

Neighborhood News

NEWS FROM THE RESIDENTS

DEBY GROOVER AND **SUZE LINDSAY** REPRESENTED PENLAND AT THE NCECA (CLAY EDUCATORS) CONFERENCE IN CALIFORNIA. THEY WERE SURPRISED BY HOW MANY PEOPLE HAD NEVER HEARD OF PENLAND AND DELIGHTED TO FIND THAT SO MANY OTHERS HOLD IT IN HIGH REGARD. ONE PANELIST TALKED ABOUT PENLAND AS AN EXCELLENT ALTERNATIVE TO A TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC EDUCATION IN CRAFTS.

DEBY WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE 29TH CERAMIC NATIONAL AT THE EVERSON MUSEUM IN MAY AND THE NAVY PIER SHOW AT CHICAGO NEW ART FORMS IN SEPTEMBER. SUZE WON "BEST OF SHOW" IN THE POTTERY NATIONAL IN LANCASTER, PA THIS MONTH. SINCE SHE BEGAN HER RESIDENCY IN DECEMBER, SHE HAS REVAMPED THE SALT KILN AT THE BARNS, WHICH HADN'T BEEN USED IN YEARS.

VAL & RICK BECK HAVE HAD AN EXTENSION OF THEIR RESIDENCY BUT ARE ALREADY LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FALL OF 1994. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN A HOUSE, STUDIO AND/OR LAND IN THE AREA. ANY SUGGESTIONS? IN ADDITION TO PREPARING FOR SOME UPCOMING SHOWS THIS SUMMER AND FALL, THEY HAVE SUPPLEMENTED THEIR INCOME BY DESIGNING AND BUILDING A NEW GLASS FURNACE FOR THE NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF GLASS, AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT FOR ANOTHER GLASS WORKER IN FLORIDA.



JULIE LEONARD AND **RICK SMITH** WERE TWO OF ONLY 100 ARTISTS NATIONWIDE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SMITHSONIAN CRAFT SHOW IN WASHINGTON LAST MONTH. **ANN HAWTHORN** WAS ABLE TO STOP BY AND TAKE A PHOTO FOR US. **ALICE CARROLL** AND **DOUG HARLING** WERE BOTH ACCEPTED INTO PIEDMONT CRAFTSMAN, INC.

DELAYS, DRIFTS AND DRAMA

The blizzard of '93 coincided with Penland's annual whirlwind of preparation for the opening day of spring classes. In a normal weather year, it is a busy time with preparations underway in studios, housing and the kitchen and a usual rush to finish winter repairs.

On Friday, March 12, when the snow started to fall, many of those coming from a long distance by car, bus or motorcycle were already on their way. At Penland, food had been delivered, and the studio and dorm cleanup was in progress. The first snowfall was beautiful and there was an excitement in the air since heavy snows have been a rarity in recent years. People stopped what they were doing to take walks.

But during the night, the winds howled and the snowfall turned into a blizzard, and by morning it was clear that this was no ordinary spring snowstorm. No one could get into Penland by road, and those who live there found it took an extraordinarily long time to walk from one place to another in the deep drifts. If you live in snow country a two-foot accumulation is no big deal. However, Mitchell County does not have many snowplows, and Penland has very few shovels. Everyone pitched in to try to clear paths and driveways, and **Mike Pierschalla** (from Massachusetts) turned out to be a shoveling machine, but it was slow, hard work.

The power was off from Saturday at supper time until Tuesday morning, but everyone managed to stay warm with fireplaces, wood stoves, gas heaters or lots of blankets. There are gas stoves in the kitchen, where meals were served by candlelight. Once the emergencies were taken care of, a couple of people made a toboggan in the wood shop and everybody made their way to the knoll in the meadow to take turns.

Meanwhile, from the four corners of the US, students and instructors were making their way to Penland. Very few were coming by air, which was just as well because airports were closed. **Finn Lynggaard** left Denmark Saturday morning, expecting, with the time changes, to be at Penland by Saturday evening. His trans-Atlantic flight was destined for Atlanta, but the flight was diverted to Orlando. "The whole world was diverted to Orlando," said Finn. He found a quiet corner, stretched out on the floor with a suitcase for a pillow and a newspaper for a cover, and spent the night. Each day, he got a little closer to Penland, spending time in Atlanta and eventually at a hotel in Charlotte. Finally on Tuesday, he was able to get on the first flight to Asheville after that airport reopened.



At midnight on Saturday, **Yoav Greenberg** made it as far as the Penland turnoff at the bottom of the hill, left his car and walked the 1.2 miles to campus. He'd been to Penland before and knew his way around, so he found a room with a bed made up and went to sleep. **Rich Arentzen** had driven from Vermont, and with his 4-wheel drive vehicle thought he'd have an easy time. After a very slow drive right into the teeth of the storm, he gave up somewhere in Virginia and spent the night in a gymnasium. He also made it as far as the turnoff before ditching his truck and climbing the final stretch. Rich said he felt like his trip to Penland was more of a pilgrimage.

Ed Van Dyk made his trip from San Antonio by motorcycle. He hit the first snow just past New Orleans, but had no idea how bad it was going to be. He and his bike went