

Late Rocker Hoon's 'sittin' in the back' Cadillac Being Sold

By Joe Gerrety / Photos by Frank Oliver
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According to his lyrics, Shannon Hoon was more at home in his Galaxie. But handlers of the late rocker's estate apparently are hoping some Hoon fans will feel at home behind the wheel of his 1963 Cadillac.

A classified ad running this week in the Journal and Courier offers for sale a 1963 Cadillac two door automatic with 60,000 miles for \$1,000 or best offer.

Hoon, the Lafayette native and lead singer of Blind Melon, died two years ago of a cocaine overdose while on tour in New Orleans. The details of his estate still are being worked out in Tippecanoe Circuit Court.

A trust officer at NBD Bank in Lafayette said he didn't have detailed information about the vehicle aside from what appears in the ad, and Lisa Crouse, Hoon's girlfriend and the mother of his daughter, didn't respond Friday to a request for information.

But friend and fan Craig Loy of Lafayette said he's just sure it's the same Caddy Hoon was talking about when he sung, "the Cadillac that's sittin' the back. It isn't me...I'm more at home in my Galaxie."

It's the 1960s Ford Galaxie that appears in the "Galaxie" video, based on a song of the same name from the Soup CD.

But when friends visit from out of town, Loy drives them through the southern Lafayette neighborhood where the car's still "sittin' in the back."

"If it's not (the same car) then my whole idea of that song is blown," Loy said. "I've even had it playing in my car when I went down that alley and said, 'look to the left.'"

Loy said he hopes the ad gets more than local attention.

I'd like to see it make MTV News to auction it off, because I suspect most of it's going to Nico anyway. I'd like to see more of it go to her."

Nico is Hoon's 2 year old daughter.

Indeed, judging from the observations of two Lafayette area car collectors, the Caddy likely has more value as music memorabilia than as a collectible car.

John Gambs, Crouse's attorney and a lifelong classic automobile collector, said Hoon owned several vehicles from the '50s, '60s and '70s, but most of them weren't in the greatest shape. He said Hoon appeared to collect vehicles that he liked not the makes and models popular with collectors that would increase in value.

"There were never good collector cars," he said. "They were rusty and their interiors were bad."

The white Cadillac is no exception. Its driver's side windows are broken out, and there's a bullet hold in the windshield, but the body's in pretty good shape.

Don Stein of West Lafayette, who owns 84 cars and has been collecting for 40 years, said the Cadillac is probably worth more in parts than it is all together.

Because it was high production car and has more than 50,000 miles, it doesn't fall into the collector's category.

Alone, the vehicle may be worth \$4,500 to \$5,000, including the celebrity value, Stein said. But if its motor is frozen, then you can take another \$2,000 off the value because of the cost of replacing the engine.

"The personality brings it up, but because it's not a collector car it drops back down," he said.

Exactly what Hoon's ownership does to the value may be anybody's guess.

"Around here, it's probably worth twice the book," ventured Jim Pasdach. Hoon is one of 25 dead musicians Pasdach honors with giant murals on the outside walls of his business, JL Records on the Levee in West Lafayette.