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Lane Motor Museum Showcases Award Winning 1946 Hewson Rocket

Winner of Goodwood Festival of Speed Award

Nashville, TN, August 16, 2007----The 1946 Hewson Rocket underwent major restoration at Lane Motor Museum just in time to be featured on the display field at the 12th Annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance in March of 2007. The Cars of Coachcraft were on display during the Amelia Island Concours, and 7 cars were on the show field by this Hollywood, CA coach builder.

After appearing at Amelia Island, the restored 1946 Hewson Rocket was then invited by the Earl of March to be featured during the 2007 Goodwood Festival of Speed as part of the Cartier Style de Luxe – the world's most coveted automobile design competition. At this prestigious event the Hewson was named Winner of Class – 75th Anniversary of the Ubiquitous Ford Flat-Head V8.

In early 1940, Rudy Stoessel, Paul Erdos, and Burt Chalmers opened a small body shop in Hollywood called Coachcraft, Ltd. and began building custom bodies for movie stars and wealthy locals. In 1945, William Hewson raised capital to form the Hewson Pacific Corporation and planned to produce the "Hewson Rocket" and sell it for \$1,000. Stoessel fabricated the body shape and Erdos welded the aluminum panels together. Hewson's idea was to give the body form a very aerodynamic shape with no projections anywhere – headlights covered with glass, tail-light lenses flush, and no outside door handles.

Hewson's capital was depleted by the time the car's body was finished. Coachcraft kept the car in their front showroom until it was auctioned off in 1959 to a used car dealer in Minneapolis, MN for \$650. The Coachcraft organization survived until 1966.

The Hewson Rocket, which has been a part of the Lane Motor Museum collection since spring of 2005, is currently on display at the Museum.

About Lane Motor Museum

Lane Motor Museum showcases approximately 150 unique cars and motorcycles from around the world. Cars on display represent countries from Asia, Europe, North and South America, and date from 1924 to 2003. Highlights of the Museum include the largest Czechoslovakian vehicle collection outside Europe, microcars, amphibious vehicles, alternative fuel vehicles, competition cars, and prototypes. The Museum also offers a display of automotive art, a play area for children, and a gift shop.

Lane Motor Museum welcomes guests Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday; Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year's Day. Regular admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors (55+), and free for children 17 and under. Group rates are available. Lane Motor Museum is located at 702 Murfreesboro Pike

just minutes from downtown Nashville. For more information on the Museum, call (615) 742-7445 or visit the website at www.lanemotormuseum.org

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