

tie lines – April 2005

The Port of Long Beach's monthly newsletter

AROUND THE PORT . . .

In another sign of the year-round strength of Asian imports, shipping terminals at the Port of Long Beach reported a 58.2 percent jump in total container shipments in February, compared with the same month a year ago.

The monthly percentage increase was the Port's biggest in at least 17 years. In the past, imports peaked during the summer and fall because of heavy Christmas shipments of clothing and toys, then dropped sharply during the winter. Not this year.

February's import gains might have been even greater, but the Chinese lunar New Year festivities beginning Feb. 9 slowed shipments arriving in Long Beach at the end of the month. In 2004, the lunar New Year was Jan. 22, which slowed shipments arriving in Long Beach at the beginning of February.

The number of cargo containers shipped through Long Beach in February climbed to the equivalent of 497,925 twenty-foot-long container units – the Port's best February ever.

With Chinese manufacturers now producing such a broad range of products, imports rose 62.5 percent to 250,245 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). Exports increased 18.1 percent to 90,867 TEUs. The number of empties, nearly all headed overseas, leaped 87.1 percent to 156,813 TEUs.

The Pacific Maritime Association, the group that negotiates and oversees the labor agreements with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, has projected that West Coast ports will see a 13.67 percent increase in cargo in 2005.

The forecast was based on the individual projections of PMA members -- domestic and international carriers and stevedores. Last year, West Coast ports saw a 10.5 percent increase in cargo traffic.

To meet port labor needs, the PMA and ILWU have increased the number of registered longshore workers at the San Pedro Bay's Local 13 by nearly 50 percent to 6,236 ILWU members in the past year. The number of casual or part-time longshore workers also has increased by nearly 50 percent to more than 6,000.

The Port of Long Beach will host its annual free public harbor cruises on Saturday, May 7, in celebration of World Trade Month.

The 90-minute narrated tours will depart every half hour beginning at 9 a.m. and continue until 2:30 p.m. The boats will depart from Rainbow Harbor's Dock No. 2, near the Aquarium of the Pacific in downtown Long Beach.

Come early! More than 1,500 visitors are expected.

There are no advance reservations. Free tickets for the day's cruises are available on a first-come, first-serve basis beginning at 8:30 a.m. May 7 at the Port's information booth next to Dock

No. 2.

Visitors may park at the Aquarium of the Pacific parking garage at Shoreline Drive and Chestnut Avenue. Parking validation will be available at the information booth. Two of the three boats are accessible to non-motorized wheelchairs. Printed guides will be available for the hearing-impaired.

Dignitaries from federal, state, county and city agencies joined Port of Long Beach officials March 17 to break ground on a \$63.5 million Ocean Boulevard interchange project that will ease the commute across Terminal Island and cut air pollution.

About 15 percent of all U.S. waterborne cargo containers move through the Ocean Boulevard and Terminal Island Freeway interchange. The interchange project, scheduled for completion in February 2007, will create an elevated roadway and eliminate two Terminal Island traffic signals that now slow traffic.

The project will save motorists \$22 million a year by reducing traffic delays by 5,600 vehicle-hours per day, and by reducing fuel consumption by over 9,300 gallons a day. The project also will reduce air pollution by 350 tons a year.

The first six to eight months of construction will see the construction of a detour road parallel to and north of Ocean Boulevard. The detour road will allow construction on the main route to proceed with minimal impacts on daily traffic.

Petroleum coke fallout dropped to barely measurable levels in the fourth quarter of 2004, according to the Port's monitoring consultant, Environ.

The amount of petroleum coke dust found in samples collected around the Port area dropped to 0.5 percent in the fourth quarter, due in part to unusually heavy rains. In the first study in 1996, pet coke amounted to 21 percent of the collected samples.

The monitoring program is part of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Amended Rule 1158, which required the Port to cover all petroleum coke storage facilities, increase sweeping and to replace a bulk ship loader.

Nearly 2,400 types of products from 35 countries valued at more than \$117 million were shipped through the Port of Long Beach Foreign Trade Zone 50 in the fiscal year 2003-04, the most recent period for which figures are available.

The number of products jumped from only 109 in the previous fiscal year, with much of the increase due to the activation of a Michelin tire facility in Ontario. Other products include liquor, titanium, pharmaceuticals, electronics and steel.

The foreign trade zone allows importers to store, manipulate, repackage or perform other functions on products while deferring, reducing or avoiding U.S. Customs duties.

Orient Overseas Container Line's newest 8,000-TEU vessel, the *OOCL Atlanta*, made its maiden call on March 22 at Long Beach Container Terminal's Pier F facility.

The *Atlanta* is the fourth 8,000-TEU vessel deployed on OOCL's Super Shuttle Express (SSX) service between Long Beach and the Far East. In May, OOCL will deploy a fifth 8,000-TEU vessel on the service, making LBCT the first Port of Long Beach container terminal to have a service made up of all 8,000-TEU vessels.

In all, 14 different 8,000-TEU ships have called in Long Beach since 2003, making a total of 52 calls at the Port. Others in Long Beach's mega-ships club include China Shipping Container Line, China Ocean Shipping Co., CMA CGM and Mediterranean Shipping Co.

