

"W.C. Fields, 80 Proof" to Play

"W. C. FIELDS, 80 Proof," a one man show in the tradition of "Mark Twain Tonight" and "Will Rodgers' U.S.A." will be performed at Mars Hill College Thursday March 13. To be presented in the college's Moore Auditorium, the production will have an 8 PM curtain call and will be admission free.

Written by Field's grandson, Ronald Fields, the performance is authentic Fields drawn from his vaudeville acts, motion pictures, radio shows unpublished scripts, and personal notes and letters. The show includes much of the classic material that established Fields' international reputation including his gold and pool shooting routines, the "Temperance Lecture", and Fields' description of the time he actually drank a glass of water.

William Claude Fields (nee Dunkenfield) was born to poor parents in 1880, the first of five children. He left home at 11, following a serious falling out with his father. He supported himself with odd jobs, poolroom hustling and petty thefts. He never went past the third grade in school, but gave himself an excellent education through his extensive reading and travelling. Inspired by a circus act when he was 13, Fields worked to become a juggler and began working professionally as one in 1897. His new career led to stardom in vaudeville. He later circled the globe performing in the Palace Theatre in London and was personally invited by King Edward VII to entertain at Buckingham Palace with Sarah Bernhardt. During the same period, he

starred with Maurice Chevalier in the Follies-Bergere.

From 1915 to 1921, Fields starred in the Ziegfield Follies and then continued as a star comedian in the George White Scandals. In 1922, he opened in a Broadway play, "Poppy," which he later was to put on film. His first film "The Pool Sharks," was made when he was 35, and in the next 31 years he would make 33 feature films and several shorts. His roles ranged from standard classicals, in such as "David Cooperfield," to the movies which Fields principally wrote and which have become almost monologues for modern comedians. These included "Bank Dick," "My Little Chickadee," and "Never Giva a Sucker an Even Break."

Fields will be portrayed by Richard Paul, an actor whose career embraces a wide variety of classical and contemporary stage characters. In addition, Paul is a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology. His roles have included the voices of Father Roger and Normal Boynklin in Phil Austin's "Roller Maidens from Outer Space" and the two robots Manny Grossero and Short Stop in David Ossman's "How Time Flies," both produced on the Feresign Theatre. Currently his versatile voice will be heard as Bob Cratchet in the "Sammy David Christmas Special," as several characters in the Saturday morning cartoon show "Emergency Plus 4," and as Cowgirl in Ralph Bakshi's new feature length adult cartoon entitled "Coonskin."

On stage, Paul has appeared in diverse character roles including Arnolphe in



Versatile actor Richard Paul will star in new stage

presentation - W. C. Fields, 80 Proof!

"The Amorous Flea," Doolittle in "My Fair Lady," and Shakespearian roles including Falstaff, Toby Belch, Friar Lawrence and Bottom.

Making an entire week of Fieldsian celebration, the college has scheduled eight of the funny-

man's films. The films will all be shown in Belk Auditorium, adjacent to Wren College Union. They will be shown twice a day at 3 and 7 PM and are admission freed. Showing Monday, March 10, will be "Pool Sharks," "Golf Specialist,"

and "The Dentist." On Tuesday, March 11, "The Barbershop," "The Pharmacist," "The Fatal Glass of Beer," and "City Slicker" will be featured. "The Bank Dick" will be shown on Wednesday, March 12.

PraiSing Involves Choir

by Susan George

The Mars Hill College Touring Choir will embark on its Spring tour, Saturday March 8. This year the choir will attend PraiSing '75 in Nashville, Tennessee from March 9-12. PraiSing is a festival of Church Music sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board with special emphasis given to the Premiere of the new

Baptist Hymnal. Some 600 voices from college, university, and seminary choirs throughout the Southeast are expected to attend, as well as various nationally-known personalities including George Beverly Shea, Jeannie C. Riley, Jerry Clower, Myrtle Hall, and the Speer Family.

The choir will be participating in several interesting festival events during

their stay in Music City, U.S.A. Tuesday night, Mars Hill's choir members will combine with 600 other voices for the premiere performance of Cecil Effinger's oratorio This We Believe. This work, scored for massed chorus and orchestra, soprano and baritone soloists, and narrator, is based on Scr-

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