

## Joe E. Brown Day Scrapbook, 1945 Biographical and Contents Notes

Joe E. Brown was born in Holgate, Ohio to Matthias and Anna Brown on July 28, 1892. After moving to North Baltimore, Ohio, the family moved to Toledo about 1896. He started in show business at the age of nine as a circus acrobat with the Marvelous Ashtons. After the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, he left the Marvelous Ashtons and moved into the vaudeville and burlesque circuits. Seeking greater financial security after marrying Kathryn McGraw, he returned to Toledo in 1916 to run bowling alleys and to play semi-pro baseball. Brown returned to the vaudeville and burlesque circuits before landing his first movie role in 1927. He was in numerous movies and often was listed on "Stars of the Year". His best known role was on live stage as Elwood P. Dowd in "Harvey." On December 7, 1945, Toledo honored him with the Joe E. Brown Day. Brown died in California on July 6, 1973.

The collection consists of records from Joe E. Brown Day on December 7, 1945 when Toledo honored Brown for contributing to the morale of overseas troops during World War II. The day's festivities included a banquet and mass meeting, presentation of more than fifteen awards, including a gold lifetime pass to American association baseball games, an honorary master of arts degree awarded by the University of Toledo, and a lifetime membership in the YMCA along with an annual memorial membership for a boy in honor of Browns' son, Don, who was killed in the service in 1942.

## Joe E. Brown Day Scrapbook, 1945 Inventory

Box 1

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