

Safety is Top Priority for P

After watching car haul members at PMT and Hadley Trucking at work, one can't help but have a new appreciation for the service they provide. The job is inherently hazardous on many levels:



Shawn Shrinski and Shop Steward Steve Dapper

Not only do they have to safely maneuver their large rigs through Southern California traffic and tightly spaced dealer yards, they also load and unload the vehicles in all weather conditions. Slip-and-fall accidents are common as the drivers climb up and down the metal rigs, and the new vehicles are typically secured with chains. Improper use can cause neck, shoulder, arm and hand injuries. Even weight distribution is critical and the loads can't exceed 14 feet.

Local 63 has proudly represented drivers, mechanics, welders, yard personnel, shuttle van drivers and office clerks at both Hadley Trucking and PMT for decades. Both companies stress the importance of safety and have successful training programs in place.

Many of the hard working members in this industry particularly the drivers have made a career hauling cars.

"It's very difficult to find experienced drivers with a clean DMV who can haul cars. It's really a specialized industry," Local 63 Business Agent Bob Doss explained.

Moreover, members work in an environment that has specific eco-

nomie cycles. Layoffs are always part of the industry. There are model changes, slow sales over the holidays, and competition from non-union companies," he pointed out.

Hadley drivers mainly deliver Ford, Chrysler and GM products. But when over-production and lagging car sales caused a slowdown, the company was forced to lay off personnel. Nearly at the same time, PMT picked up a lucrative Toyota account and roughly 60 of the Hadley drivers went to work for PMT.

They really didn't want to leave, but they had to work," noted Hadley Chief Shop Steward and 23-year member Chris Lopez. The 130 drivers that remain at the Mira Loma yard



Alan Del Rio and Shop Steward RC Autry

are all full-time and average 60 to 70 hours a week.

Lopez underscores that safety is critical. Car haul is unlike anything else. The company puts a lot of effort into a solid training program for new hires, and we have ongoing safety programs in place.

Driving freight trucks and car haulers are two different businesses altogether," stresses PMT Day Shift



Hadley - Business Agent Bob Doss, Herman Klein, Mike Febrey



PMT - Front: Rodger Spotten, Tom Shackelford, L... Mike Alpine, Alfonso Reyes, Ralph Beinert, Marco...



PMT - Business Agent Bob Doss, Eugenio Ramirez, Doug Grubb, Rich Rudder and Jim Turbo Logs...

PMT & Hadley Car Haulers



Eric Marquez, Fritz Lillehaug, Tom Allday and



Dave Kee, Doug Grubb and Andy Smith. Back: [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear] and [unclear]



[unclear], Raul Aguilar, Michael Walker, Mike Stefanoff, [unclear] and [unclear]



Hadley - Steve Descaro, Randy Boone, Robert Bernal, David Yu, Val Alvarez, Johnny Santos, Mike Reynolds, X. R. Ramirez and Mel Rasmussen

Shop Steward Terry Thompson. The injury factor is quite high but our company is very safety oriented. The initial training program is one week in the classroom and three weeks in the yard all to emphasize safety and staying accident free.

Thompson, a 31-year member, is one of eight stewards who assist nearly 230 drivers at the 24/7 PMT yard. We have a very low turnover rate. There are a lot of veteran drivers retiring, but still over half of our drivers have 13 or more years on the board. It is a very good job.

Other issues are facing the industry: numerous companies are switching to owner-operator rigs and

many drivers are purchasing their own haulers. Additionally, more and more dealers are going to nighttime deliveries.

Both groups are working under the same master agreement that expires in May of 2008 and one thing is certain: they are proud Teamster members.

These are good dues-paying members who are interested in union issues, Lopez pointed out. While we are expecting the best, the upcoming contract negotiations could be tough. The members need to be united and stand behind their union. We're really going to need their support for this next contract, Thompson added.



Hadley Mechanics - Business Agent Bob Doss, Sal Resendez, Lee Priedium, Tony Osuna, Noe Molina and Gary Rainsberry