

Outreach Update

Penland continues to expand, in small ways, the range of uses for the facility, as a grant-funded outreach program works in a number of directions to increase access to the school's resources.

Program coordinator **Holly Walker** is working with colleges who will join Penland in a special scholarship program. These full scholarships (with no work requirement) will go to committed students who would not otherwise be able to attend Penland. They will be selected by their college, which will also provide half of their scholarship. If enough schools participate, there could be as many as twenty-four scholarships awarded next summer. (If you are associated with a college that might be interested in this program, please call Holly at 704-765-8060.)

For many years **Bill Ford** has been our only docent. Holly is now working to expand the docent program. Docents are trained volunteers who will conduct informative tours of the school, assist with special events, and may also be asked to help with research and archival work.

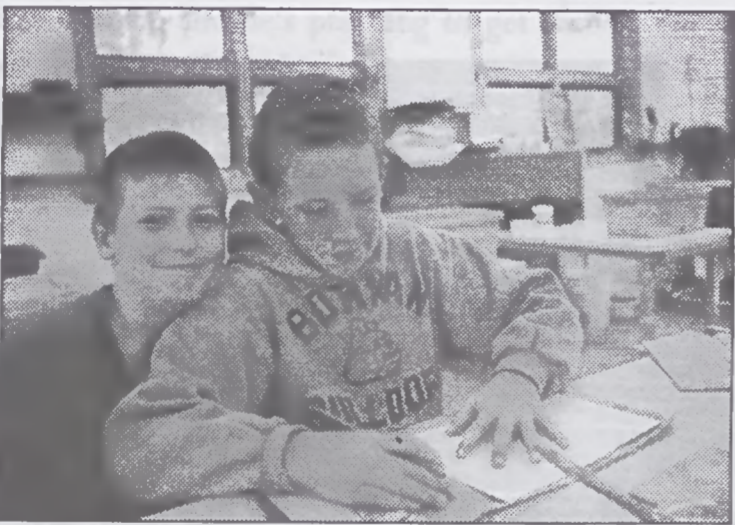
A second residency by students and instructors from Pittsburgh's Manchester Craftsmen's Guild is planned for spring of 1998 (they were here for a very successful week in March of this year). In October there will be a residency by students from the Northwest School of the Arts, which is part of the Charlotte-Mecklenberg school system.

There are five students in fall classes who are participating in the Mayland/Penland Program. All have completed the entrepreneurship curriculum at nearby Mayland Community College and are now attending a Penland Concentration with an eye toward combining business and craft skills. The program is funded by a Community Development Block Grant.

Penland Resident **Meg Peterson** has been busy since the local schools opened in August. Each of the ten classes at Bowman Middle School have made four visits to Penland, a Mitchell High School art class had eight sessions, and Meg is currently working with groups from the Bee Log school in Yancey County. Meg's projects are all focusing on papermaking and book-binding. She's found the kids very enthusiastic about making their own books, and there has been excellent feedback from parents.

Science students from Mitchell High were treated to a lecture on the chemistry and physics of glass by instructor **Sally Prash** who then supervised them in a morning of experimentation in the lampworking studio. This group will be back a number of times as part of the Science in the Studios program.

Mitchell's art teacher, **Marissa Westall** got help from Penland Residents, studio coordinators, staff, instructors, and board members with an art career day to expose students to a range of



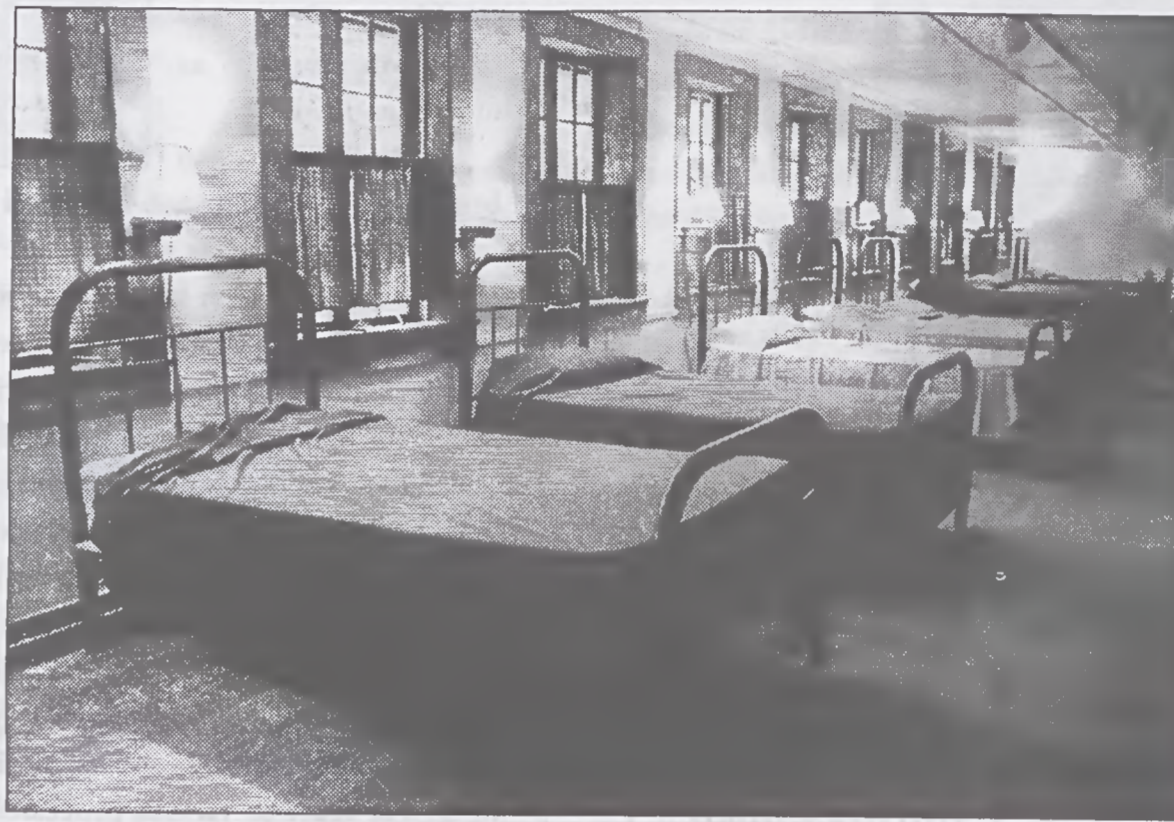
Robin Dreyer

art-related careers. Fourteen Penland folks joined a number of other local artists, writers and musicians and took over the whole school. **Gary Beecham**, **Kenny Pieper**, and **Richard Ritter** even managed to put on a hot glass demonstration.

The long-range plan for the outreach program calls for many of these activities to take place in Ridgeway, one of Penland's oldest structures. Unfortunately, the condition of the building makes it unsuitable at the moment. We are pleased to announce, however, that Penland has just received a \$15,000 grant from the John Wesley and Anna Hodgin Hanes Foundation in support of the stabilization of Ridgeway. This \$22,000 project will prevent further deterioration of the building and will include enough renovation to make it useful for the school programs. *

No Condos on Penland Mountain

"You could write a great short story about every one of those buildings."—Kat Conley



Robin Dreyer

This Craft House dormitory, 1947-1997. (This photo did not come from the archives.)



Allegedly the largest log structure in North Carolina, the Craft House was named for Edward F. Worst, who was one of the country's leading experts on hand weaving. His weaving "institutes" attracted the first craft students to the mountain. Today the building accommodates the coffee house, the school store, the library, and two floors of student housing.