

## The Dallas Morning News

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Louise Rowe and Her Texan Playboys will offer an old time, toe-tapping evening at 7:30 pm Saturday, July 18, at the Allen Public Library. Louise holds the distinction of being the only female musician who performed with the legendary Bob Wills. Bob's daughter Carolyn Wills will be on hand to share anecdotal stories and insights into the genius of the man whose career spanned five decades and who brought hope to Americans during the Great Depression and the post-World War II period. Free tickets will be issued at 7:00 p.m. on a first come, first served basis.

Sponsored by Bach to Books, with generous support from Malcolm and Kathy Duke, this program is free.

A stand-up bass player for years with Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys, Louise observes, "I was the only woman musician to have been on Bob Wills' payroll." While on her first tour with Bob Wills, Bob took her to Nudie's of Hollywood to get an infamous Texas Playboys royal blue uniform. Her stage outfit had one significant difference—Wills insisted that she wear a skirt because women were not allowed to wear pants. Bob told her, "Now you are a real Texas Playboy. Remember wherever you go, you will always be a Texas Playboy."

Carolyn Wills recalls, "In 1952, my father hired a young vocalist and accomplished rhythm guitar and bass player. She was 18 years old, her name was Louise Rowe, and she became the only female Texas Playboy musician he ever hired. As a Texas Playboy, Louise toured with the band in Southern California, delighting crowds and earning respect. She went on to become an award-winning Western swing artist, album producer and song writer. Today, as leader of her own band, this amazing woman continues to be admired and to honor Bob Wills, her time as a Texas Playboy and her love for Western swing."

In the 1950s, Louise married Tommy Allsup who later lost a fateful coin toss with Ritchie Valens for a seat on the plane that crashed, killing Valens, Buddy Holly and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson on February 3, 1959.

In 1994, Louise produced a cassette called "Texas Playgirls and Playboys".

The library is located at 300 N. Allen Dr. in Allen. Call 214-509-4911 for more information.