Curtain Rises On Plans For New Theater

The curtain is going up on mo t of the leading museums ty offices.

One of the first drama groups in higher education in the United States, the Carolina Playmakers was founded in 1918 by the late Prof. Fredcrick H. Koch - father of American folk drama.

The late Mrs. William Meade Prince, wife of a Chapel Hill artist and author, left the University \$100,000 for construction of a new theatre. Her husband, author of the North Carolina best seller "The Southern Part of Heaven," once headed the UNC Art Dehis art works appeared in

the United States.

from the 1967 Legislature. A prime source of entertain-

Assembly for approval next er productions annually.

partment. During his lifetime, shops, costume and scene munity Drama and the anshops, classrooms and facul- nual State Dramatic Festivals **WELCOME FRESHMEN** CAROLINA BARBER SHOP

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> > 1918

plans to recostume the Caro- in this country and in Eng- University planners hope to lina Playmakers and the en- land, and he illustrated most locate the building in the Fine tire dramatic arts program in of the leading magazines in Arts area of the campus - in

the vicinity of the Ackland In addition to the Prince Art Center, Music Department gift, funds for expansion of and the Radio, TV and Modrama facilities will be sought tion Pictures Building.

Chancellor J. Carlyle Sitter- ment for students, townsfolk son has labeled a dramatic and campus visitors, the Cararts building one of the top olina Playmakers is a leadpriority proposals in the cap- ing cultural asset to the Reital improvements program to search Triangle area. Some be submitted to the General 20,000 people attend Playmak-

With adequate facilities, the The projected building will University plans to expand all include a main theatre with its dramatic activities, includ-500 to 600 seats and full stage ing the Institute for Outdoor facilities, plus teaching work- Drama, the Bureau of Comfor high school, college and community theatre groups.

In addition, the Playmakers hope to expand their long tradition of taking plays on tour to the people. A program of classical drama presentations for state high schools in an-

A major resource of drama teachers, writers and professional actors, the Playmakers boasts such early cast members as novelist Tom Wolfe, editor Jonathan Daniels, playwright Howard Richardson



BEST OF HALF A CENTURY. As the Carolina Playmakers launch their second fifty years of drama-theatre-playwriting, the top Playmakers of the past half century are saluted. The late Prof. Frederick H. Koch is

pictured in center. Going clockwise from top right: Thomas Wolfe, Paul Green, Andy Griffith, Jonathan Daniels, Sheppard Strudwick, Richard Adler, Betty Smith, Frances Gray

and news commentator lished the drama program at George Danny. Outdoor drama writers Paul Green and

or of "Pajama Game" and

"Damn Yankees." Richard

Tar Heel authors such as

Arnold Schulman, Betty

Smith, Frances Gray Patton

and Legette Blythe are on the

roster, as well as Wall Street

Journal editor Vermont Roy-

ster, New York Herald Tribune dance editor Walter Terry

and Boston Herald drama

critic Sam Hirsch.

the School for the Performing Arts, with Marion Fitz-Kermit Hunter were among Simmons and Gerd Young as earlier UNC dramatists. faculty members. Among UNC Aging playbills bear the alumni serving as drama dinames of such professionals rectors are Edgar Loessin at as band leader Kay Kyser, East Carolina College, Josestage and screen actors fina Niggli of Western Carolina, Arthur McDonald of St. George Grizzard, Sheppard Strudwick, Douglas Watson, Andrews and Dan Linney of Robert Armstrong and Andy Campbell. Griffith, along with the auth-

Recent establishment of a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in dramatic art and admittance of freshmen coeds in the program have led to a sharp rise in drama enrollment requests. This rise is expected to continue into the next decade, along with increasing demands for creation of programs leading to the Master of Fine Arts and

doctoral degrees. Enrollment requests from The majority of North Caro undergraduate non-majors are lina's high school and college mounting too. Additional drama teachers were once courses are being offered this Playmakers at UNC. William fall as the department pre-Trottman, for example, estab- pares to instruct over 1,000

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Kaufman.

present eight-member depart- cepted as majors.

campus in the 116-year-old Playmakers Theatre, two office buildings, the basement of a classroom building and in a temporary World War II cilities have forced a curtail- of the Playmakers."

students in drama during the ment in undergraduate enrollyear. Two new faculty mem- ment in drama courses and ber's are being added to the in the number of students ac-

"Future strengthening and At present, drama class- enlargement of dramatic rooms, offices and storage arts," says Drama Departareas are scattered over the ment chairman Harry Davis, "depends on establishment of modern facilities that will centralize in one area of the campus the academic aspects of the program and the closewooden barracks. Limited fa- ly related public performances

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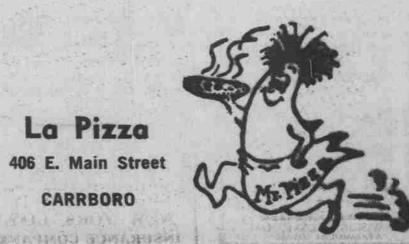
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