

The Docks

Bill Sharpsteen

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Bill Sharpsteen : The Docks before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Docks:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. In Depth Story Of How Docks And Surrounding Areas Opearte.By Frederick S. GoethelWhile this book is specifically about the harbors in San Pedro, and Long Beach, the information would apply to almost every dock in the world to a greater or lesser degree (mostly lesser as this is one of the busiest docks systems in the world.). He covers every aspect you can think of, and it makes for fascinating reading.Most people don't really think about where the products they buy come from, but if they come from overseas, they got here in a shipping container that was loaded or unloaded at a dock, most likely these twins docks in Southern California.

From there, the product is either trucked to a warehouse, or to a place cross country, or loaded onto a train for delivery to an area much further inland. About thirty trains a day leave the docks in San Pedro and Long Beach, which is a staggering number when you sit and think about it. The author covers such positions as the harbor pilot, required to bring the vessel into port, the operations of the cranes that load and unload goods, the yard trucks that haul containers to and from designated spots, the union, without which the docks shut down and even the pollution associated with the operation of the docks. While the author doesn't cover every operation in depth, it gives a very good overview of the problems that the docks face with logistics and management of the space. It also shows the tensions that are almost always present and the problems that can appear. If you wish to know how a docking system operates, this book is great. It will provide the information and if you are still curious, you can research the matter further; for instance books specifically about the history of the container. Overall, an excellent read and highly recommended. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. My Husband Loves the Book By D Chiasson I bought this book for my husband as a birthday present. He was hired as a "casual" at the docks during the last lottery pick of "casuals". He is enjoying this book so much! It is reading history and him being a part of that history. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By stephengreat book

The Docks is an eye-opening journey into a giant madhouse of activity that few outsiders ever see: the Port of Los Angeles. In a book woven throughout with riveting novelist detail and illustrated with photographs that capture the frenetic energy of the place, Bill Sharpsteen tells the story of the people who have made this port, the largest in the country, one of the nation's most vital economic enterprises. Among others, we meet a pilot who parks ships, one of the first women longshoremen, union officials and employers at odds over almost everything, an environmental activist fighting air pollution in the "diesel death zone," and those with the nearly impossible job of enforcing security. Together these stories paint a compelling picture of a critical entryway for goods coming into the country—the Port of Los Angeles is part of a complex that brings in 40% of all our waterborne cargo and 70% of all Asian imports—yet one that is also extremely vulnerable. The Docks is a rare look at a world within our world in which we find a microcosm of the labor, environmental, and security issues we collectively face.