

Miller Brothers Band

The Miller Brothers Band: This Wichita Falls-based band, originally comprised of three brothers, Leon, Sam, and Nat Gibbs, was very popular throughout North Texas during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The group had its origins within the Gibbs Family home when the youngest brother, Leon, who was in third grade at the time, convinced his mother to buy him a violin. Leon began learning country songs he heard on the family radio, and, soon, his two older brothers, Sam (on bass) and Nat (on guitar), joined him.

The brothers began playing together in local amateur contests and eventually landed a gig playing live on KWFT Radio as the Gibbs Brothers Band. They were joined by Lee Cochran on trumpet, Bob Steed on drums, and Tommy Bruce on lead guitar. As the group's popularity grew, the Times Publishing Company, one of the band's sponsors, asked the musicians to sign an exclusive contract under a new name. The group agreed, and renamed itself the Miller Brother's Band. In 1939, the Miller Brother's Band lost Bob Steed and Tommy Bruce, but, with the addition of other musicians, the group continued playing regularly around Wichita Falls, drawing capacity crowds for many of their performances. In 1940, the two older brothers, Nat and Sam, were drafted into the Navy. In 1944, Leon was drafted into the Army, and the group disbanded.

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