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**I.V. Lions
festival, parade
photos, pages
7, 8, 11**



Photos by
Michelle Binker

'Right Stuff' individuals (above, from left) Spencer Palermo, Ben Nieves, Sharon Wescott, Paul Foster, Jack McCormack and David Madison. Wescott, an Illinois Valley resident, and McCormack are building a microlight aircraft for national competition, and their efforts are being recorded by a National Geographic film crew (photo at left).

Microlight aircraft heavy effort National Geographic focuses on I.V. work for major event

By **MICHELLE BINKER**
Staff Writer

Jack McCormack's name seems virtually synonymous with microlight aviation.

Since the mid-1970s, McCormack has been designing, flying and writing about the little machines.

"I flew my first powered hang-glider (as they were known back then) in 1975," he said. Four years later, "to the slack-jawed astonishment of most, and the prune-faced consternation of many," he and a friend piloted their Pterodactyl Fledglings (one of McCormack's early designs) from California to Oshkosh, Wis.

"A major manufacturer of the era said we were

'ruining the sport with excessive reliability'," McCormack recalled.

Thousands of his designs are flying today, and while he used to manufacture the aircraft, these days McCormack enjoys working on special projects.

McCormack's craft also have been featured in James Bond movies.

"I've certainly enjoyed designing for the movies," he said.

Two of McCormack's innovative designs, the Switchblade glider and the Parahawk, have been featured in recent James Bond movies.

As part of the National Geographic Channel's series, "Gearhead Gladiators," a camera crew filmed the frenetic goings on as McCormack and his team designed and built -- from scratch -- the aircraft he will fly at the 2004 U.S. National Microlight Championships in Scottsburg, Ind., Sept. 22 through 25.

Every such show must have a gimmick. In this case, the show's producers have pitted McCormack against another veteran builder, Don Cooney; and flyer, Dave Hempy. Cooney's team is also preparing for the competition, 2,500 miles away in Knoxville, Tenn.

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Selma mill site focus of \$1.5 million ministorage project, says Watters

By **SHANE WELSH**
Staff Writer

Saws won't be buzzing at Selma Wood Products any longer.

The site will become a \$1.5 million project and result in a new business: Selma Mini Storage, according to a private real estate investor.

Former owner, Berle McTimmonds, sold the property recently to Selma resident Vance Watters, a private real estate investor, and his brother, Damon.

"We have purchased more than a dozen properties in the (Illinois Valley) area already," said Watters. "We had been focusing on residential properties, but decided to go into commercial."



Vance Watters

"(Eventually) we're going to establish a corporation, but we're in our final consolidation of our assets before we (can) go into being incorporated," said Watters.

Developer hopes for completion early next year.

He and his brother purchased the \$250,000 mill, including more than 6.9 acres, with the idea to help expand the local economy.

"While looking for commercial property in the Selma area, we became interested in (the mill) because of zoning," he said.

"We looked into running the mill, along with other options; we wanted to be sure we met the area's needs. We asked many local business owners what they thought about running the mill, and they said they thought it wasn't economically feasible," he said.

"We researched Josephine County as far as the need for storage units," Watters added, "and found there is a definite need. Most of them have waiting lists."

"The project that we are planning should be \$1.5 million. We will try to obtain local companies for all of the construction; everything from roofing, to plumbing and grading. That's a lot of money going into the community," he said.

Noting preliminary plans for the property, Watters mused, "You can look at the mill and either

see beauty or a big horror show. I think anything we do on the land will be an improvement, and it will all be professionally done."

"I am pro-environment all the way. There is a creek in the back of the property. Not only do county and state laws require us to stay back a certain distance from the creek, but we're going to leave it virtually untouched. It will be completely un-impacted and there will be no access to it. So any fish or wildlife that use it won't be affected."

"We plan on leaving the two big oak trees in the front, and probably utilize the office there. As far as the rest of the buildings, a couple of them are literally ready to fall down, and we will tear them down," he said.

There is still functioning industrial mill equipment on the property that could be put to good use.

"We have some folks interested in the equipment," said Watters. "This is a situation where the right folks could obtain this very reasonably, because the cost of removing it would have to be figured into the price. One man, who has an existing mill site, is interested in tearing it down and setting it back up. Then the equipment won't go to waste."

There are also several tons of rusting metal scrap, broken equipment, and piles of decomposing refuse that has been wasting away on the back of the property for many years. Much of the material could be recycled and reused.

Construction should begin soon.

"We're pretty much a 'go' for the project," said Watters. "The zoning is

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IN KERBY - Illinois Valley Fire District, assisted by several other agencies under mutual aid, battled to extinguishment a 25-acre wildfire in Kerby that also destroyed a home and several out-buildings on Wednesday, Sept. 1. Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) sent helicopters to aid the fight (left, photo by Shane Welsh); while I.V. and ODF firefighters (top and bottom, photos by Dale and Elaine Sandberg/IVFD photographers) fought 'hand-to-hand' on the ground. It was the third fire of significance in Illinois Valley during the past four weeks. (Story on page 5)



**Saturday, Sept. 11
Patriots Day
* 9/11 *
'We remember'**

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, Sept. 8
Warm with sunshine
High--91, Low--51.



Thursday, Sept. 9
Partly sunny
High--87, Low--50.



Friday, Sept. 10
Sunny and pleasant
High--87, Low--52.



Saturday, Sept. 11
Sunny, then cloudy
High--83, Low--52.



Sunday, Sept. 12
Sunshine and clouds
High--79, Low--48.



Monday, Sept. 13
Sun and clouds
High--82, Low--42.



Tuesday, Sept. 14
Partial sunshine
High--82, Low--42.

