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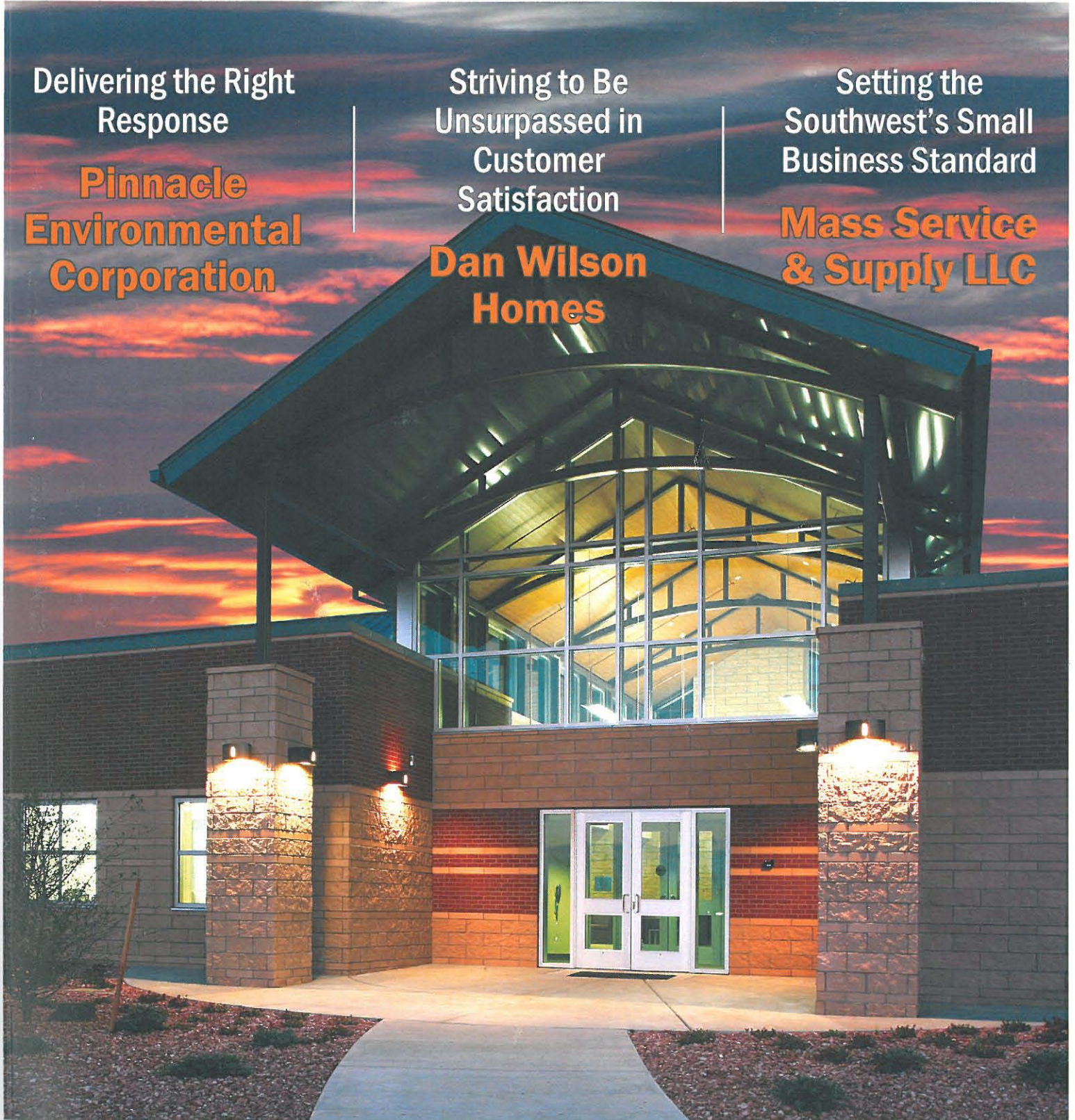
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# HLI Rail & Rigging LLC

## Not Your Average Transportation Company

Produced by Chuck McKenna & Written by Eric Gundberg

HLI Rail & Rigging (HLI) was founded in 2006 by Ross McLaren, managing partner, Fresh Meadow Mechanical Corp. and Mike Scott, rail partner. The company specializes in the lifting and movement of over-dimensional loads by the most cost-effective and safe methods available in the industry, utilizing its extensive network of expert suppliers.

The company, which celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2011, has carved a niche for itself. HLI's consummate service ensures the safe, efficient execution of every aspect involved in the

success in the transportation of power transformers from manufacturing facilities to their final destinations.

