What does Pasquaney mean to you? What does it stand for?

Now the answer to this question is much deeper than many think. Some say it is a camp where parents can send their children for the summer, so they can get away from the city and get a vacation in the open air. Well, physically speaking, this is correct. But that should not be the sole reason for sending a boy to Pasquaney.

Perhaps some of you boys have noticed that in Baird Hall there is hanging a plaque with the name of Pasquaney spelled out vertically, and also that after each letter is a word. Each of these words stands for one of the many ideals of this camp; ideals that are very high indeed and that are very important to making you boys worthy of the job that you have in this world when you grow up. The nine words in their correct order are: Purpose, Ability, Service, Quality, Attainment, Unity, Nobility, Energy, and Youthfulness. I would like to spend a short time on each of these virtues and see if I can make the meaning of each a little clearer in your minds.

As I said, the first letter in Pasquaney stands for Purpose. The one goal of most people here at camp is to have a good time. And why not? You all deserve a good time, because you have earned it. But to have a good time should not be your only purpose here this summer. To you have been made visible, during your stay here, the ideals of a true Christian and a true American. You have been shown the right road that you should take. Your job here, as well as away from camp, is to grapple with all opposition that might confront you at the crossroads, and to overcome it, so that you might have an open and clear road to travel down. That is your Purpose.

The next word in the list of high ideals set forth by Pasquaney is Ability. Now all during the summer boys are shown how to do different things, such as learning to swim, to row, to play tennis, to act, to sing, to make things, and countless other things. We certainly do want you to learn to become able in such activities; however, don’t specialize too much in any one thing—you don’t want to develop a single-track mind. It’s perfectly all right to have one favorite activity, but don’t let it take the place of everything else. Other than developing physical abilities this summer, we very much desire that you develop some mental
abilities as well. By mental abilities, I mean such things as generosity, unprejudice, faith, trustworthiness, and the like. These all are some of the truths that have to be faced objectively before you come to the crossroads—and you may come to them much sooner than you now think.

The next word we meet is Service. Of course, you all have heard of service to God and to Country. Service to Camp Pasquaney is very much the same thing. Briefly, if you boys are loyal to, or, in other words, if you serve Pasquaney, you also serve your God and your Country. You see, the ideals of this camp are very high, as I said before. They are so high, that if you live up to them, you are also living up to the ideals and constitution of a true and worthy American, as well as living up to the faith of a Christian; that is, a Christian as defined by the great disciples of Jesus Christ. To live up to such standards is indeed a difficult task, but it is a task that must be performed if civilization is to continue in this world of ours.

After Service comes Q for Quality. This deals mostly with your character quality. I would like very much that, when you boys go home, you show to your parents and those around you, to what height you have improved your own quality this season. I don’t mean that you do this boastfully, but that, by your own good example you show to others what can and should be done. If you become a good citizen, you will influence those around you and with your quality will impress them with the standards of living that you have learned at Pasquaney.

You have heard quite a good deal on the subject of Unity lately. “Pop” spoke of it very aptly when he used it in connection with his description of the poster of the Marines on Iwo Jima—“Now: All Together.” Unity is an essential trait of civilization today. We all must help in every man’s common burdens. If we all insist on being individualistic, then none of the jobs which we now and will have to face, will get done. We have to help one another, or in other words, be unselfish. You all know the verse in the Bible—“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

The second A in Pasquaney stands for Attainment. This word has a very close connection with the first word—Purpose. As I said, you have to find your purpose, your goal. That is only half of it, though. Once you have found your goal, which has to be an honorable one, you have to reach it. A football player knows where the opponent’s goal line is, but he has to get there. As Mr. Nordstrom said in his Tree Talk two weeks ago, you must “Follow Through.” This refers to everything you do here at camp as well as everywhere else; on your hikes, in your duties, in all forms of sport, in studies, and many other functions you have to perform. You must go all the way; don’t be a quitter—attain your goal.

Next we come to Nobility. In the old days there were Nobles. These men were just what the name signifies. They were noble; meaning they were just, upright, courteous, and honest. When we speak of being noble today, we mean very much the same thing. You boys can become noble, too, if you try. You must remember that all these things are up to you. I can very easily help you by showing you which way you should go when you get to the crossroads, but it is entirely up to you to go there; I can take you no further.

After Nobility we come to Energy. This may seem a little misused in dealing with virtues. However, if you give the word a little thought, you can easily see how it can be applied. Take, for instance, your life here at camp. You have, during the course of the summer, a lot of activities in which you compete. You also do such things as hiking. Now that is where energy comes into use. When you play a game, try your very hardest to the very end. That is, use your energy where it is needed; never waste it. You have all read the Ten Commandments of Sport, which are posted in Memorial Hall. One of them is—“He who plays straight and hard up to the end is a winner when he loses.” In short, learn when to be energetic. Maturity is shown
in a boy when he can stop being silly and playful at any time and be serious and energetic at the right time.

The last letter in Pasquaney stands for Youthfulness. Some of you boys here may think that you’re getting pretty old. But even up to some of the senior counsellors, you’re all still children—youths. Now when you are young it is the time to learn. You’ll find that when you get to be a young man, say past twenty-five, you’ll find that it won’t be as easy for you to acquire knowledge. You must learn all you can while you have the chance and the ability. Here at camp you are given opportunity to learn—I don’t mean learning in connection with studies—but matters dealing with the ways and methods of correct and upright living. Get all of this valuable learning while you are young and later you will cherish your youth as the best days of your life.

Well, I now have given you a short resume of the idealistic meaning of Pasquaney. I do earnestly hope that you will remember what I have said, because, I can promise you that if you do, you will shape into the kind of person that the world is so drastically in need of. The ideals of Pasquaney stand for a servant of a peace-loving, law-abiding America. I would like to remind you, in closing, that each and every one of you has sworn in the presence of God, while reading the Pasquaney Creed in Chapel each Sunday that— “With God’s help, you will do your best to make the ideals of Pasquaney prevail for the good of your country and your fellow man.”

UNCLES OR FATHERS OF
1945 PASQUANEY CAMPERS

William C. Armstrong 1896-99, John Blessing, II, 1943-45,
John G. Bolton 1912-16, James A. Bovaird, Jr., 1917-22,