

Unique aircraft make Picayune stop

By MARY IRBY
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Four planes flew into Picayune Airport around noon Friday, April 14, to gas up and rest — but they weren't just ordinary planes passing through.

Although they had regular aircraft engines, the planes were in fact home-built models called Long-Ez.

It took an average of four years to build the unusual machines, which are big enough to seat two, but small enough to be pushed by one person, according to one of the Long-Ez owners, David Orr.

Orr also said that no starter kits were used. The planes were made from scratch.

"We built them as a hobby, and we are flying

them as a hobby," Orr said.

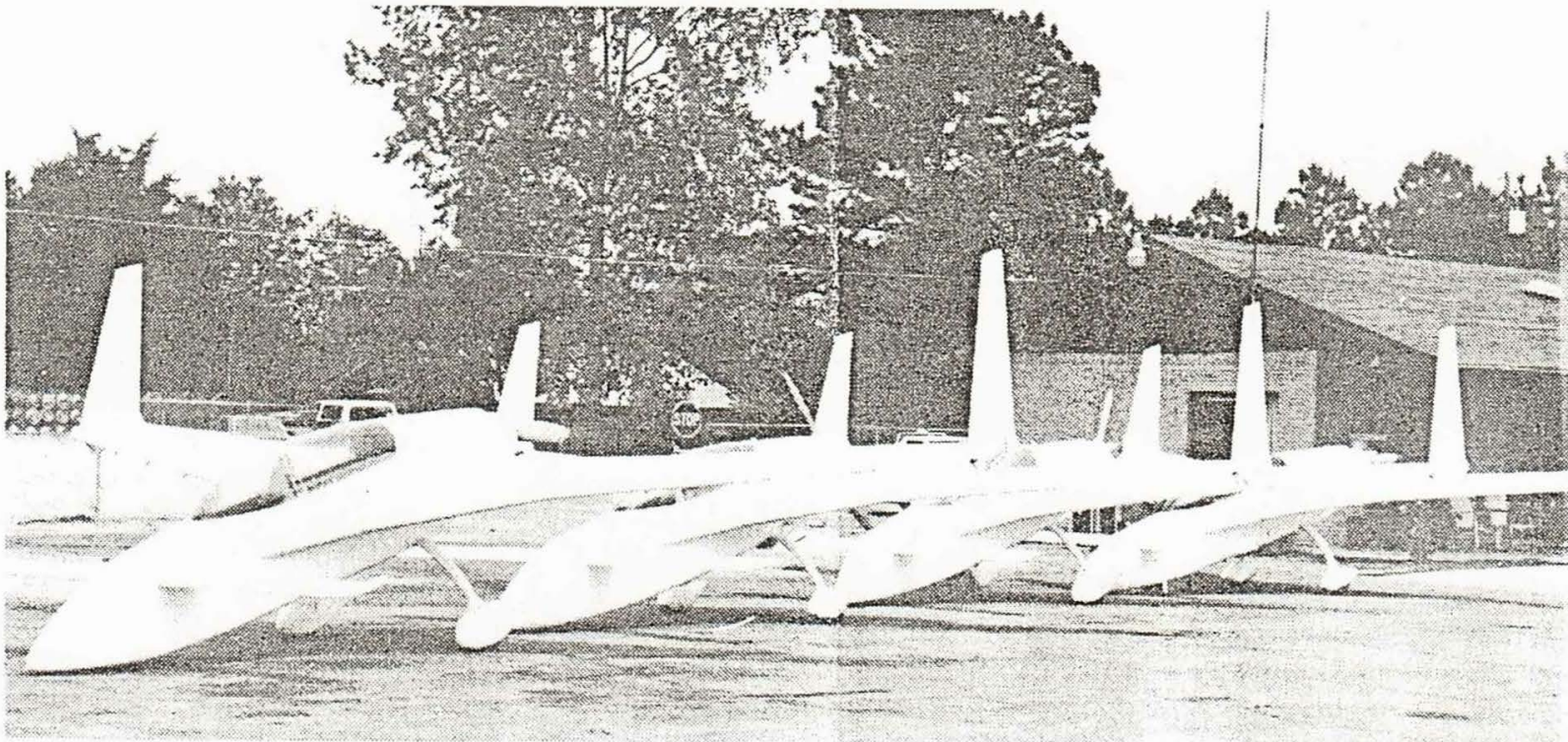
Flying the homebuilts must definitely be a hobby, because those four gentlemen flew from their homes in San Monica, Calif., to an airshow near Cape Carnival, Fla., last week, Orr said.

The airshow is a big event that includes competition between Long-Ez planes, antiques and World War II fighters.

'At the airshow, called Sun 'N' Fun, they participated in races in their division and one plane owner, Verne Simon, even won a race.

Orr, Simon and the rest of the crew, including Orr's six-year-old son Trevor, Clayton Kau and Stan Schiderman, made a pit stop in Picayune after three hours of flying on their return journey to San Monica.

According to Orr, it would take them eight or nine more hours of flying to reach home.



(Item photo by Dawn Moragne)

Homebuilt Long-Ez planes at Picayune Airport