"A number of years ago the government decided that the power generating companies could no longer be the transmitting company," reveals McLaren. "Naturally, deregulation occurred, and power plants were sold off to individual companies. Transformers are needed by the new transmitting companies to get electricity to the consumer."

Seeing continuing opportunity in this situation, HLI successfully delivered over 250 power transformers to clients all over North America in 2010. In a logical progression of growth, HLI recently launched a new division in partnership with Energy Parts Solutions that will assemble the newly arrived transformer on-site. That will give HLI clients a complete solution when purchasing a transformer.

### Turnkey Projects

HLI maintains multiple offices to facilitate its national activity. The company has a corporate headquarters in Fresh Meadows, Queens, New York City, rigging operations based out of Elkins Park, Pa., and rail office in Houston. The company also has a transload facility in Laredo, Texas, in conjunction with Contractors Cargo Corporation (CCC) to simplify the transfer of cargo from Mexican carriers to U.S. carriers. At the five-acre site, HLI and CCC have a crane that is capable of lifting 140 tons at a time, a 25,000-pound forklift and a computerized Global Positioning System (GPS) that allows clients to track their inventories' delivery status online.

The logistics involved in transporting an over-dimensional object are extremely complicated. You can't just throw a



planning and moving of its clients' valuable over-dimensional load from factory to foundation, whether by rail, road, inland or coastal waterways. From design and planning to engineering and execution, HLI makes certain that projects will arrive with the utmost care and professionalism. Being a hands-on logistics provider, HLI handles all the details for its clients. The company understands how to navigate through the multitude of design complexities and regulations that individual projects may face. HLI has found particular





## Monster of a Railcar

HLI/CCC has within their collective inventory a 500-ton capacity Schnabel Railcar. Schnabel Railcars are designed to carry oversized, heavy loads in such a way that the load itself makes up part of the car. The load is suspended between the two ends of the cars by lifting arms. Its name comes from the German "Tragschnabelwagan," meaning "carrying-beak wagon," because the tapered shape of the lifting arms resembles a bird's beak.

The Schnabel Railcar has been around since the 1960s, but after purchasing the railcar it has been considerably upgraded. The Schnabel Railcar

500,000-pound object on a flatbed truck and expect smooth sailing. HLI has to acquire and maintain an extensive base knowledge of local, state, federal and oftentimes foreign regulations for transporting cargo. HLI also has a team of engineers on staff that will plan a transport down to the smallest detail to ensure a safe and successful delivery for everyone involved on a project.

For example, British Airways decommissioned its fleet of Concorde supersonic jets in 2003. Following the final voyages of these transatlantic marvels, the crafts have found new homes, such as the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City. It's no small feat to transport a jet that weighs 203,000 pounds to or from a museum off Midtown Manhattan, which has happened in both 2006 and 2008 in order to facilitate repairs at the Intrepid's Pier 86. That's where the expertise of industry veterans comes into play, as McLaren was involved with transporting the Concorde G-BOAD.

The team at HLI doesn't just move large objects from Point A to Point B. The company assembles creative endeavors that take advantage of its comprehensive logistical capabilities, such as an exciting upcoming tour. "We bought a share of a 747, and we're creating a mobile museum dedicated to presidential travel," reveals McLaren. "The jet is modeled after Air Force One from the Reagan era when Nancy Reagan helped design the interior to resemble their home in Florida." The traveling museum will kick off at National Harbor just outside of Washington, D.C., in May 2012 and travel later to points on the Eastern Seaboard.

CCRX 40010 is one of the world's strongest Schnabel Railcar ever invented. It has 20 axles and can safely carry loads up to 1 million pounds. The car itself weighs roughly 354,000 pounds, and when fully loaded weighs a mind-boggling 1.454 million pounds.

In one of the company's biggest transports yet, HLI received an 848,000-pound transformer at the Port of Houston and loaded it onto a Schnabel Railcar. HLI was also responsible for obtaining all of the engineering and rail clearances up to the final destination.

As for the future, McLaren hopes that HLI's proven experience will result in the company receiving another prestigious opportunity. The Obama Administration has decided one of the space shuttles from the now defunct space program should go to the Intrepid Museum, the same location in New York City where the HLI team successfully delivered the Concorde. HLI hopes to win the honor of delivering the Enterprise to New York.

The company offers its services to organizations with the intent of providing a central point of contact for all aspects of moving and installing heavy, critical or over dimensional loads. HLI Rail & Rigging LLC's experience allows its team to provide the most cost-effective solutions for over-dimensional transport, and the company has successfully established a presence for itself that continues to expand in the industry. •