

NEWS FROM THE DOCKS



ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA

Louisiana Ports Deliver

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Message from the PAL Office

This month PAL was able to transfer its documents from the last four or five years to Dr. Bill Meneray the Assistant Dean of Libraries at Tulane University in the Special Collections Division. Dr. Meneray expressed an interest in developing a relationship with PAL to insure that minutes of our future meetings and newsletters would be included in the collection. It would be helpful for former PAL officers to review their records and help locate minutes of meetings from PAL's early years. Any information that might be located will be included in the collection. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity to insure the continued availability of our records and documents.

PAL welcomes another new associate member this month and we remind those interested in joining that any membership submitted during the last quarter of 2003 will be considered a paid membership for 2004.

And...this month we introduce a new feature. Mr. Wilton Bland of Mouldedoux, Bland, Legrand and Brackett (a maritime law firm located in New Orleans) has offered to write a "Legal News" column. We look forward to Mr. Bland's column each month.



Legislative Update

November Runoff All About Getting Out the Vote

With Kathleen Blanco & Bobby Jindal in a statistical dead heat in the Governor's race, the winner will more than likely be determined by the best "get out the vote" campaign. Turn out for the October primary was well below average at only 50.4% , 53.9% white and 44.9% black., and political pundits differ on whether more voters will go to the polls November 15th.

The Black vote is key to a Blanco victory. But with all the money that was spent by the Ieyoub & Leach campaigns for their unsuccessful GOTV (only 1% more blacks voted than usual), it would seem that unless the African-American voters are suddenly inspired, the chances of a greater turnout are unlikely. Historically, successful democrats need 90 percent or more of the black vote and 35 percent of the white.

Associate Member Profiles



BOLLINGER SHIPYARDS, INC.

Bollinger Shipyards, Inc., a Lockport Louisiana based company, is the foremost provider of marine repair and conversion services and a leading provider of new construction services to the energy, commercial and government marine markets in the U. S. Gulf of Mexico region. Family owned and operated since 1946, the Company specializes in the repair, conversion and new construction of a wide variety of small to medium-sized offshore and inland vessels. The Company currently operates fourteen ISO 9001 certified shipyards, strategically located throughout South Louisiana and Texas with direct access to the central Gulf of Mexico. With 42 dry docks ranging in capacity from 100 tons to 22,400 tons, Bollinger provides a wide variety of dry-docks and services for both shallow and deepwater vessels and rigs. Additional services provided through the network of Bollinger facilities include propeller service for new construction and repair, featuring a 400-ton hydraulic press and Pitchometer; Engineering and Naval Architects; Logistic Support by way of CHAND; Machine shops for material up to 46 inches in diameter x 65 feet between center; Electrical Shop and Services and Hydraulic Services. The Company has established a premier reputation for superior quality and timely services for its customers.

*Year established 1946 - Private Corporation
Bollinger Shipyards, Inc.*

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Lockport, LA U.S.A 70374
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T. Baker Smith & Son, Inc.

For over 90 years, T. Baker Smith & Son, Inc. has provided professional consulting services to companies, organizations and individuals across the Gulf coast and beyond. Their experienced team is able to fit all of your project pieces together, from conception to completion. Client groups as varied as pipeline and transmission companies, oil and gas companies, manufacturing and industrial facilities, private/commercial developers, land developers and local, state and federal government agencies trust T. Baker Smith & Son to get the job done from planning, design, and construction management through operations compliance.

With a large fleet of boats and vehicles to get to each job, the most modern technology and equipment available, and the largest records archives in the area, projects are completed on time and within budget. And by exceeding their clients' expectations and building relationships, not just projects, they have built a solid reputation as a leader in their field. At T. Baker Smith & Son, Inc. professional services have no boundaries and their service area is limitless.

Corporate Member News

Port of South Louisiana

The Port of South Louisiana recently shipped a customized dredging system from its Globalplex Intermodal Terminal rail spur in Reserve, Louisiana. The dredge, built by Dredging Supply Company, Inc., (DSC) in Reserve, Louisiana, was delivered to the terminal by truck and transported to a customer in Oregon via Canadian National (CN) Railroad.

