Center Association of Los Angeles and Long Beach, has been named undersecretary of the state's Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

He is the No. 2 person in the agency reporting to **Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak.**

E-MAIL NEWS BULLETINS!

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