

TSI: Parsons, Toby Stupid Investigator

Once again, Toby saves the day



Toby gave a warm welcome to Willie Scallions, from Taylorville, Illinois, who drove 300 miles to attend the show.



Leonard and Susan Gant celebrated their 31st Wedding Anniversary at the Toby Show in what has become a tradition for the couple.



Emma Fisher and Sara Lawlor were bundled up, waiting for the excitement to begin!

By Pamela Aycock

The chill of fall, the smell of popcorn in the air and the big brown tent let everyone know that Toby's back in town. The Toby Show, a Rivertime Players production, is a unique chance to participate in a tradition that bridges the past and present. The Toby Show was originally a touring tent show presented by the Bisbee's Comedians as they traveled from Memphis through Tennessee and up into Kentucky. Laughter and fun highlighted each stop on their way and continues to be provided through the talents of our amazing local actors and actresses.

This year is a special "whodunit" mystery, titled TSI:Parsons, Toby Stupid Investigator. The evening entertainment begins with a mix of music including various crime show theme songs and popular music. Toby, played brilliantly by

Shane Bridges, wanders among the guests, greeting and otherwise entertaining the audience with his special "Toby wit" until time for the show to begin.

As the curtain rises, the audience is plunged into the world of Toby who has just gotten his special crime solving kit and is now focused on becoming educated in the science of "forensicks" while "butlering" to help Ms. Andelusia Anderson, played by Dotty Hill. Ms. Anderson is renting her home to out of town guests. Toby's plan is to master the kit and become a "big city forensicks investigator" and is hoping that this "butlering" job isn't going to interfere with his long range plan. Laughs are constant as the identity of the "Turkey Buzzard" (you have to see the show to find out who this is) is pursued and the murder of "Buckhart," played by Mark Tubbs, is solved. Each of the

players in this cast is delightful and deliver their lines with humor. Staying true to historical tradition, a special vaudeville act is provided at the end which delights children and adults alike and may include some audience participation.

The Toby Show has developed quite a following over the years as their fans look forward to starting the fall season with a new performance each year. There are those who mark their calendar to attend the first show of each season. There are also those willing to travel many miles each year to visit Parsons to witness this special show. During Saturday night's performance one such visitor was Willie Scallions. He lives in Taylorville, Illinois which is 300 miles away. He is visiting with family members, Betty and Bill Mays and Jessie Holt while he is in town. With a big smile, he stated that he "saw the show last

year and saved all year to pay for the gas to come back this year." Another special couple that attended the show Saturday night were Leonard and Susan Gant. They were celebrating their 31st anniversary at the Toby Show and said they love the Toby Show and come almost every year as part of their anniversary celebration.

This was the first weekend of this fall's performance so you have time to plan to attend the show and see if you can solve the crime before Toby does. Performances will be Friday and Saturday nights on Oct. 6, 7, 13 and 14. Tent opens at 6:30 with the show beginning at 7:30. Concessions, DVD's of previous shows and special "Toby Show Taffy" are available for purchase. Don't miss the chance to enjoy and support our local Rivertime Players as they offer an evening of fun and laughter.



The show's star hero, Toby, disguised as mild-mannered father, Shane Bridges, spends quality time with his daughter, Posey, before he goes into action,