

Longshore industry

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WATERFRONT EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA
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Last year was the safest in the history of the San Francisco Bay Area waterfront in terms of injuries to dock workers. "Compensable" injuries - causing absence from work of seven days or more - were one in 17,600 work hours - almost 9 years in terms of the 40 hour week.

The record achievement was revealed last night in San Francisco by Frank P. Foisie, Waterfront Employers Association President, at the third annual trophies award meeting of the San Francisco Bay District Accident Prevention Committee of the Waterfront Employers Association.

The official longshore compensable accident rate in 1947 was 56.8. This means 56.8 compensable accidents per million man hours worked in Bay Area ports. Improvement over 1946 was exactly 10 percent, the rate in that year being 66.8.

Joseph H. Travers, Manager of WEA's Accident Prevention Bureau gave credit for the record year to "individual employers, their foremen and longshoremen, who are the people actually reducing accidents."

"The human factor causes 80 percent of our accidents," Travers said. "Just so much can be done with safer equipment and surroundings. After that, no improvement can be made except on the part of the men supervising and actually performing the work."

"Special credit should be given to those responsible for the record, because our rate of 56.8 covers only men actually employed in the relatively hazardous occupation of handling cargo. Figures for other industries includes office workers and others whose work entails little hazard."

Trophies and certificates were given to steamship lines, stevedoring companies and terminals. The awards, for best accident records, were presented in memory of Mr. Byron O. Pickard, who pioneered the first voluntary safety effort in the stevedoring industry and managed the Accident Prevention Bureau

from its inception in 1927 until his death in 1946. Mr. Pickard guided the stevedoring industry on the West Coast to a position where it received certificates of merit from the National Safety Council for four consecutive years (1938 through 1941, inclusive).

The San Francisco Stevedoring Company won the San Francisco Bay District Onshore Trophy, sponsored by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, and presented by Mr. A. W. Young of that Company.

The San Francisco Bay District Offshore Trophy, which was sponsored by the J. C. Hendry Company, was presented for the third consecutive time to Jones Stevedoring Company, by Mr. Frank E. Wagener, Assistant Manager of C. J. Hendry Company.

Howard Terminal of Oakland, for the third year, won two trophies, the San Francisco Bay District Terminal Trophy and the Coastwide Terminal Trophy, both sponsored by the East Bay Marine Terminal Association, and presented by Mr. Gordon A. Woods, Manager.

Second place Certificates were presented by Mr. Joseph H. Travers, Manager of the Accident Prevention Bureau of the WEA, to the following: Jones Stevedoring Company, second place in the Coastwide Offshore contest; San Francisco Stevedoring Company, second place in the Coastwide Onshore contest; Consolidated Steamship Company, second place in the San Francisco Bay District Offshore contest; General Stevedore & Ballast Company, second place in the San Francisco Bay District Onshore contest; Encinal Terminals, second place in the San Francisco Bay District Terminal contest.

Certificates were also presented to the following Group winners: Group A., offshore, Matson Terminals; Group A., onshore, Grace Line; Group B., offshore and onshore, Schirmer Stevedoring Company; Group D., offshore, Jones Stevedoring Company; Group D., onshore, San Francisco Stevedoring Company; Group E., offshore, Consolidated Steamship Company; Group E., onshore, Pacific Stevedore & Ballast Company; and Group A., Terminals, Howard Terminal.

The Accident Prevention Bureau is the only industry-wide organization of its kind in the United States. Coast Manager is Joseph H. Travers of San Francisco. J. H. Jensen of Matson Navigation Company is Accident Prevention Committee Chairman for the Bay Area. Stanley C. Davis is Bay Area Manager.

The meeting was held at the El Jardin Restaurant and the program included a movie on the salvage of the cargo of the S.S. Diamond Knot, supplied by the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.

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