EDITORIAL

(The Editorial is written by Dr. John Spaeth, a former Pasquaney counsellor and presently an active Trustee of the Pasquaney Trust.)

There is an old French saying that declares, in effect, that the more things change, the more they remain the same. So it may be said of Pasquaney: though in many outward respects our Camp has changed through the years as the result of developments in the world at large and of improvements in its own fortunes, yet essentially and recognizably it is very much the Pasquaney of seventy-five seasons ago.

Certainly there have been many visible changes at Pasquaney since 1895 and, indeed, since 1945. The oldest alumni can see in Memorial Hall, the enlarged theater, the relocated Chapel-in-the-pines, and the craft shops things new to him, to say nothing of such more recent structures as the new dormitories, the museum, the boathouse, the infirmary, the handsome new library, and the artesian well. They will observe, too, that there have been numerous changes in detail in the daily routine. At the same time there are many Pasquaney landmarks and institutions that will be quite familiar to the old alumnus: the same sunny hillside, the waterfront, Jacob’s ladder, old Dana and Birch and Headquarters, early morning showers, morning and evening prayers, announcements, duties, soaks, Long Walks, - to mention only a few of many. As is true of organizations as well as individuals, Pasquaney has grown older with the passing of the years, and its growth and development have been quite naturally a combination of stability and change.

So far we have been thinking of visible aspects of Pasquaney, its tangible variables and constants. More important for the record, however, are the intangibles, those invisible qualities of heart and mind that reveal themselves only in our actions, our characters, and our lives. These are the eternal verities, the true and abiding Pasquaney constants, the essence of the real Pasquaney.

To all Pasquaney campers through the years these unchanging qualities and ideals are quite familiar, both from Chapel and Tree Talks and from daily insistence and daily practice: honesty and integrity, moral courage, self-discipline, unselfishness, tolerance, friendliness, thoughtfulness and consideration of others, a generosity of spirit, all pretty much comprehended in the Christian virtue of manly love, or, as someone has expressed it, an ability to be tough with oneself and tender with others. These qualities of true manliness are not unique possessions of Pasquaney: they were not invented by Pasquaney, nor has Pasquaney any monopoly of them. They are as old as the hills. But through the years Pasquaney has put its stamp upon them by insisting everlastingly that they be put into practice, by
endeavoring to show how this can be done, and by providing year after year the fruitful opportunity for
this intelligent and happier way of life. Pasquaney means to practice what it preaches: it intends that we
should show our true selves “not only with our lips but in our lives.”

This spirit of practical idealism, this principle of doing the right thing as well as praising or preaching it, is
the continuing essence of Pasquaney. This principle of active, intelligent, and decent living has been basic
at Pasquaney ever since 1895, when it was first implanted so emphatically by Mr. Ned, and it has been
fervently taught and practiced under him and his successors ever since. This constitutes Pasquaney’s true
stability. This is Pasquaney’s lodestar, its enduring constant, and, God willing, it will continue so as
Pasquaney continues to develop, changing yet ever the same, in the future.