



## Texas Swing Finds a Home in Oregon

When Austin, Texas native and musician Randy Hill and his wife Dawn decided to move from Texas to Oregon five years ago, they said it wasn't easy but the, "humidity and summer heat hot enough to melt asphalt" played a pretty big role in their decision.

Other than their favorite Austin Tex-Mex and BBQ hangouts, the other thing the couple missed was going to see live western swing music. "Western swing was birthed with the help of Texas fiddler Bob Wills back in the 1930s," remarks Randy. "The music was drilled into my soul from the moment I was born."

Over the years that he has been playing drums professionally, Hill has shared the stage with some of the legends of Texas country and swing; Grammy winner George Strait, who also hails from Randy's hometown of San Marcos, Texas; Augie Meyers of The Texas Tornados; Johnny Rodriguez, who was one of country music's most successful male stars in the early 1970s, Terri Gibbs, Stan Perkins (son of rockabilly legend Carl Perkins), Todd Snider and steel guitar legend Jimmy Day who backed Hank Williams, Elvis and Willie Nelson.



Hill had a close encounter with western swing legend Bob Wills when he met Wills' daughter Rosetta during the 1990s. "I was working as a graphic designer and helped Rosetta sort through her personal photo collection for a book that she was writing about her father. That was a rare treat."

"Two years after we moved to Oregon, I decided to start a western swing band of my own" says Hill. "I knew that Bob Wills used to tour up and down the west coast in the late 1940s and early 1950s. His band held dance attendance records at Jantzen Beach in Portland, Oregon and at the Armory in Klamath Falls, Oregon, so I thought it was time to reintroduce the music here locally again."