DSC designs and manufactures customized dredging equipment and specializes in portable cutter suction dredges. The company designs equipment for a variety of applications including sand, gravel, coal, copper & gold mining, river maintenance, and environmental dredging.

Jayne Phillips, Account Manager for CN Railroad, stated that "Globalplex is an ideal shipping location for CN Railroad and DSC. The logistics involved in trans-loading and transporting specialized cargo such as dredging equipment requires adequate rail spur and lay down storage areas, which the terminal provides." Globalplex has inter-connecting on-

site/off-site storage for approximately for 100 railcars.

Port of South Louisiana Executive Director Joseph Accardo, Jr., believes that the dredge shipment by rail is another prime example of Globalplex's versatility to handle a variety of bulk, break-bulk, containerized, and specialized cargo by vessel, barge, truck and rail at the 335 acre terminal."

The Port of South Louisiana's Globalplex Intermodal Terminal in Reserve, Louisiana, received a truck shipment of specialized farm equipment designed by Hagie Manufacturing, Co., based in Clarion, Iowa. The Hagie 2004 high-profile four (4)-wheel tractors are currently in storage on the terminals 177,000 s.f. open lay down pad and will be shipped to a customer in South Africa via Gulf Africa Lines, which provides regular liner service to Globalplex approximately every 4-6 weeks.

Port of South Louisiana Executive Director Joseph Accardo, Jr., stated that "the shipment of the Hagie farm equipment is another prime example of the diversity and efficiency that Globalplex has to offer as a 335 acre world-class trans-loading terminal for bulk, break-bulk, containerized, or specialized cargo by vessel, barge, truck, or rail on the Lower Mississippi River."

Port of New Orleans

Maersk Sealand Announces New Weekly Central America/Mexico Service

Maersk Sealand has announced new container services through the Port of New Orleans. Beginning in November, the ocean carrier will commence a new weekly Central America/Mexico service.



Maersk Sealand's Progresso service will operate two vessels on a weekly rotation, accepting dry and refrigerated cargo, and 45-foot equipment. On November 9, the *Ruben* will begin southbound service from the Port of New Orleans and the *Topas* will sail northbound from Panama.

"This is exciting news for shippers both in the United States and Latin America. The new service will provide additional weekly calls to the key markets in Central America and Mexico," said Gary LaGrange,

Executive Director/CEO of the Port of New Orleans. Port rotation for the Progresso service includes New Orleans, Progresso, Mexico; Puerto Limon, Costa Rica; Manzanillo, Panama; Puerto Cortes, Honduras; and Progreso, Mexico.

Maersk Sealand is one of the largest liner shipping companies in the world, with more than 250 container vessels and 800,000 containers. In New Orleans, APM Terminals provides stevedoring services for Maersk Sealand at France Road Berth 1.

Delta Queen Announces Expansion of Operations at Port of New Orleans

Delta Queen Steamboat Company, Inc. has announced the expansion of Delta Queen's operations in New Orleans with the introduction in April 2004 of a new land-river cruise package that combines the area's finest hotels, restaurants and attractions with a luxury cruise aboard the grand American Queen.



New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin and Delta Queen President Rick Abramson touted the economic impact anticipated from the relocation of the company's largest vessel, the American Queen, to sail year-round from New Orleans to deliver "New Orleans & Riverboat Adventure Week" vacations.

"We are glad that Delta Queen recognizes the opportunities in New Orleans, and we hope to work with them to continue their growth," Nagin said.

The new schedule increases the number of American Queen cruises out of New Orleans from 24 to 72 in 2004 and close to 100 in 2005. Cruises for 2004 begin April 12.

"We've partnered with the best hotels, the best restaurants and the best attractions in the city, and paired them with the incomparable hospitality aboard our largest and most luxurious vessel," Abramson said. "We're very pleased to be increasing our presence in New Orleans, and expanding our contribution to the local economy."

