

Weekly Register-Call

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Commander Cody rides again... "Son, you're gonna' drive me to drinkin' if you don't stop drivin' that Hot Rod Lincoln." **p12-13**

Too Much Fun at the Caribou Room

by Dave Gibson

*My pappy said, "Son, you're gonna' drive me to drinkin'
If you don't stop drivin' that Hot Rod Lincoln."*

*Have you heard this story of the Hot Rod Race
When Fords and Lincolns was settin' the pace.*

*That story is true, I'm here to say
I was drivin' that Model A.*

*It's got a Lincoln motor and it's really souped up.
That Model A Vitimix makes it look like a pup.*

*It's got eight cylinders; uses them all.
It's got overdrive, just won't stall.*

*With a 4-barrel carb and dual exhaust,
With 4.11 gears you can really get lost.
It's got safety tubes, but I ain't scared.
The brakes are good, tires fair.*

*Pulled out of San Pedro late one night
The moon and the stars was shinin' bright.
We was drivin' up Grapevine Hill
Passing cars like they was standing still.*

*All of a sudden in a wink of an eye
A Cadillac sedan passed us by.
I said, "Boys, that's a mark for me!"*

Commander Cody rides again



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Property of the Week



32187 Sylvan Road...\$368,000



Coal Creek Canyon. Sweet bungalow in the pines. End of road location, private and sunny. 1200sqft above grade with storage below. 3bd/2ba/ carport/1acre. Big wrap around deck, fire pit, fenced for FIDO. Zoned A1, JeffCo taxes. MLS #2509399



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*By then the taillight was all you could see.
Now the fellas was ribbin' me for bein' behind,
So I thought I'd make the Lincoln unwind.
Took my foot off the gas and man alive,
I shoved it on down into overdrive.
Wound it up to a hundred-and-ten
My speedometer said that I hit top end.
My foot was blue, like lead to the floor.
That's all there is and there ain't no more.
Now the boys all thought I'd lost my sense
And telephone poles looked like a picket fence.*

*They said, "Slow down! I see spots!
The lines on the road just look like dots."
Took a corner; sideswiped a truck,
Crossed my fingers just for luck.
My fenders was clickin' the guardrail posts.
The guy beside me was white as a ghost.
Smoke was comin' from out of the back
When I started to gain on that Cadillac.*

*Knew I could catch him, I thought I could pass.
Don't you know by then we'd be low on gas?
We had flames comin' from out of the side.
Feel the tension. Man! What a ride!
I said, "Look out, boys, I've got a license to fly!"
And that Caddy pulled over and let us by.
Now all of a sudden she started to knockin',
And down in the dips she started to rockin'.
I looked in my mirror; a red light was blinkin'
The cops was after my Hot Rod Lincoln!
They arrested me and they put me in jail.
And called my pappy to throw my bail.
And he said, "Son, you're gonna drive me to drinkin'
If you don't stop drivin' that Hot...Rod... Lincoln!"*

It was 1971 when Commander Cody and his Lost Planet Airmen released their classic debut album *Lost in the Ozone*. The pioneering Western swing rock captured a new energy divergent from early influences and other country rock bands of the era, boldly driven by George Frayne's (aka Commander Cody) boogie-woogie piano playing. "Hot Rod Lincoln" from the same album was released as a single the following year becoming a top ten hit on the Billboard music charts.

Known for their rambunctious live performances and galactic twist queen groupies, the Lost Planet Airmen disbanded in 1977. Forty-one years later, the "Commander" is still banging the ivories with gusto backed by his West Coast Airmen. Friday, April 27th, Commander Cody wowed an enthusiastic but little bit grayer audience at the Caribou Room in Nederland.

The tempo raced right out of the gate with "Rock That Boogie," "Don't Let Go," and Chuck Berry's "House of Blue Lights." Then "Smoke! Smoke! Smoke!" was a crowd-pleaser, as was what Frayne labeled the "best boogie-woogie song ever written," "Beat Me Daddy, Eight to the Bar."

"What's the Matter Now" gave the room a chance to catch its collective breath. A number composed by Billy Farlow and George Frayne that is sometimes called the saddest country song of all time, "Seeds and Stems (Again)," almost brought tears to the eyes.

*Well, my dog died just yesterday and left me all alone
The finance company dropped by today and repossessed my home
That's just a drop in the bucket compared to losing you
And I'm down to seeds and stems again, too.*



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With just enough time for melancholy sentiments and soothing melodies, the "Commander" broke out "Riot in Cellblock #9" and "Midnight Shift" to get things back on track. The standards concertgoers in part had come to hear, "Lost in the Ozone" and "Hot Rod Lincoln," satisfied the packed house.

*Get out of my way, you small-town hicks
This country boy is out for kicks
Stole a car, drove to Kalamazoo
I met a gal, she was ugly too
When they finally caught me, here's what they done
Jail
Too much fun
Too much fun, that's news to me
Too much fun, there must be
A whole lotta things that I never done
But I ain't never had too much fun*

At the show's end and another round of wholehearted applause, shouts, and whistles, everyone reluctantly found their way out of the ozone. After flirting with having "too much fun," the consensus was they experienced the perfect amount.

For information about upcoming concerts at the Caribou Room go to www.TheCaribouRoom.com or call 303-258-3637.

Dave Gibson has been a contributor at the *Weekly Register-Call* for thirteen years. To view past articles and pictures go to www.DaveGibsonImages.com.



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