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Eagles fan scores guitar at auction

FAYETTEVILLE — Developer Gary Brandon admits he's not a guitar collector, or even a guitar player, but his love for the Eagles and a fondness for the Gibson family was what enticed him to bid \$22,000 on a Takamine acoustic guitar signed by the band.

The auctioneer at last weekend's One Particular Harbor fundraiser billed the guitar "as one of only five in existence." It was donated by Joe Walsh for the Ryan Gibson Foundation benefit (for party coverage, see page 6D).

Brandon says his sister, Gay Riner, introduced him to the Eagles in the form of an 8-track tape when they were kids, and the band has been his favorite since. He says he and his wife, Sherri, saw the Eagles' Glenn Frey in concert some time back and that Walsh showed up and sat in with Frey.

The only other guitar in Brandon's collection is one signed by hotelier Bill Marriott that Brandon received at a Marriott convention. (Brandon has built hotels in a multistate area.) What will he do with the one he won last weekend?

"I'll charge admission for my friends to come and look at it," he says, jokingly.