

Their role is instrumental

Musicians' connections help bring Les Paul exhibit to Milwaukee

By SCOTT WILLIAMS

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Waukesha — It was time to take matters into his own hands.

So Richard Cook called the one group of guys he knew would be up to the task: the members of his old rock band, Men About Town.

Together, the musicians, now in their 40s and 50s, set out to find a new location for a museum exhibit honoring a hero of theirs — Waukesha-born music pioneer Les Paul.

Cook, a onetime Waukesha alderman who knows Paul personally, had been supporting efforts to bring the exhibit to a museum near downtown Waukesha. But when leaders of the museum last summer split unceremoniously with their longtime executive director, Sue Baker, Cook decided that the Paul project should change directions, too.

Noting that Paul is 92 years old, Cook said: "The sense of urgency was starting to catch up with all of us. We couldn't wait around."

Please see **LES PAUL, 5B**