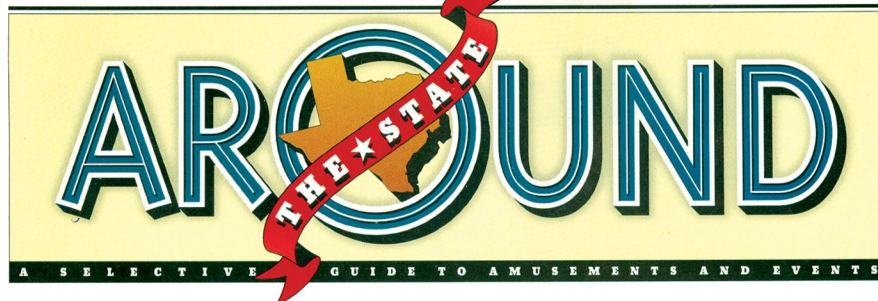




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Texas Monthly



THE MAIN EVENT

SULTANAS OF SWING

As celebrated as Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys may be in the annals of Texas music, the Playboys who wore dresses were never really given their due. Most people know about the scores of notable men who worked for Wills; they're now regarded as legends of Western swing. But the handful of women who joined his group as featured vocalists have generally been regarded as little more than historical footnotes. That wrong will be righted this month, when three female Playboy veterans — Louise Rowe (right, with Wills in 1952) and the McKinney sisters, Dean and Evelyn—reprise old Wills classics like “My Rose of Old Pawnee” backed by the Western Swing Hall of Fame tour band, which features an all star cast of various former Playboys, Cherokee Cowboys, and Brazos Valley Boys. The first reunion show will be at Austin’s hallowed honky-tonk, the Broken Spoke, on November 8, and the next day the boot-scootin’ moves to one of Wills’s favorite places to play, the Cabaret Restaurant and Dance Hall in Bandera. Dancing is mandatory.

--Joe Nick Patoski

