The Telegraph/JOHN BADMAN

**Employees of Mike's Inc. on the Mississippi River in Wood River watch Tuesday afternoon as a new $2 million dry dock arrives at the business from its point of construction in Ledbetter, Ky. The business has been without a dry dock for 10 years, and the extra work they will be able to perform on large vessel hulls may allow the addition of 15 new employees.**

# Business gets huge dry dock

**By CORY DAVENPORT**

*For The Telegraph*

WOOD RIVER — Mike Marko, owner of Mike's Inc., hopes his new $2 million investment is worth it.

New regulations being enforced by the U.S. Coast Guard have made repairs to the hulls of vessels take utmost importance. To someone who works on vessels that can weigh more than 2,000 tons, getting hulls from under the water is tricky.

In order to work on the hulls of large vessels, Mike's Inc. has purchased a piece of equipment known as a dry dock.

A dry dock is a lift that can hoist vessels weighing up to 2,800 tons. Once the vessels are above water, Marko and his crew can work on repairing the hulls. He has gone without a dry dock for 10 years and hopes that this one will work well for him.

His business already is increasing, and with this dry dock, business should pick up even more.

"It should allow me to hire on about 15 more people," Marko said.

The dry dock was constructed in Ledbetter, Ky. It arrived on one of Marko's refurbished barges at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Mike's Inc is located on the shore of the Mississippi River at 3891 River Heritage Parkway in Wood River.