

# Professional Level Theatricals Staged By The Chowan Players

MURFREESBORO - The Chowan Players, Chowan College's dramatists, bring theatrical performances of professional stature to their campus and the entire Roanoke-Chowan area.

Last year, 3,047 people witnessed six performances in the Columns Building's auditorium. During the fall semester, the musical comedy "Annie Get Your Gun" was produced by the Chowan Players and during the spring semester "Our Town" was pre-

sented. More than 200 Chowan College students competed for roles in "Annie Get Your Gun."

In addition to campus audiences, the Chowan Players performed at public schools throughout the Roanoke-Chowan area and also took a production of "Magic Supreme," an original drama written by a member of Chowan College's Creative Writing class, to the Carolina Drama Festival at Chapel Hill. Their performance of the play written by Miss Elizabeth Harris of Seaboard earned a rating of "Excellent" from some of the outstanding dra-

ma critics in the nation.

Mrs. Edith Larson, professor in Chowan's Department of English and teacher of dramatics, is director and producer for the Chowan Players. Assisting her is Professor Robert Mulder, also of the Department of English. In addition to the three large-scale dramatic productions staged throughout the year, they produced a number of other programs. "Were You There?" a choral recitation by the Drama and Speech Departments was among cultural highlights of the year for Chowan College and surrounding areas.

# Robinson Hopes Drama To Aid Ministerial Career

MURFREESBORO - Jim Robinson, popular and talented Chowan College sophomore, performed the leading role in "Magic Supreme," original one-act play by a member of Chowan College's Creative Writing class, during the Drama Festival at Chapel Hill.

This was his third leading role for the Chowan Players, in spite of a football injury when one of these productions was being presented. Suffering a near brain concussion, he displayed show business enthusiasm of "the show must go on." Attendance was reported at 3,047 for performances in the Chowan Players' "Annie Get Your Gun" and "Our Town."

Son of Rev. and Mrs. Frank B. Robinson of Hickory where his father serves as pastor of Temple Baptist Church, he is a member of Delta Psi Omega national honorary dramatic so-

ciety and the Chowan College Ministerial Alliance. A pre-ministerial student, he hopes to use drama in religious work. "Drama is a good way to present religious truth," he says. "Cloaking truth in characters people can see performing makes truth more real and meaningful."

Although he has had little previous experience in dramatics, he is enthusiastic about using drama in the future. "I learn more every day," he says, "and hope to teach others, getting them as deeply involved and enthusiastic as I am."



**CHOWAN PLAYERS' STAR**  
—Jim Robinson of Hickory who is enthusiastic about drama as a method of teaching religious truth will be performing his third leading role when the Chowan Players present "Magic Supreme" during the Drama Festival March 31-April 2 at Chapel Hill.

## LEADERSHIP

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ed years of growth and development, both in quality and quantity, as a Christian college.

Growth, under Dr. Whitaker's leadership, has seen Chowan set records during one five-year period for having the largest percentage of increase in enrollment of any North Carolina college, public or private. When he became president, 235 students were enrolled. Now there are 1,200. Total assets have increased from less than \$1,000,000 to approximately \$5,000,000 and, when the new library-fine arts facility takes its place on the campus scene, it will be the tenth new and modern building to rise among Chowan's ancient pines and majestic, towering oaks since Dr. Whitaker became president.

Dedication and devotion to the task keeps Dr. Whitaker on the move. He averages 35,000 miles a year by car, traveling in the interest of Chowan, not counting many more miles of airplane travel to make long-distance contacts and attend professional

meetings and meetings of other organizations. He speaks frequently to civic organizations, professional groups and churches.

Dr. Whitaker believes his administrative responsibility involves indirect services, which he contributed as the first president of the Choanoke Area Development Association (serving a four-county area) and continues contributing as president of the North Carolina Conference for Social Service. Among multitudes of other services are those contributed as advisor for the North Carolina State Board of Higher Education and the State Commission on Higher Education Facilities. He was also a member of the committee which drew up plans for this commission and its work. He is now serving on the Board of Mental Health for the state of North Carolina.

Chowan's president holds frequent staff meetings and keeps information before an active Long-Range Planning Committee, which recommends projects for Chowan's future development. He maintains a voluminous correspondence, dictating more than

a hundred letters each week, and is constantly on the telephone, sending and receiving long-distance calls. More often than not, Dr. Whitaker is in his office through the late night hours and often into early morning, hard at work. The Virginia Electric and Power Company, in national advertising, calls what has happened at Chowan College under Dr. Whitaker's leadership the "Educational Renaissance in Northeastern North Carolina."

Claude F. Gaddy of Raleigh, a member of Chowan's newly-organized Board of Advisors, reports that Dr. Bernard W. Spilman once told the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina that "Chowan College has never had anyone give his life to it." His statement is now contradicted by the new life being pumped into Chowan's blood-

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**DRAMATIST READY** for another year with the Chowan Players is Sue Howard, sophomore dramatist whose years of experience as a talented performer started long before she began gracing Chowan's campus as a student.

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