The new package will further economic development in New Orleans by providing:

- 30,000 visitors enjoying a 3- and 4-night river cruise and land package in New Orleans;

- An estimated 110,000 hotel room nights over the course of the year;
- 150,000 restaurant and hotel meals as part of the package;
- 75,000 attraction and tour tickets included in the package;
- An estimated \$30 million in local direct spending, including an increase of nearly \$10 million for provisions such as fuel, food, beverages and supplies for the vessel;
- Additional visitor spending for shopping, meals, attractions and nightlife;
- An estimated 30 additional jobs at Delta Queen Steamboat Company.

"With visitor expenditures, our New Orleans & Riverboat Adventure Week will contribute approximately \$30 million in direct spending to the city, with a ripple effect of nearly \$150 million to the local economy in 2004," Abramson said.

The seven-night land-riverboat package is available for the same price as a four-night riverboat cruise, starting at \$995 per person. The American Queen will depart New Orleans every Monday and Friday for roundtrip cruises with stops in Baton Rouge, Oak Alley, St. Francisville, and neighboring Natchez and Vicksburg, Miss.

A Delaware North Company, DQSC offers overnight cruises year-round on the Mississippi, Ohio, Cumberland, Illinois, Arkansas and Tennessee rivers aboard the nation's only authentic steam-powered paddlewheelers featuring overnight accommodations. DQSC offers trips beginning and ending in New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville, Louisville, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and Chattanooga, Tenn. The Delta Queen also travels from Mobile, Ala., to New Orleans, and to Galveston, Texas, on the Intracoastal Waterway.

Caddo Bossier Port Commission

The nation's oldest privately owned pharmaceutical distributor, Morris & Dickson Co. LLC ("M&D"), is constructing a new distribution complex at the Port of Shreveport-Bossier to accommodate the continuing expansion of its customer base and provide for future growth.

M&D has leased Port acreage for the new complex, bringing a private investment exceeding \$20 million to the Port of Shreveport-Bossier. The Port will provide bond financing and will construct a new Sewer Lift Station to accommodate the project. The Port of Shreveport-Bossier has also been approved for a \$1.2 million Economic Development Award through the Louisiana Department of Economic Development for construction of a new road that will provide access for the business and the acquisition of additional land adjacent to the Port Complex to be combined with existing port acreage for the M&D site.

M&D President Markham “Skipper” Dickson, Jr., said his family began evaluating expansion opportunities two years ago and was approached by communities outside of Louisiana with aggressive relocation incentives. However, the company has been operating in Shreveport since its inception over 160 years ago and hoped to “stay home.”

“It all started here, and our goal was to stay in this area if at all possible, but the reality is that our ultimate decision had to make economic sense for our business now and in the future,” said Dickson. “We operate in a complex and highly competitive industry, and must adapt to an ever-changing healthcare system environment.”

The new site could enable the company to centralize their distribution operations, ultimately bringing more jobs to the area. Executive Port Director John W. Holt, Jr. said the synergies created by the addition of this company to the Port Complex are significant.

“This is another ‘win-win’ project for all involved, but the new development is especially meaningful for the citizens of Caddo and Bossier parishes because we have clearly identified and met the expansion needs of one of our own --- a local business that has been a major employer and business leader for decades,” said Holt. “By doing so, we have retained hundreds of existing jobs and provided the foundation for on-going job expansion in our community over the next few years.”



An aerial view of the Morris & Dickson Co. LLC site off of LA Hwy. 1 at the Port of Shreveport-Bossier.

Legal News

ASBESTOS EXPOSURE: POTENTIAL LIABILITY AS PREMISES OWNER

Defending claims for occupational disease allegedly the result of exposure to asbestos has become a devastating drain on U.S. industry. Attorneys bringing these claims initially sued the producers and manufacturers of asbestos and asbestos products. Over time, the list of “targets” has grown to include

distributors and end users of such products, as well as employers of workers allegedly exposed. This expansionist trend is apparent in the recent decision of the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Jefferson v. Cooper/T.. Smith Corporation* decided October 1, 2003.

