

Executive Director's Letter

Households throughout North America consume orange juice and apple juice year round, much of it made from concentrate. We are very proud of the fact that the Port of Wilmington is a leading gateway port for imports of orange and apple juice concentrate from Brazil, Argentina, Costa Rica and Belize, carried by ocean vessels. Juice concentrate – in bulk, drums or bins – has been an important cargo for the Port since the early 1980's. This issue of Port Illustrated features Wilmington's contribution to this trade as a port, warehouse and distribution hub, meeting the needs of juice shippers and importers.



The Port's expertise in handling perishable cargo has also made Wilmington the nation's leading gateway for imports of fruit and produce. This issue features one of the Port's top fruit importer customers, the David Oppenheimer Group, who use Wilmington as their principal port for fruit imports from New Zealand and Chile.

Port Illustrated readers will learn in this issue about the Port's continuous efforts to improve its facilities and services to its customers, from the construction of the new dedicated auto berth; improvements at Volkswagen of America's auto staging and storage facility; construction of a mooring dolphin adjacent to the bulk juice terminal; and the purchase of new port operating equipment.

In addition, the Port of Wilmington takes the occasion of this issue to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its long relationship with Volkswagen of America and notes the arrival of a new special project cargo – wind turbine blades from Brazil.

Technological solutions have been an increasingly important part of Wilmington's competitive and personalized customer service. This summer, the Diamond State Port Corporation established a technological consulting division, First State Innovation. This new technology consulting arm of the Port is aimed at assisting local businesses and agencies develop their services through the Port's experience and expertise in this area.

This issue of Port Illustrated also includes a feature on AutoPort, Inc., one of the local auto port processors that clearly illustrates the meaning of personal and customized service.

Other features during this quarter include an introduction to the Diamond State Port Corporation's second Board of Directors headed by Nathan Hayward, III. Port Illustrated welcomes the new Board members, all of whom bring a wealth of new talent and professional backgrounds.

Lastly, the Diamond State Port Corporation and the staff of Port Illustrated would like to express its most sincere condolences and sorrow over the September 11 terrorist attack and its tragic consequences in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. September 11, 2001 is truly a day that has changed our world forever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Adam McBride". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

R. Adam McBride

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The Port of Personal Service