

Maritime flag day

The Great Land, a freight ship for Totem Ocean Trailer Express, unfurls all her flags in commemoration of maritime flag day Tuesday.

Anchorage Daily News/Fran Durner



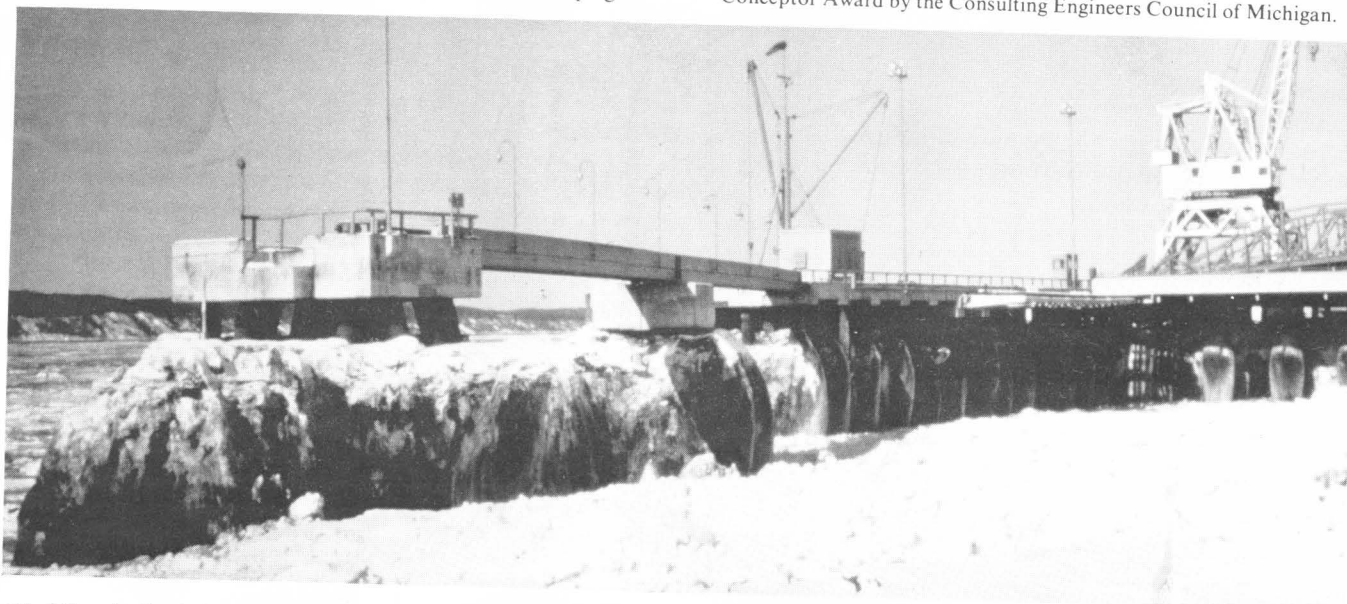
Anchorage Daily News/Ken Roberts

Landing a big one

Stevedore Tim Curran ties up the Portland, a Sea-Land cargo vessel, at the bustling Port of Anchorage. Sea-Land traffic, hampered last month by strikes, is now back to normal here.

A new extension of this wharf at the Anchorage Marine Terminal in Cook Inlet, Alaska is constructed on steel pipe piles, protected by a cathodic system designed by the Hinchman Company Division of the PSC Professional Services Group. The pier structure is in a severe earthquake zone with an extreme tidal range of 42 feet in a body of water where ice floes four feet thick, carried by currents up to five knots, impinge

upon the structure. Ice builds up to 20 feet thick beneath it. In 1976, the American Consulting Engineers Council awarded its Grand Conceptor Award for the design of the facility to Tippetts-Abbett-McCarthy-Stratton, consultants to the Port of Anchorage. For its work on the project, the Hinchman Company was awarded the Honorable Conceptor Award by the Consulting Engineers Council of Michigan.



Philadelphia Suburban Corporation, June 1979 "Spotlight"



ICEBREAKER TO VISIT ANCHORAGE

The Coast Guard icebreaker Polar Sea will dock at the Port of Anchorage Monday for a four-day stay. The 399-foot vessel, designed to break through ice up to 21 feet thick, was commissioned in 1977. The Coast Guard will

hold an open house aboard the ship from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and next Wednesday. In background is the Polar Sea's sister ship, Polar Star.

Port's future to be studied

Among the \$40 million in state money funneled into Anchorage by the 1979 legislature is \$250,000 that has Anchorage port director Bill McKinney tickled pink.

He says if he had a magic wand to wave, he would have conjured up a study just like the one the money will finance: a detailed look at what the port will be required to handle over the next 20 years and how best to do it.

In 1978, the port handled 1.9 million tons of general cargo and 977,000 tons of bulk petroleum, McKinney said. While the amount of petroleum shipped through the port has tailed off with the end of work on the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, operation of a refinery in Fairbanks and a pipeline from the Nikiski refinery to Anchorage, the facility is handling more and more general cargo.

In 1975 the port received and disbursed 931,000 tons of general cargo and just under 2 million tons of bulk petroleum.

Add to that the potential of moving the state's bottomfish harvest and other natural resources and the port's 4 million ton per year capacity could be strapped sooner than expected. "What happens in Fairbanks, Homer, Wasilla, and with the capital move will all have an impact on the port of Anchorage. We don't want to be caught short," the port director said.

The study will also explore one of the highest hopes of the municipal Economic Development Commission and the department of transportation for the creation of a

free trade zone could mean even more pressure on the port than is envisioned. The trade zone, a federal exemption from import and export duties, would allow cargo headed to or from foreign countries to be placed and worked on here enroute to other points without creating import duties.

An example of how zones could be employed to boost jobs is the

import of partially assembled motor cycles from the Orient. The bikes could be put together in the U.S. and then shipped on.

McKinney points to the high cost of Alaskan labor and he doesn't expect the zone to come as quickly as other municipal executives hope it will. "It could come pretty fast," he said. "It could come before this study is done, but I'm not so sure."



Anchorage Daily News/Ken Roberts

Helping stock the city

Things are getting busy around the Port of Anchorage these days. The Westward Venture, carrying general cargo between Anchorage and Tacoma, docked Saturday and left again Sunday.