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Commander Cody revives band

The 1970s singer will perform with a group of new musicians Thursday

By Carl Yeh
Freelance Editor

Commander Cody and His Lost Plane Airmen: What sounds like something from out of the '50s is really something from out of the '70s.

Deriving the band's name from a 1950s motion picture, Commander Cody will play at the Hollywood Taxi, a Springfield dance and performance hall, on June 11.

Commander Cody's music is described as "boogie rock" by one of his publicists. "Commander Cody's actually got a little country twang in his music," said Duke, a publicist who declined to give his last name.

Duke, who is a talent buyer at Bootleg Productions, has seen Commander Cody perform in the '70s and in recent performances. Duke said he was looking forward to seeing Commander Cody because he likes his music.

Duke said he remembers listening to one of Commander Cody's hits, "Hot Rod Lincoln." "The song is about the good ol'

times," he said. "It talks about the time of hot rods — a 'Happy Days' kind of thing."

Duke said he thinks Commander Cody and his band will probably appeal to many people, but probably to nostalgic people who remember and know of him. "I think his music is pretty broad. He's going to draw an audience from 35 to 55 in a sense. But it's something that 21-year-olds can appreciate too," he said.

According to a Commander Cody Web page, Commander Cody's given name is George Frayne. Frayne put a band together when he was a graduate student at the University of Michigan in 1967. A few years later, the band moved to California and recorded its first album, "Lost in the Ozone." The album produced the band's first hit single, "Hot Rod Lincoln."

Other singles Commander Cody and his band produced include: "Hot Licks, Cold Steel and Truckers' Favorites" and "We've Got a Live One Here."

However, in 1977 Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen split up. Commander Cody recorded on his own, but in the '90s others joined his band to reform the Lost Planet Airmen:

"[Commander Cody] is going to draw an audience from 35 to 55, in a sense. But it's something that 21-year-olds can appreciate too."

Duke

Talent buyer, Bootleg Productions

David Malachowski (guitar), Mark Emmerick (guitar and vocals), Steve Barbuta (drums and percussion), Clyde Davies (bass) and Rob Hykys (pedal steel).

Advance tickets cost \$8 and can be bought at CD World, Record Garden, Face the Music, Fred Meyer Fastix outlets and at the Hollywood Taxi box office. Tickets will be \$10 at the door.

Local band Boogie Chillen' will open the show at 9 p.m. The Hollywood Taxi is located at 535 Main St. in Springfield. The performance is for people who are 21 and over. For more information, call Hollywood Taxi at 747-0307.

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