

CDA's Most Honored Award**Mr. Rawls Given Koch Award
At CDA Festival In Chapel Hill**

Mr. William Alec Rawls, drama instructor, Tank Theater Director, and close friend to many, received the honored Frederick H. Koch Award at the Carolina Dramatic Association's State Drama Festival, April 15, at Chapel Hill.

The Koch Award is the highest award presented by the Carolina Dramatics Association, and is given on the basis of outstanding service in the field of dramatics over a period of years. Such gamed dramatists Paul Green, and John W. Parker have been the recipients of the award in previous years.

The presentation took place at the awards ceremony at the Playmaker's Theater, at the conclusion of the 49th Annual Festival, held on the campus of the University of North Carolina.

Mr. Rawls began his theatrical training at the old Rocky Mount High School (now R.M. Wilson), as a promising high school actor, under the direction of Mr. E. M. Edson. After graduation in 1938, he was chosen to membership in the original Junior Playmaker's at UNC. He landed the starring role in the Playmaerk's permier production, Maurice Maeterlink's The Bluebirds in 1938. After a very successful college career, he received his B. A. in Drama from UNC in 1942. After 2 years of military service, Mr. Rawls began his study of art at Parson's School of Design in New York City, followed by 3 years of theatrical training at the Dramatic Workshop of the



MR. WILLIAM ALEC RAWLS

New School for Social Research in New York. Mr. Rawls then began 3 years of professional acting. After working professionally in New York, Mr. Rawls returned to Rocky Mount to enter the family business. In the following years, 1954, Mr. Rawls headed a group of citizens in founding The Rocky Mount Art Center. The Center was located on Grace Street near the Nash Street intersection, and included a film society, play production and Creative literature classes. As the Center's program expanded, it took up new residence in the Atlantic Coast Line water tank on Hammond Street, the Center's present location. Later, Mr. Rawls lectured and directed theatre at North Carolina

Wesleyan College. In 1968, he began teaching Dramatics at RMSH, and has cultured a highly successful program.

Asked what the highlight of his career would be, Rawls stated with satisfaction, "the highlight of teaching comes in the after-rewards when I see a student leave this school to reach a higher plateau of creativity. It is highly rewarding to know I have opened the door of theatre to one of my students."

It is with the highest respect and thanks that I, as well as a tremendous number of students congratulate Mr. Rawls on the Koch Award, and hope his influence will be felt for many years to come.

**Additional Course Coming
In Occupational Education**

By TIM CHAPMAN

According to the Acting Occupational Education Director, Mr. G. L. Watkins, the Occupational Education Department will offer three new courses for the upcoming year.

The courses are Health Occupation, Food Service, and Metals Industry.

Health Occupation involves nursing and related health fields such as dental assistance, and technical laboratory work. It is a one hour-one unit course. Students are encouraged to take this course as a sophomore or junior because, if there is enough interest in the course, the school will be able to offer a second year course in the future.

Food service will be a two hours-two units course. Its

"Chapel Hill here we come!" That's what several of the Drama students of RMSH were thinking on Friday, April 14. Along with Mr. Rawls, the director, many students were taking their two district winning plays to the competition festival at UNC. The plays were "No Snakes in This Grass" with Richard Newman, Keith Thompson and Gwen Sanders, and "Fables For Fun" with Connie Maxwell, Richard Newman, Pam Watson, Steve Parker, Sam Carrico, Amy Maxwell and Bill Searcy. The students that attended the festival were the actors themselves and the other drama pupils that helped with the costumes, makeup and props. Everyone arrived at about eight-thirty Friday on the UNC campus. There were three sessions of plays throughout the

festival, morning, afternoon and evening.

The Rocky Mount students presented "No Snakes in This Grass" in the morning session on Friday and "Fables For Fun" was presented that afternoon. Each session was judged by a different panel of judges in order to keep the ideas, views and comments as fresh as possible. In the complete festival, April 13-15 there were thirty-three plays to enter and colleges and high schools together to present them.

Saturday turned out to be a beautiful day and between sessions most of the students walked all over the Chapel Hill campus enjoying the warm weather. Then at ten o'clock that evening after the last session of plays, the awards were presented. There were awards presented to the plays alone, acting award and awards for theatre arts. For the plays the highest award given is the Distinguished Award and then the Excellent Award. There were only eight Distinguished awards out of the thirty-three plays. RMSH received one for their presentation of "Fables for Fun." Then to add to the excitement our school received an Excellent Award for "No Snakes in This Grass." Richard Newman got an acting award for his performance in this play. RMSH received one for their presentation of "Fables for Fun." Then to add to the excitement our school received an Excellent Award for "No Snakes in This Grass." Richard Newman got an acting award for his performance in this play. RMSH drama students also received the overall Theatre Arts Award for their exhibit of costumes and make-up. This award includes a twenty-five dollar check to go to the Drama Department of our school.

business experience at school, in addition to their classwork. Part of the two hours-two units course involves practical experience.

Essentially, RMSH has a strong and well equipped Occupational Education Department. Many opportunities and much equipment available here cannot be found at many other high schools.

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