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ANNUAL EDITORIAL

(The Editorial is written by Marshall Bartholomew, Pasquaney 1906, ‘07, ‘08, ‘09 and ever since. Mr. Barty is presently Chairman of the Pasquaney Trust.)

Pasquaney is indeed the continuing embodiment of an ideal. Mr. Ned, with the eye of a prophet, recognized even back in the 1890’s the nationwide trend to mechanized living in our American cities and towns, and he was determined to dedicate his entire career to the establishment and development of a summer camp for boys, restricted in numbers and devoted to character-building, to learning to use one’s hands in the day-by-day work of living and how to he a helpful friend when the going is rough – in other words to make creative use of leisure time. It has been by the faithful and persevering development of these principles that Pasquaney has prospered throughout more than seven decades and survived two devastating world wars, a decade of nationwide financial depression and the 1938 hurricane which destroyed some of our buildings and thousands of our finest trees. There were no paved roads to Newfound Lake in the early days and no automobiles. We arrived at Bristol by train, then drove over dirt roads in horse drawn vehicles to reach Camp where we became acquainted with nature by living in the woods, by learning to walk and climb, to swim, canoe and go camping—how to make creative use of vacation time.

This simple way of life, so firmly established by Pasquaney’s founder, is much more needed today than it was seventy-three years ago. Self-reliance and personal integrity are more important than ever to prepare us to successfully cope with the predominantly urban, materially-oriented society in which we must live amid a complication of automobile, concrete roads, aeroplanes, movies and television. For eight weeks “Mid the mountains of rugged New Hampshire” we learn to participate in such a way that generation after generation of Pasquaney campers have taken home with them an educational experience in the best sense of the word. It is possible, even during vacation time, to build character and actually have fun while doing it, to be one’s best self and at the same time become sensitive to the rights of others, to experience the wholesome satisfaction of cooperative living while at the same time developing initiative and imagination with which to create rather than to imitate.

For most of the year in our American cities and towns one no longer takes a walk if he can possibly avoid doing so; and when we summon sufficient courage to venture forth, it must be on concrete pavements or along highways where we are so busy dodging cars and trucks that there remains small opportunity for reflection. There are other dividends that our summers at Pasquaney leave with us—less tangible but equally enduring: the beauty of a midsummer sunset, the view from a mountaintop, the inspiration of a
Sunday service in the Pine Woods. These intangibles make our summers an inspirational experience and give us sunny opportunities to visualize an element which stands above and beyond the confusion of our modern world and brings us into personal touch with something real and abiding, something that provides deeper understanding of those qualities which otherwise may remain undiscovered and unawakened. Here in the woods we receive the inspiration which helps us to make important decisions regarding our lifework, a deeper understanding and a sense of good fellowship. The results may escape detection to the casual observer, but many of us realize as life goes on that our camping experience awakened an abiding sense of direction and purpose. That is why Pasquaney has flourished unto the second and third generations with a fourth soon to appear ‘round-the-bend.