

terminal operations. We are looking at terminal design and mechanical features that can be built to increase cargo handling within the same acreage and without a huge capital investment. The port is also expanding its Electronic Data Interchange (E.D.I.) to eventually link U.S. Customs, cargo terminals, vessels and inland transportation carriers.

COMPETING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

BY
BONNIE McDADE
Port of Bellingham

The Port of Bellingham is located 90 miles north of Seattle on Interstate 5, in Whatcom County, the most northwestern county in the U.S. excluding Alaska. Bellingham is 23 miles south of the Canadian border.

The port facilities include the Bellingham International Airport, which increased flights from 9 daily to 76 daily in a year and one-half. There are two marinas and a new convention and trade complex. The port has four foreign trade zones, which will grow in relation to trade with Canada. There are two industrial parks, and a shipping facility called Whatcom International Terminal which has 50 acres of cargo terminal and 70 acres of foreign trade zone. The ports cargos include aluminum, wood pulp, chemicals and dried milk.

The port is located closer to the Pacific Rim than the Port of Seattle. The port is competing with the Port of Seattle to locate the southern terminal of the Alaska Ferry. It has the advantage of cutting six hours off the sailing time, and it is only a 1-1/2 hour drive by car from Bellingham to Seattle.

Ports in the State of Washington are mandated by the state legislature to do four things: maintain safe harbors, maintain safe terminals, take a leadership role in economic development, and promote tourism.

THE EMERGING ROLE
OF AN INLAND INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITY

BY
LARRY BONDERUD
Northern Express Transportation Authority

The Northern Express Transportation Authority (NETA) is located in Shelby, Montana, a town of 3,500 population in a county of 6,000 persons. The concept of the inland intermodal facility is about 10 months old. The authority is a regional port authority under state statutes, the second such authority created in the state.

NETA came into existence to take advantage of its geographic location. It is located about 30 miles from the Canadian border on the Burlington Northern Railroads east-west main line, and on the BN's north-south line which runs from the Canadian border south to Houston, Mobile and Pensacola. About 44 trains per day run through Shelby, of which 12 are intermodal with eight double-stack trains and four single-stack trains.