Champagne, Pancake Brunch "Tremendously Successful"

By Linda Florence Post Staff Writer

The champagne and pan-cake brunch sponsored by the Charlotte Little Theatre last Sunday was a "tremendous success," Willie Stratford Sr., Fund Raising Committee Chairman, said this week. "The celebrities and com-

munity and political leaders really turned out on Sunday," Stratford said. "It was truly a community affair with peop from all socio-economic and ethnic groups present," he

"Our aim is to make the Charlotte Little Theatre a community theatre and on Sunday, it really looked like we did," Stratford said proud-

Stratford said that more than 450 persons attended the church and said there were more than 100 new member-

Stratford credited most of the success of the brunch to a special committee, The Limelight Committee, headed by

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Paula Emerson.

Two other persons on the committee were Bettye Harris and Mary Hopper. The com-mittee was specifically for organizing and promoting that day which was the kick off of public participation in the campaign.

"I think that the success of the day was probably due to the tremendous coverage we received from the media. I was absolutely thrilled with it," Ms. Emerson said.

Ms. Emerson said that people attended

event who had never been to the theatre before. "I really think that people were impressed with the Litte Theatre," she said.

Ms. Emerson said that there were 114 new general memberships on that day and two patron memberships.

In addition to the all the politicians, community leaders, writers and radio and television personalities, Ms. Emerson named some of the musicians who rendered music for the occasion

She named the High Rise, a

local band, pianist, Ernest Jonnson and a guitarist from Lenoir, Pat Mendoza. "They were all absolutely fantastic, Ms. Emerson said.

"I was overjoyed with the whole thing," she said.

Though Ms. Emerson had not been actively involved with the theatre until she began working to promote the drive on Sunday, she said she's now encouraged to become more actively involved with the theatre.

"I don't act and don't plan to become an actress but I think I'll help out more in other

ways," she said. Stratford said that more than \$350 were raised in donations alone on Sunday.

"But we need community support and we want the theatre to be a true part of the community," he said.

Stratford said the 54 year

old theatre is an independent theatre that is self supported by its membership.

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