The Pine Mountain School stresses stewardship of land to visitors

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all do that, but they can have good

and evil laid before them and they
can choose what they will!" Crechow
wrote two years later.

"I have tried to bring to the

Pine Mountain Settlement School

to be used for school purposes as

long as the Constitution of the

United States stands. I hope it

may make a bright and intelligent

people after I'm dead and gone."

Ever since, those words have

guided the school like a beacon

piercing the blackness.

In the earliest days, Pine

Mountain was a boarding school,

partly because of the area's lack of

roads and partly because the school

wanted to educate its students in

such non-book-related pursuits as

farming.

But in addition to teaching chil-
dren, the school also provided the

area's only school system and

visited other schools through a cir-

culating-staff member on horse-

back, and served as a community

center for a variety of activities.

In 1948, Pine Mountain became

part of the Kentucky school sys-

tem as a consolidated public

school, which it remained until

1972 when it was supplanted by a

new elementary school at nearby

Bledsoe.

For the last 13 years, the settle-

ment school has had a pro-

ounced focus on environmental

education, and community programs

and leave such areas as

training for mothers and preschool

children, cooking, automotive repair;

GED and literacy; and music and dance.

Twelve months later, Carol Urquhart,

who oversees the community pro-

grams, and another staff member

visit area schools to teach art and
dance. And this summer, Mrs. Ur-

quhart will go to Denmark with a

community dance group.

The Pine Mountain Settlement

School, like so many other school

systems in the state, is facing a

challenge — and a change —

in the way it teaches its students.

The new focus on environmental

education is part of a nationwide

trend, and one that is being

embraced by many schools across

the country.

"It is important for students

to understand the role they play in

the environment and how their

collections can impact it," said

Teresa Smith, the school's

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