The family of Edward Jefferson (deceased) filed suit alleging that he was exposed to asbestos while working as a longshoreman in New Orleans from 1946 through 1976. They sued manufacturers, producers, suppliers and every stevedore he had worked for over his thirty-year career.

They also sued the Board of Commissioners for the Port of New Orleans (the Dock Board) alleging that as premises owner of the wharves that it “had knowledge of the hazards of asbestos” and took no steps to warn, remedy or take precautions for the safety of those on the premises, i.e., the longshoremen involved in moving the cargo.

The Dock Board moved for dismissal on the grounds that it had no relationship to Jefferson, had no control of the operations of the stevedores, which employed Jefferson, and never had care, custody or control over the cargo.

The trial court granted the Dock Board’s Motion and dismissed it. On appeal, the Fourth Circuit reversed holding that “as the owner and operator of a facility, the Dock Board has a duty to exercise reasonable care for the safety of persons on its premises as well as a duty to not expose such persons to unreasonable risks of injury or harm.”

This is not a finding of liability on the Dock Board, only that the Appeals Court found that there existed questions that should be decided at trial as to whether the Dock Board knew of the hazard, knew its facilities were inadequate for storage and handling of asbestos, and whether it could have reused such hazardous cargo.

Hopefully, the Dock Board will prevail. However, because plaintiff’s attorneys are not being restrained, economic resources continue to be expended defending such claims.

By Wilton E. Bland, a partner in the firm of Mouldoux, Bland, Legrand & Brackett. 504-595-3000 or www.mblb.com

Federal Update

Energy Bill

House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman, Billy Tauzin, R-Chackbay, indicated a compromise on the energy bill could be worked out in Congress as early as next week. However, there are still major tax provisions of the bill that are being negotiated.

Louisiana’s chemical industry, keenly aware of high natural gas prices, is interested in a provision that

would extend the same favorable tax treatment for deep wells in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to deep wells drilled onshore.

The proposed tax break would spur more drilling in fields already developed and could quickly provide more gas.

Tauzin told the Times-Picayune there would be "good news coming" but stopped short of saying that it would be Louisiana's share of federal severance taxes from the OCS. Louisiana's delegation has been trying for years to get Louisiana paid a share of the severance taxes paid to the U.S. Treasury by oil and gas companies. Those funds could be used as a state match for future federal coastal restoration projects. Even if the authorization is included in the energy bill, the money would still have to be appropriated by Congress..

NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services and Office of Coast Survey is in the process of field-testing a new GPS moored buoy off of Solomons Islands, Maryland. The buoy and a system of buoys like this should help advance the recording of tide and water level data and enhance NOAA's future hydro surveying efforts (and updating of NOAA charts) along the coast.

There have been a number of other tests of this equipment in the recent past and the benefit of this equipment to tide and water level monitoring and to chart surveying is very significant. The use of them along the northern Gulf of Mexico would be of value.



Welcome New Associate Members

PAL would like to welcome another new Associate Member.

York Environmental Services, Inc. located in Baton Rouge, LA has become PAL's newest Associate Member. Ms. Jane York will be PAL's contact person.

If you have news to share, please send the PAL office a press release, and we will include it in the next issue. We would also like to include your pictures. Be sure to send them along as well as the articles.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 4-6 Marine Transportation Systems Second Annual Short Sea Shipping Conference – The Marine Transportation System
Sarasota, FL

November 13, 2003 - PAL Board Meeting
10am - Ramada Inn - Natchitoches, LA

November 19, 2003 - 5th Annual Ouachita River Economic Summit
Holidome - Monroe, LA
For additional information contact Greg Richardson (318) 649-0101)

December 3-5, 2003 - The International Workboat Show
Morial Convention Center – New Orleans, LA

December 3 & 4, 2003 - Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana
Wyndham New Orleans at Canal Place

December 4-6, 2003 - Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association
Wyndham New Orleans at Canal Place

December 4, 2003 - PAL Board Meeting
10am - Port of New Orleans

March 17-19, 2004 - PAL 21st Annual Conference
Holidome, Houma, LA (1-800-465-4329)

Louisiana
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