



## VOL. C 1998

Supplement to THE WHITE BIRCH  
Published by and for the members  
Of Camp Pasquaney, Bristol, N.H.

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### ANNUAL EDITORIAL – 1998

The key to a good “railroad” cheer is to start very slowly and gradually build volume and momentum, mimicking a steam locomotive. The 104th season at camp was characterized by this same feeling of escalation, as the spirit and enthusiasm within the community became stronger with each passing week. The hard work of expeditions forged bonds of friendship and gave us all great stories to tell in Mem Hall.

Through the middle weeks of camp, the boiler started to heat up as the older boys grew continually more comfortable with their position as leaders, and the younger boys learned what it means to be a member of the Pasquaney community. The departure of the Long and Short Walks gave the stay-at-homes a chance to step up into leadership roles and to take advantage of vacated camp activities. Skills and honor were pursued in many areas during this week, and nary a day went by without the announcement of a new “Naturalist” or ‘Basic Canoeist.” When our hiking warriors returned victorious to the hillside they were met with “the warmest long walk welcome in memory.”

With our community reunited, the locomotive gained still more momentum. Through these final weeks we began to reap the benefits, both tangible and intangible, of all of our hard work. The sailors of the PYC challenged each other in the best regatta in recent memory. The crews finished their rowing season with a competitive and exciting regatta on Trustees weekend. Baseball, Tennis, and Watersports finals took place, and the club contest heated up with the Hawks and the Beavers competing neck and neck for first place. All three of the plays provided wonderful entertainment and the success of these productions energized camp still further. More importantly, we saw the values we had heard about in Tree Talks and sermons played out more and more clearly in everyday camp life. The steam engine reached full speed as we entered the final weekend of the summer, Watersports. The event was a rousing success and served as a fitting end to another strong Pasquaney season.

O.T.F.Dwight Keysor on Gratitude: Gratitude is learning to appreciate the little things. I realize that cold showers aren’t the most enjoyable thing to wake up to, but they are representative of the simple life, being outside in nature, and they certainly do wake us up. Duties aren’t always our first priority when we want to get down to the ball field or waterfront, but they teach us responsibility and discipline. There are lots of things that we probably don’t think about but that we should be grateful for, such as living in a free

country, having a family, immediate or extended, that loves us and wants everything for us, and having the opportunity to spend the summer at a place like Pasquaney. The more we learn to appreciate these things, the happier we will be.

**Bobby Blue on Being Extraordinary:** The first key to being extraordinary is to forget the critics and naysayers (the worst of whom may well be yourself) and take risks. Do the thing that you always wanted to do but were afraid of failing in. Pasquaney is the perfect laboratory for experiment with risk-taking and failure. There certainly is no shortage of challenges here. It is tough to swim your half-mile. It is difficult to get your basic sailor, let alone your junior sailor. It is difficult to hit topspin backhand in tennis. It is difficult to build a beautiful piece of furniture in the shop. And it's difficult in rowing to master the rhythm in and mechanics of the stroke of the oar. But if you do fail or struggle in learning these challenging skills, there is a great group of people backing you up and giving you support. So if you have avoided risks up to this point in your life, this summer is a great opportunity for you to aspire to greater heights... The second key to being extraordinary is dealing with failure. After taking that initial risk and failing, you have to have the strength and perseverance to try and try again... It is great if having natural talent in baseball you hit a home run on Hobbs Field in a competitive game, but to master the stroke of an oar after struggling, all summer is truly inspiring and, well, extraordinary.

