

Singer's suit charges mismanagement

By **KIRK LOGGINS**

Staff Writer

Singer-songwriter Townes Van Zandt has charged in a lawsuit that Music Row accountant Robert Jerry Jackson has mishandled his finances since 1984.

Van Zandt and his wife, Jeanene Van Zandt, say in a lawsuit filed in Chancery Court that they went to Jackson in 1984 "for assistance in accounting matters, tax preparation and general business management."

The Van Zandts said Jackson took \$40,000 from their bank account in January 1985 without their knowledge and used the money to repair the roof of an Alabama motel Jackson and his brother owned.

Jackson later deposited \$47,400 in the Van Zandts' bank account and said it was for repayment of a loan, the lawsuit says.

The Van Zandts said Jackson forged Townes Van Zandt's signature on a \$6,000 check in September 1984 and subsequently invested their funds, without their knowledge or consent, in a partnership called Mount Juliet Plaza Limited.

They also allege that Jackson failed to file a 1987 federal income tax return for them and "grossly overcharged" them for his accounting and management services between 1985 and 1989.

The Van Zandts are seeking an

unspecified amount of compensatory damages and \$500,000 in punitive damages. Their lawsuit was prepared by attorney Sawnie Aldredge.

Jackson, whose office is at 1103 18th Ave. S., said he has written authorization from Townes Van Zandt for all the investments mentioned in the lawsuit.

The accountant said the Van Zandts' 1987 federal income tax return was filed.

Responding to the allegation of overcharging for his services, Jackson said the singer-songwriter "forgot we paid for his medical insurance." ■