A Guide to the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame Collection

1930s – 1990s

Collection 045

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Texas Western Swing Hall
Title: The Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame Collection
Dates: 1930s - 1990s
Abstract: The collection includes photographs, costumes, posters, awards, and clippings featuring Hall of Fame members.
Identification: Collection 045
Extent: 6 boxes (8 linear feet)
Language: English
Repository: Southwestern Writers Collection, Special Collections, Alkek Library, Texas State University-San Marcos
Historical Sketch

The Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame was founded in Austin by Al Dressen in 1988. Inductions have taken place at the annual Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame show, held in Austin during the years 1988-1993, and in San Marcos from 1994 to the present, on the third weekend in May. The Hall of Fame’s first inductee was Bob Wills, leader of the legendary swing band, Bob Wills & his Texas Playboys. Other members include such artists as Hank Thompson, Laura Lee McBride, The Sons of the Pioneers, Floyd Tilman, Eldon Shamblin, Hoyle Nix, and Asleep at the Wheel. The Hall of Fame also publishes a newsletter, Jamboree, which keeps its membership informed of special events and features music reviews.

Scope and Content Note

Photographs, costumes, posters, awards, clippings dating from 1930s-1990s and featuring members of the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame comprise the bulk of this collection. Items of note include Bob Wills’ hat and a fiddle he reportedly played, and Laura Lee McBride’s fringed leather costume.
Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Open for research.

Preferred Citation

The Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame Collection, Southwestern Writers Collection, Texas State University-San Marcos

Acquisition Information


Processing Information

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame

Box  Folder

1  1   List of inductees
1  2   Newsletter

Framed  Poster featuring Bob Wills, The Sons of the Pioneers,
Art case  Laura Lee McBride, The Light Crust Doughboys,
               Cliff Bruner, Milton Brown and his Musical Brownies,
               and Smokey Montgomery

Series II: Hall of Fame Artists

General Publicity Photos

1  3   Al Dressen
       Tommy Duncan, Bob Wills, and Laura Lee McBride
       Bob Wills and Hoyle Nix
       Bob Wills and Laura Lee McBride
       Sons of the Pioneers
       Ted Daffan
       Texas Swing Pioneers (Johnny Gimble, Jerry Gimble, Smokey
          Montgomery, J.R. Chatwell), Fall 1980
       McKinney Sisters (Dean and Evelyn)
       Tiny Moore
       Billy Briggs

Individual Artists

       Jimmy Davis

1  4   Photo, bio, clippings

Light Crust Doughboys

1  5   Photographs and postcard

2   Hall of Fame Induction Award, 1989

Hall of Fame Textile box

       Cotton shirts embroidered with band name (1 blue, 1 white)
Series II: Hall of Fame Artists, continued

Box  Folder

Individual Artists, continued

Laura Lee McBride

1  6  Photograph

2  -  Hall of Fame Induction Award, 1989

Hall of Fame

Textile box

Leather vest, skirt, and wrist cuffs

Hank Thompson

1  8  Photograph

3  5  1956 Billboard Award

3  6  1963 Cash Box Award

5  -  Cowboy Hat

Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys

1  9  Photographs

1  10  Radio interview with Johnny Gimble about Bob Wills’ sideman Eldon Shamblin, National Public Radio, August, 12, 1998 (audiocassette)

2  -  Hall of Fame Induction Award, 1988

3  1  Poster signed by band, 1941

4  -  Fiddle reported to have been played by Wills

6  -  Cowboy Hat worn by Wills

Hall of Fame

Textile box

Blue Blazer worn by Wills