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FALL CHRONICLE

George Kokis
& Rodney
McCoubrey
with 5th
Session
Clay
Class



The summer of 1989 in North Carolina was enclosed in parentheses of weather: The end of spring brought tornados and the beginning of Fall brought *Hurricane Hugo* and in between we had the rainiest summer in recent years. Other than occasional fallen branches or exceptionally muddy paths, Penland was left unscathed by the force of nature, and students, instructors and staff all managed the rainy weather with exceedingly good grace. For those of us who live here, memories of recent droughts are so vivid that it becomes unseemly to complain about rain!

In July **Verne Stanford** was appointed as the managing director of the Maui Community Arts and Cultural Center in Hawaii and left to take up those responsibilities. **Joy** stayed behind to help with the Benefit Auction and to pack before joining Verne late in August. The new center, which will be built next year in Maui Central Park, is a \$22 million complex funded in approximately equal shares of state, county and private contributions. It will have two theatres, a gallery, offices and classrooms.

Hunter Kariher became Acting Director when Verne left and shortly after that he was named Director by the Penland Board which approved the recommendation of the Search Committee. The first item on the agenda for Hunter was really business as usual for the remainder of the summer sessions, with the Benefit Auction and the ACC Conference adding to the always busy daily routines when Penland is in session.

During the break between summer and fall sessions, however, all of the staff met for a retreat to consider how best to organize ourselves for the next year or so. There are no immediate plans to add a new Assistant Director to the staff which means in effect that responsibilities formerly carried by Hunter and by Joy in her position as School Coordinator need to be managed differently. The retreat actually spilled over into a second session while we all made lists of tasks and tried to come up with new organization charts. Gradually, Hunter will be realigning some administrative tasks and moving some people into different offices. There are no plans to add any staff before spring but we'll be looking for a data entry/clerical staff person along about March. Let us know if you are interested.

Penland has been getting good press including a 9-page spread on the *Iron Symposium* in *The Anvil's Ring*, a very nice article in the *Leader*, the magazine of the Research Triangle and good coverage of Hunter's appointment in the craft magazines.

We have some new neighbors to welcome. **Michel Tournadre** and **Sean Holden** have brought the Nyberg house. Both have already taken classes at Penland! **Skip** and **Bonnie Ledbetter**, their son **Simon** (a second grader at Deyton Elementary) and their three-year old daughter **Stacey** are renting **Nancy Baron's** house. That makes a trio of three-year olds since **Christopher** and **Alexander Ellenbogen** turned three last month.

We miss having **Kathryn Gremley** bop in every day to check for mail and chat, but we hear she is having a great time studying clothing design at the Fashion Design Institute of Boston.

In the last *Penland Line* we told you about our massive earthworks project. It is now completed and nature, with considerable help from the contractors, can get on with the work of restoring the meadow. We are still using paper plates while the system is being tested but it should not be too long until everything is back to normal on the on the drainage front.

Among the many visitors to Penland this fall we have welcomed classes from Bowman Middle School and Mitchell High. The Standby Program continues to attract residents of Yancey, Mitchell and Avery counties and we hope that local Penland Line readers will keep the program in mind.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Pearl Grindstaff** who injured her hip. She is able to work part-time and we are grateful for every minute she can spend in Penland's kitchen. Good luck to **Hazel Alvarez** on her new job at Big Lynn Lodge.

And finally, we're happy to report that **Cynthia Bringle** is out of her cast and into high-top shoes but she'll be in an ankle brace for another month. Cynthia broke an ankle bone mid-summer. The doctor advised her to avoid stony ground for awhile. Small chance of that!