**Phil Gerity on Enjoying the Process:** Here at camp we need to remember the lesson from Drake's prayer with all of our goals. Oftentimes, we will get preoccupied with the completion of the project and forget about the intermediate steps and joy that comes from the moment. We may want to get to the top of the mountain so badly to rest and enjoy our scrumptious lunches that we don't notice the mountain as we go up. Next time you go on a hike you should take time to watch the vegetation change, you might be surprised at what you learn - Townley spoke of the same thing last week in his sermon, mentioning that when he was a boy he believed that when he got in high school everything would magically be better and the world would make sense. In this instance he was being used by his goals. He expected that once his goal was fulfilled everything would change. He had not addressed the intermediate steps or thought about enjoying the whole process. The same is true here at camp. You might think that the first two years of camp are tough and that you just have to get through them because the third year is the bee's knees, or maybe you think that once you are in Dana everything is easy street. As Drake's prayer states, it is "...the continuing of the same that yieldeth the true glory." Once we learn to concentrate on little things and enjoy the process of achieving our goal, we will become more effective and, hopefully, generally happier people.

**Phil Gerity on Learning From the Things that Don't Go Right:** The nice thing about this topic is that every one of us can relate to it because we all make mistakes and we have all had many difficult situations with which to deal. There are four key things to remember when faced with a tough situation: 1. You have to be willing to try and fail. 2. You have to be willing to learn from your mistakes. 3. You must keep an objective perception of what is going on. 4. Finally, your expectations will destroy you. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't expect a lot out of yourself - everyone here should. The problem emerges when you will not accept anything less than the best. Our lofty expectations often exceed our abilities and can cause a drop off in confidence when they aren't met. Don't blame yourself for making mistakes because they are often a blessing in disguise. You learn ten times more from making a mistake than from doing something just well enough to get by. The hardest thing to do after you have made a mistake is to step back and analyze it. We must constantly work from feedback we get from mistakes in order to grow.

**Mark Cattrell on Commitment:** I saw a great poster in a store called "Successories" that read: "Commitment: to be a

winner, all that you have to give is everything you have.” As the quote says, you must be willing to sacrifice, to risk everything you have to come out at the end with the greatest possible reward. A willingness to put everything on the line is proof that your belief, purpose, or goal is truly worth the fight that you are going to undertake. Sacrifice is a whole Tree Talk in and of itself, but the point that I hope you come away with is that you may have to give in order to reap the benefits of your commitment.

Owen Fink on Questioning: The most important person you must question is yourself. You must hold yourself accountable for your own actions. Take a second right now to think back on the summer and ask yourself, did I do everything I could to be the best person I can be? Was there a moment when I could have done better? Did I walk by a piece of trash on the ground without picking it up? Did I hang out or play wall ball while I knew that I should have been setting up chairs for singing? Did I keep my hand down while other people volunteered for Table Duty? If you thought of a mistake you’ve made, then great. I certainly thought of ones that I’ve made. It’s nothing to be ashamed of. By questioning yourself you’ve found something that you can improve on. I challenge you now to put forth the effort to make that improvement. It’s through these little changes that you will be able to reach your full potential.

Peyton Williams on Self-Confidence and Finding Inner Peace: The Bible says, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” It is impossible to commit ourselves to the service of others if we do not first love and have faith in ourselves. We must strive to find our unique strengths and share them with others. In addition we must perfect the weaknesses that we have control over and accept the ones over which we have no control. Also, we should try to maintain a healthy discipline which challenges us enough to give satisfaction but, at the same time, does not destroy our joy of living. Until we learn to be good to ourselves we will have constant inner struggles and struggles in our relationships with others.

Matt Gunther on Community and the Individual – Being Your Best: In two days, each of you boys will go home to a new community. New? This statement may seem odd because you are all going to rejoin the families that you have lived with for your entire lives. The change that will turn your old houses into a new environment is you. Each one of you have grown, developed and been transformed in various ways over the course of the summer. Many are physically stronger and larger, but, more importantly, your habits and treatment of other people have changed over the past seven weeks. You will carry Pasquaney forever. “Stop and Think.” “To have a friend be one.” “Sow and act, reap a habit.” “If the details are right the performance will work.” These lessons that you have learned on this hillside can grow within each of you throughout the coming years. Take a few moments to enjoy the placid quietude of this view. Imagine that it is your last and entrench yourself in love for Pasquaney and for each other. We will all miss camp over the next days, weeks and months, so I urge you deeply to consider what it is that you miss most about this place and recreate it in your new homes.