Bridges named to THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

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Before the days of computers—back when attending, movies, television or even radio, traveling theater groups would cross-country bring entertainment to small towns like Parsons. It was and still is a vital part of Americans.

In 1927, the New York Times estimated more than 400 such tours, which visited over 38,000 communities, playing to more than 79 million people in 6,700 towns, with a schedule of 40 or more shows a week.

The “toy” test show dates back to 1853, and thanks to Parsons’ own Rivertime Players, it is still alive and well in Decatur County, with special thanks to Shane Bridges.

In 2006 the Parsons Arts Council received a donation of a historic cultural asset from Dr. James Larsen of the last remaining repertory test show, which can trace its roots back 117 years. In 2007, Bridges (from “River time”) at that time and in 2014 became resident of Parsons led the River- time Players—a production of a toy show—show and directed all of them since.

Tony Dick Ellis (one of the most famous Tony and Mike (Mickey) Lucy have attended produc- tions in Parsons. Ellis had his own weekly television show with one of the highest ratings in the United States. Lucy’s father was a famous actor who toured with the Ribbee Players and other companies. For the past eight productions of “The Toy Shows in Pars- ons,” Lucy has attended six of them and last year, 90-year-old Ellis was the last time he appeared on the show in Parsons.

“Mickey came two years ago and we did a sandwich bit and I thought I’d like to introduce this show.” “Then last year Ellis and I did another sandwich bit and I found out that I couldn’t do anything! They were great!”

Freddy Bridges is pretty good, since he was nominated for the Tuffy Hall Player in which he was housed in Mt. Pleasant, 60 weeks a year, 300 performances, Schoffinish. The Schauffelers are a famous “Toy & Suisie” team and profile Toby playwrights. The pair played the wire country hamplin and his sharp-tongued girlfriend (Mississippi) who established a museum in 1975 to save the memories of early theater. This past weekend, Bridges traveled to Iowa where he was induc- ted into the museum with many of the old locals.

“I followed Dick Ellis around and every story, learning from the best,” said noted Bridges.

In 2007, Lucy was honored to have been invited into the Toby Hall of Fame, he de- clared it was not just him. “When they came down and decided I was a good Toby, it was not only they were good Toby Show and good cast,” declared Bridges. “Mark Tubbs is a good part of the success to the show of the success of the show.”

Bridges says the production cast is a dedi- cated bunch of actors. Last year, everyone who has been in the show for eight years ago, were still in the show last year.

“Takes lots of hard of work and a lot of space, our related Bridges.”

The performances make on weekends. I’m a quartet in a football game, get the play on throwing the winning pass, but I can’t have it done with- out the rest of the team.”

In 2012, the Rivertime Players was incorporated as a non-profit organiza- tion with a group of volun- teers, whose central mission is preserving the Toby Show and fostering an appreciation for the repertory tent theatre ex- actly.

The annual Toby Show is included in a “dramatic end test” with antique straight back chair seat- ing. Rivertime Players productions now also include a life-size life- size foot former airplane hangar and have improved the performance space at the Toby Hall.

The 9th Annual Pearl- river Theatre Festival will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 24-25 at the old airport lo- cated at the end of West 9th Street. See a complete list of this week’s edition of The News Leader on page 9A.