



MANIFEST

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FROM THE PORT OF LONGVIEW

Rail Line Reduces Congestion and Brings in New Customers



L to R: Port laborers Kelly Gemar, Dan Gemer, Randall Tyler and Richard Handley helped build the Industrial Rail Corridor. Not pictured are labor foreman Daryl Glassett, operators and pilebucks.

The recently completed Industrial Rail Corridor at the Port of Longview helped attract large shipments of soda ash and steel into the Port this year and reduced road congestion to the neighborhood.

This is because 100-unit trains no

longer have to be broken up into segments — which saves time and costs for the shippers. And the long trains can now get into the Port without blocking three at-grade crossings — which greatly improves traffic flow in the area.

Almost all the work on the rail corridor was completed, and is now maintained, by Port employees rather than contracted to companies outside the region. This made economical use of scarce resources.

“By using in-house engineers to design the grade, and our own crews to build and maintain the tracks, we had more direct control over costs,” said Norm Krehbiel who managed the construction.

Long trains can now get into the Port without blocking three at-grade crossings — which greatly improves traffic flow in the area.

“We didn’t have to develop contracting specs and could use material for the sub-grade that was already onsite, such as sand from dredging the Columbia and crushed concrete we stockpiled during clean-up of the foundations in the 300-acre industrial park.”

The rail corridor is a win-win for customers and community.

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Industrial Rail Corridor
- Ackroyd Photography

Coast Guard Rescue Site at Port

If a shipping accident should happen along the Columbia River, the Coast Guard is prepared to handle it.

Part of the job of Adam Merrill, Helicopter Pilot and Contingency Planner for the Coast Guard, is flying into designated rescue locations, including the site at the Port of Longview, to evaluate their usefulness in case a lot of people need to be rescued from the water.

“We have pre-designated triage sites evenly spaced from the mouth of the Columbia to Tri-Cities.”


—Adam Merrill, Helicopter Pilot and Contingency Planner for the Coast Guard



A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter landed at the Port’s Berth 8 recently, to evaluate it as a pre-designated landing site for water rescues.



“Although we’ve never had an accident as far back as I can remember, we have pre-designated triage sites evenly spaced from the mouth of the Columbia to Tri-Cities,” said Adam. “This spring we flew to all the sites to update our plan and make sure everything is still workable.”

Ken O’Hollaren, Executive Director of the Port of Longview, commented, “We are pleased to be a part of the Coast Guard’s emergency plans as a landing site.” 

YOUR PORT

Port Commission

Dan Buell, President
Walt Barham, Vice President
Larry Larson, Secretary

Commission Meetings

Held at 2:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Commission Room at the Port’s Administration Building.

Call (360) 425-3305 to confirm, as occasionally meetings are rescheduled.

Commission Broadcasts

Local cable subscribers can watch Commission Meetings on KLTV Channel 66. They are broadcast at 11:00 am on the two Thursdays following the Commission meeting. For further information contact KLTV at (360) 636-3310.

Mission Statement

To provide for expansion and development of trade, to encourage commercial and industrial development, and to enhance waterfront recreational opportunities for the economic benefit of Port District residents.

A Tradition of Teamwork

John Philbrook, who has worked at the Port of Longview since 1988, was recently elected president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). He talked about his background and the important role of longshore labor in bringing work to the Port of Longview.

“My grandfather and father were longshoremen before me — and the values I bring to the job came from them. By maintaining their solid work ethic, we give anyone new in this industry an acute awareness of how important it is to get the job done, and done right.

Those involved with shipping up and down the west coast know that there is a strong tradition of teamwork here at the Port of Longview

-John Philbrook

ILWU President


“We take pride in knowing a common sense way of handling specialized cargos like logs or steel, so when customers see we can solve complicated problems and then load or unload a ship efficiently, the word spreads.

“My main responsibility as union president is representing and enforcing the decisions of the rank and file. When it comes to the Port of Longview, we believe



John Philbrook, ILWU President, at the Port's Berth 5 terminal with vessel *New Nikki* loading calcined petroleum coke.

it's a priority to have a good working relationship. As a result, those involved with shipping up and down the west coast know there is a strong tradition of teamwork here at the Port of Longview.


“It's a core principle that benefits our customers and brings business to our community.” 

The Secrets of Steel

Steel is a difficult, unglamorous commodity to unload.

Yet when the *Star Eagle* loaded in China came into Berth 6 in June with 6,200 tons of steel, the longshore laborers at the Port of Longview showcased their customary skill in unloading it with efficiency and safety.

John Philbrook pointed out, “Cargo can shift at sea, creating very unsafe conditions. Our experienced longshore laborers know how to handle these complicated situations. Now, for new workers, we've also established a Hold Training Program to pass along the signals, terminology and skills we've developed over the years to do this work safely.”

The direct-to-rail access at Berth 6, and the know-how of Port of Longview laborers in handling steel, enabled this steel cargo to be unloaded in record time. 



Steel pipe is offloaded from the vessel *Star Eagle* at the Port's Berth 6 terminal in June, 2006. 1,100 tons were shipped to Manitoba, Canada.



Margaret Johnson leaves Port for volunteer opportunity

Farewell to Margaret Johnson

After serving the Port for 18 years as a computer analyst, **Margaret Johnson** has moved on to a two-year volunteer position serving in Jamaica with Catholic Relief Services, where she will set up an information system for twenty school communities.

Her coworkers and colleagues from the Port of Longview wish her the best of luck in her new endeavor.



Valerie Harris hired

A Warm Welcome to Valerie Harris

Valerie brings a strong transportation background to her job as Manager of Business Development — and her major responsibility of attracting new business to the Port.

Prior to being hired by the Port, Valerie worked at Reynolds Metals and Longview Aluminum coordinating ocean, rail and truck shipments. After Longview Aluminum closed down, she became Transportation Manager at Vestas for their North, Central and South America divisions. She has always lived in Cowlitz County and has developed a wide network of connections in the region.

“Valerie is very passionate about her work,” said Gary Lindstrom, Director of Marketing. “Because of her experience in rail and trucking — developing what we call through-put rates — she provides our customers with a total logistics package that saves them time and money.”



Pauline Reid celebrates 20 years

Congratulations to Pauline Reid

Pauline has always been a Go-To person for the Port. In her first job as a switch board operator, then as executive secretary to Ken O’Hollaren, and now as Marketing Assistant to Gary Lindstrom, she is one of the first people everyone talks to; the person who knows how to help answer visitor and customer questions and requests.

“My most memorable event at the Port is being hired, because it gave me the opportunity to work here for 20 years,” says Pauline, whose enthusiasm for her work continues unabated.

“It’s easy to say a lot of nice things about Pauline,” Gary observes. “She has been invaluable in helping me respond to the needs of the business, and is really more of a partner than an assistant.”

Milestones

Congratulations to these individuals for the following years of service:

10 years

- George Cress, *Director of Planning and Development*

20 years

- Pauline Reid, *Marketing Assistant*

25 years

- Ken O’Hollaren, *Executive Director*

MANIFEST

Manifest is a publication of the Port of Longview for the benefit of Port District residents.

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