

## TOBY'S BACK IN TOWN BY MARK TUBBS

The tent is raised, the stage is set, the chairs are in place, the lights are positioned, the popcorn is popped...this could only mean one thing; Toby's back in town. The Rivertime Players once again entertained audiences with two performances of "How Now White Cow," written by Dr. Dawn Larsen, the third week of September in Parsons, TN.

The show was directed by Shane Bridges, who also played the role of Toby. The cast included Elicia Spain, Dottie Hill, David Taylor, Carol Shaw, Clayton Quinn, and Mark Tubbs. Musical accompaniment by Patricia Stanford on the piano and Jeff Stout joined the show as percussionist and sound effects. Saturday night Adam Stanford, a former cast mate visiting from college, performed a specialty song during the first act.

Saturday night's show was attended by special guests Cherita Beehn and her husband David, and Welby Choate and his wife Pat. Cherita and Welby are the children of Billy Choate who performed with and eventually owned Bisbee's Comedians. Bisbee's Comedians presented tent shows for 42 years and Parsons was the second stop on their route each year until 1965.

The cast proudly presented this year's shows under a brand new tent. Although, the smell of the new vinyl just didn't provide the same atmosphere as the old canvas. The new tent is much lighter and the sections fold smaller than the old canvas. The show played to a receptive house each night with beautiful starry skies overhead and a constant battle with fire ants underfoot.

Prior to intermission the candy pitch was made to entice the audience to buy a box of Toby's Tastee Treats. Of course, with the purchase of each box there was a chance of winning a prize, including a diamond ring. Toby advised the audience to get their magnifying glass out to see the diamond.



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