Union Pacific has announced that its Intermodal Container Transfer Facility west of Long Beach will load and unload nearly all of its Los Angeles-area intermodal containers not handled on the waterfront.

In the past, truckers hauled the international containers between the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and UP's rail yards throughout the region.

The new policy will eliminate 500,000 truck trips a year from roadways such as the busy Long Beach (710) Freeway between the ports and UP's yard near East L.A. Trucks will now carry containers just four miles between the ports and the ICTF, where trains will take the containers through the Alameda Corridor and across the country.

The shift to the ICTF will consume most of its capacity, so UP is exploring an expansion of the container rail yard.

The DIRECTV Group has scheduled a late April launch for a satellite aboard a Sea Launch rocket. Sea Launch, which launches satellites into orbit from a mobile platform near the equator, is home ported in Long Beach.

The Boeing-built satellite, Spaceway F1, is one of four that DIRECTV has scheduled for launch over the next three years in a major expansion of its programming capacity.

The expansion will enable DIRECTV to deliver more than 1,500 local and national high-definition channels and other advanced television programming services to consumers nationwide by 2007.

The chief engineer of the bulk ship *Katerina* has been sentenced to eight months in jail for his part in an illegal dumping case that stranded 13 Filipino sailors in Los Angeles for months.

The chief engineer, Edgardo Guinto, pleaded guilty in January to obstructing justice. The *Katerina's* captain, Ioannis Kallikis, and second engineer, Rolan Sullestra, are scheduled for sentencing in April on the same charge. The ship owner, DST Shipping of Greece, was fined \$1 million.

Upon arriving at the Port of Long Beach, the *Katerina's* Filipino crew complained to union officials that they had been ordered to dump oil, sewage and garbage into the sea. Prosecutors held the crew as material witnesses. The port community took up a collection -- including \$5,000 from the Port of Long Beach -- to pay for crew's housing, medical care and financial support. After the guilty pleas, the crew was flown home.

Tom Teofilo, the Port's managing director of maritime services, will be among the speakers for the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's annual economic forecast conference April 7 at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach.

Other speakers will include Jack Kyser, the chief economist for the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. For more information, call (562) 436-2810.

Steve Parsons of the U.S. Transportation Security Administration will discuss the proposed transportation workers identification card at a Harbor Transportation Club dinner April 7 at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach.

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

Brian Avery of the transportation firm Hub Group will be the speaker for the Los Angeles Transportation Club luncheon April 12 at the Marriott Norwalk Hotel. For information, call (562) 856-9197.

The Port of Long Beach's Pacific Rim representatives will present two Far East economic briefings at 8 a.m. April 13 and 14 at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Long Beach.

Edward Yau, the Greater China representative, and John Ingster of Australia will make presentations on April 13. Jiro Takasaki of Japan and W. S. Hwang of Korea are scheduled April 14. For reservations, e-mail Kathleen Cox at cox@polb.com.

Cal State Long Beach's Center for International Trade and Transportation is offering classes in its Global Logistics Specialist program.

On April 13, the Module One program begins with an Overview of Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management. On April 27, the Module Five program begins on Technology, Industry, Trends and Transportation Infrastructure. In addition, there is a free information session at 6 p. m. April 20 on Cal State's Master's in Global Logistics program. For information, call (562) 296-1172.

The Port of Long Beach is hosting the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals on a narrated harbor cruise at 3 p.m. April 21. For more information, call (562) 434-7393.

Ronald Deaton of the Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power will be the speaker at a Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce lunch April 14 at the Sheraton Los Angeles Harbor Hotel in San Pedro.

The HAIC also is hosting its annual Sacramento Visit on May 3 and 4 to meet with legislators during the California Maritime Transportation Month festivities. For information, call (818) 951-6088 or e-mail info@harborassn.com.

Since the Lakers are missing the playoffs this year, there's no reason to miss the annual ILWU and Propeller Club seafood eat-fest scheduled on June 15 at Berth 54 in the Port of Los Angeles.

Proceeds go toward scholarships for harbor-area students. For tickets, contact the Propeller Club at (818) 951-2842, or ILWU Locals 13, 63, and 94.

PORT PEOPLE. . .

California United Terminals has promoted Jesse Saldana to container yard manager. He was formerly superintendent and terminal services, safety and security manager.

Pacific Coast Recycling has promoted Michael Brimhall to the position of yard manager, succeeding John Barnett. Brimhall was previously night supervisor.

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has named Cosmo Perrone as the Port of Long Beach's security director, succeeding interim director William Ellis.

Perrone has been a private security consultant since retiring from Boeing in 2003 after 19 years as director of security and fire services at the company's Long Beach operation (formerly McDonnell Douglas).

Ellis was named the Port's interim security director in 2002. He had served for 31 years with the Long Beach Police Department, including five years as police chief.

The Long Beach Fire Department honored Port Senior Program Manager George Gordon at its Meritorious Awards Luncheon for his work on port-area fire station projects, citing "his tenacity, time and talent."