



The NEWS LEADER

A newspaper for and about Decatur County

50¢

Vol. 87, No. 36

www.readtheleader.com

September 5, 2012



DRIVING MISS CRAZY

Take a trip into the past

*Rivertime Players
to perform
Driving Miss Crazy
in authentic tent
show revue*

Pack the kids in the car and head for the past! The Rivertime Players of Parsons are putting the final touches on this year's original play written by Shane Bridges, *Driving Miss Crazy*, that will be performed in a rare and authentic traveling tent venue.

If you're a fan of the movie, *Driving Miss Daisy*, then get ready to have a fun evening at the theater with this tantalizing stage adaptation.

The tent show probably is the nearest thing we have to genuine American folk theater. For over 100 years, traveling tent shows represented an integral chapter of American theater history.

In small towns and counties like Decatur, that could not support a full-time playhouse, the shows would come to the people, lock, stock and barrel. Those who have lived long

enough can remember the excitement felt by the community when the old tent shows rolled into town.

The Memphis-based Bisbee's Comedians entertained thousands as they traveled through Tennessee and Kentucky from the late '20's until the late '60's, with Parsons being the second stop on their tour.

Each evening the show began with a 30 minute concert by the orchestra, followed by a three or four-act comedy or comedy drama with vaudeville specialties between the acts. "Tent show week" brings as much of a flurry of activity and exhilaration today as it did in its heyday.

Driving Miss Crazy is the crown jewel of activities associated with the annual Parsons Peavine Festival, set for September 28-29, 2012.

This year's festival will honor the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration with Hoofbeats in the Heartland: Civil War Cavalry in Tennessee, a traveling exhibit created by the State Museum to explore the impact of mounted warfare in Tennessee during the Civil War.

Other events include various forums on Civil War history in the area and the dedication of the Tennessee Civil War Trails Project Marker Di-

**The Rivertime Players
present
Driving Miss Crazy**

September	October
28 & 29	5 & 6
Doors	Fun
Open	Starts
6:30	7:00
	Show
	Begins
	7:30

**Wholesome
Family
Entertainment**

Adults	Children
\$6 Advance	under 12
\$7 @ Door	FREE

vided Loyalties in Decatur County, an antique quilt exhibit, family and home life demonstrations, and a meet and greet with area authors.

Parsons is fortunate, not only to be the home of one of the country's last authentic traveling tent shows, but also to serve as the incubator city for the fertile talents of the Rivertime Players, a rapidly growing company of enthusiastic, committed artists who are willing to entertain, promote and pro-

vide concessions for their audience.

Led by Bridges, who is also the director, the cast channels a few hours of another, simpler time, enabling the audience to become participants, themselves, of that fragile experience.

In addition to rehearsals three or four days a week, cast members are also responsible for set design and construction, costumes, props, make-up, lights, sound, marketing, ticket sales, posters, candy boxes and popcorn sales to make each year's events a success. Most are shameless about tapping the talents of their friends and relatives in their quest to make each performance bigger and better.

Make plans now to enjoy and evening of hysterical and historical fun in Parsons! It'll be a rollickin' good time for the whole family! Bring everyone you know, and a bunch of people you don't know too!

There will be only four performances of this original production: September 28 and 29 and October 5 and 6. Doors open at 6:30, and the not-to-be-missed pre-show entertainment begins at 7 p.m. *Driving Miss Crazy* begin at 7:30 each night.

For more information, check out www.rivertimeplayers.org and www.parsonspeavinefestival.com.