

## **The Snake River Sternwheeler Association is bringing a Paddle Boat to Huntington, Oregon**

***The Snake River Rose, LLC, along with the Snake River Sternwheeler Association have purchased the future Li'l Millie and are planning to provide family tours into the southern entrance of scenic Hells Canyon at Huntington, Oregon. The boat will arrive by truck, coming all the way from Wisconsin!***

Date Released: 05/16/2010

The Snake River Rose LLC, and the Snake River Sternwheeler Association have BOUGHT THE BOAT! After a year long search, the purchase of a paddle boat to operate out of Huntington, Oregon, on the Snake River at the entrance to Hells Canyon near Farewell Bend on the western edge of Boise's Treasure Valley fulfills a visionary dream of Bill Burley and his community to replicate the history of the nineteenth century operation of stern wheel boats in the area. The Name of the boat is currently the General Lee and is located in Marshall, Wisconsin, at a very nice family amusement park called Little-A Merrick-A, named after its owner Lee Merrick. The new owners will be changing the boat's name back to its original "Li'l Millie". She was built in Hamburg N.Y in 1995 by a man named Mr. Whittle then aged 76. The boat was christened Li'l Millie after Whittie's wife, Mildred, whom everyone called Millie. Mr. Whittie sold the boat to Captain Jason Lenox in 1997 and he provided family friendly tours on the east coast's Ocean City's Assawoman Bay. The boat was Coast Guard Approved and had a capacity for 43 passengers and 2 crew members. In 1997 it was proclaimed as the only true paddle boat operating in the Mid-Atlantic region. In 2003, Lee Merrick purchased the boat for his theme park and restoration work began, but stopped after a tragic fire burned down one of his barns that held exotic animals. 91 year old Lee Merrick is now concentrating his efforts in rebuilding the very large barn. In 2010, the Snake River Rose LLC along with the Snake River Sternwheeler Association have purchased the future Li'l Millie and are planning to provide family tours into the southern entrance of scenic Hells Canyon at Huntington, Oregon. Volunteers and donations will rebuild Li'l Millie so the date of her first trip will be decided by regional participation. Li'l Millie is to be an attraction to promote the tourism industry of Eastern Oregon and Southwestern Idaho. Given that tourism is a leading industry in Oregon, Bill Burley of the group promoting the Li'l Millie says he is encouraged by a quote from Duncan Wise, President of the Oregon Business Council. In 2009, at the Tourism Hospitality Consortium he stated, "Tourism is a job creator on its own but it's also essentially the front door to the rest of the economy." The stated goal of the Snake River Sternwheeler Association is to create an environment conducive for economic growth while preserving the rich and diverse history of Huntington, Oregon, and the region. "Li'l Millie is our pebble of prosperity in the economic pond of Eastern Oregon and Southwestern Idaho. Together we will drop her in and allow the ripples to be shared by all." Bill Burley. The boat certainly will provide a unique experience for travelers to Eastern Oregon where "Our History is Your Story"

Contacts: Bill M. Burley Snake River Sternwheeler Association "Opportunity through Unity" 208-249-5179

Andrew Bryan Base Camp Baker Baker County Marketing "Eastern Oregon's Travel Hub" 541-519-4072

### **About Base Camp Baker**

#### **Contact Information**

Colonel Baker  
Base Camp Baker

*Press Release service brought to you by Fast Pitch*