

Neighborhood News

TRANSITIONS

PENLAND'S NEW GENERATION CONTINUES TO INCREASE. WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE BIRTHS OF FOUR BOYS. INSTEAD OF COMING IN LIKE A LION AND GOING OUT LIKE A LAMB, MARCH CAME AND WENT WITH LITTLETONS THIS YEAR. **SEJIRO SASHASEN KING LITTLETON** WAS BORN TO **BARBARA KING & TOM LITTLETON** ON MARCH 1. HE WAS FOLLOWED A MONTH LATER ON THE 31ST BY HIS COUSIN **JOHNPAUL CHRISTOPHER LITTLETON**, SON OF **KATE VOGEL & JOHN LITTLETON**. **DAVID & DONNA ROSS** WELCOMED **JOHN WILLIAM** FEBRUARY 7. **BRIDGET & RICK ECKERD** CELEBRATED THE BIRTH OF **PATRICK JAMES** ON MARCH 23.

JACK NEFF, WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF A PENLAND LINE PROFILE (PAGE 12), IS RECOVERING FROM CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENTS. HE IS GAINING STRENGTH AND LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING BACK HOME. HE'D LIKE TO THANK THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED FOR HIS TREATMENT. HE'S BEEN USING THE FUNDS FOR HIS MEDICAL EXPENSES.

IT IS WITH DEEPEST SORROW THAT WE NOTE THE RECENT PASSING OF OUR DEAR FRIEND **ROBERT C. MAY**. BOB WAS AN ACCOMPLISHED PHOTOGRAPHER AND A DEDICATED TEACHER AND, UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT, AN EXECUTIVE OF IBM CORPORATION IN LEXINGTON, KY. WHILE HE WAS AT IBM, HE SECURED MANY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM HIS COMPANY IN MATCHING FUNDS FOR HIS OWN GENEROUS SUPPORT TO THE PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM AT PENLAND.

WHEN BOB WAS TEACHING AT PENLAND OR WHEN HE WOULD COME TO VISIT, HE COULD ALWAYS BE FOUND, EVEN IN THE WEE SMALL HOURS OF THE MORNING, SURROUNDED BY A GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO MIGHT NEED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR MIGHT SIMPLY WANT TO HEAR BOB'S PHOTOGRAPHIC TALES. HE WAS A SOUTHERN RACONTEUR OF THE FIRST ORDER. BOB WAS A GENTLE MAN IN A SIX-FOOT-SEVEN-INCH FRAME, AND ALTHOUGH WE WILL MISS HIM VERY MUCH, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PART OF HIM HERE ON THIS MOUNTAIN. SOME OF THAT PRESENCE IS IN THE EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES THAT HIS GENEROUS DONATIONS MADE POSSIBLE, BUT THE LARGEST PART OF THAT PRESENCE IS WHAT WILL BE KEPT IN OUR HEARTS AND OUR VERY FOND MEMORIES.

— EVON STREETMAN

SAFETY FIRST

Penland has its own volunteer safety coordinator in the person of Board member **Dick Blomberg**, a retired DuPont engineer. As Chair of the Facilities and Grounds Committee, Dick has brought his passion for crafts, his background in engineering and his penchant for research to bear on safety issues in the crafts and at Penland.

He has a willing partner in staff studio technician **Larry Cate**, who keeps a weather eye out for possible hazards as he works his way through his list of needed studio repairs and routine maintenance. "When you are working in an institution as old as Penland, you have to stay on top of all the information coming out so that older installations can be changed to reflect new approaches," said Larry. "That's where Dick comes in; he's brought us lots of useful information, plus simple ideas for solving problems."

The safety problems which Penland needs to be aware of in our studios are the same ones each craftsperson faces. There's a lot to take into consideration when setting up a studio, so we thought we'd share information about the Center for Safety in the Arts which publishes a newsletter five times a year. The most recent issue covers the hazards in ceramics and wood studios and offers remedies. Dick has listed those which affect our studios, and he and Larry are taking the necessary precautions.

A particular concern for a school located in an isolated area is hazardous waste disposal. The metals, glass, printmaking and photography studios all generate toxic waste. But the good news is that there are simple in-house solutions. For several years we have been collecting the photo fixer by carrying it out of the building and dumping it in barrels. Beginning this year we plan to run this waste through a metal recovery canister, supplied by DuPont for \$125. After the fixer is run through the canister it is safe

to put in a drain. The canister is returned to DuPont and Penland is paid for any silver which is recovered. Dick has devised a new system, to be installed before classes start this spring, which will make this combination recycling/hazardous waste treatment process easier. He has also developed plans for neutralizing acids and precipitating copper from etching solutions.

This winter, Larry's list of studio maintenance included the installation of ventilation fans in the fibers studios and the improvement of electrical installations by such things as adding lightning resistors, switches, thermostats, outlets, and upgrading existing outlets. Some new breaker boxes have been installed and others have been changed from 100 amp to 200 amp wire. Many of the repairs on his list were not specifically related to safety issues. However, Larry says he always tries to make sure everything he does reduces hazards.

Jane Lefevre and **Judson Guerard**, studio coordinators for ceramics and glass, have joined with Larry in the off-season maintenance and repair. Safety awareness is a top priority for everyone. Penland's mission is to nurture and educate those with an abiding interest in crafts and certainly learning the tricks of the trade for dealing with the hazards of the trade is part of that process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested in the **Arts Hazards News** or information which might help you in your studio, write to the Center for Safety in the Arts, 5 Beekman Street, Suite 1030, New York, NY 10038. The newsletter is \$21.00 a year and covers such topics as hazards, precautions, government regulations, lawsuits, events and other related topics. Their telephone number is 212-227-6220.

SAVE THE DATE

August 13 and 14 are the dates for the 1993 Penland Auction. Friday the 13th will no doubt prove lucky for Patrons who arrive in time to preview works donated by craft artists the world over.

The Benefit Auction weekend begins with a preview party for Auction Donors and Patrons on Friday, August 13 and continues with an Open House at the Penland Gallery on Saturday morning before culminating in the much-anticipated buffet luncheon under the tent and, of course, the live auction. Fred Kessler will lend his rich baritone for the eighth year as he calls out to start the bidding for works in glass, clay, fiber and a variety of other media.

Penland's Benefit Auction draws eager collectors and craft enthusiasts from all over the country to the mountain and never fails to fill the seats under the big top early. Invitations will be in the mail by July 1, so let us know if you'd like your name added to a growing list. Call Rebecca Caldwell or Emily Crain at 704-765-2359 for information.