



## VOL. XLXIV 1952

Supplement to THE WHITE BIRCH

Published by and for the members Of Camp Pasquaney

THE ANNUAL BOARD

Chairman W.H.C. St. John

Business Manager K. Van Riper

Assistant Business Managers W. Daggett, J. Spaeth

### ANNUAL EDITORIAL

This year, in place of the usual editorial, we are printing Dr. Harold Anderson's Tree Talk, given on July 27th. It is fitting that the 1952 Annual should contain this beautiful tribute to the "Most Faithful Boy" of 1902. It is important that we who are now carrying on Pasquaney should be thus reminded that we are not isolated in time, that the place we love is the product of the devotion of many men who have preceded us, and that we are challenged to match their loyalty and devotion to all that is finest in the Pasquaney Tradition. "Bant" Blake's life of service to his fellow men can point a way for us.

"In 1902 a thin, quiet, unobtrusive youngster was elected "Most Faithful Boy" of Pasquaney. Exactly 50 years later we are gathered on a quiet hillside of that same camp to pay tribute to his memory.

Francis Gilman Blake was born in Mansfield Valley, Pennsylvania, in 1887. He first came to Pasquaney in 1901 as a boy of 14. The very next year he achieved the highest honor Pasquaney can bestow. For three more years he came to Pasquaney as a camper, and then for five out of the next seven years he served as a counselor. Ten summers in all, then, he spent at Pasquaney.

During these years he finished his preparatory schooling, graduated from Dartmouth College, and entered Harvard Medical School from which he graduated in 1913.

After further graduate training he served as an officer in the Medical Corps during the First World War. After the war he returned to medical research. His fame as an investigator and as a physician quickly spread, and in 1922 he was called to Yale University to become Professor of Medicine – one of the youngest professors Yale has ever appointed. Here he remained for thirty years, during seven of which he also served as Dean of the Medical School.

These latter years which included those of the Second World War were busy ones for Dr. Blake, for, in addition to being Professor and Dean, he was one of the most important medical advisors to the President of the United States. He also took a hazardous trip to the wilds of New Guinea to investigate personally a disease called scrub typhus. As a result of these activities on behalf of his country he was twice decorated; one of these decorations was the much-coveted Medal of Merit.

Dr Blake was one of the pioneers in this country in the use of sulfa drugs and penicillin, and in the application of these to infectious diseases he became of the world's great authorities. He was a member of

a great number of medical societies, and an officer of many. During his lifetime he received most of the honors it is possible for an American physician to receive. His Alma Mater – Dartmouth – conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. The Australian Government invited him to come to that country to give a series of lectures.

In spite of these honors he remained a modest, retiring, quiet man. In everything he did he was thorough. He shouldered tremendous responsibilities without losing his consideration and thoughtfulness for the cares of others. When he had nothing to say, he remained quiet; when he had something to contribute, he did so quietly, briefly, and to the point. His counsel was much sought, and his opinions highly valued.

As a result of his years at Pasquaney he grew to love this countryside, and many years ago bought a farm just a few miles south of camp. To these hills and to this lake he returned as often as he could throughout his life to rest and to relax. From this farm he came to Pasquaney for the final time last Water Sports Day to referee the races.

Some of you will perhaps remember the graying figure in an ancient and much-mended P sweater.

Two of Dr. Blake's three sons were campers at Pasquaney. His brother, Maurice, was also a camper and counselor here for many years, and was elected Most Faithful Boy in 1906.

Francis Blake had just embarked on what was perhaps his most important position – that of civilian director of medical research and development for all the armed forces when death came to him in Washington on the first day of February of this year – just 22 days before his 65th birthday.

Camper- Most Faithful Boy – Counsellor – Father of Campers – Lifelong Friend of Pasquaney – Gentleman – Scholar – Kind physician – Patriot – Friend – Francis Gilman Blake represented at its very best that which we call the Pasquaney Way of Life.

Let us who represent the Pasquaney of today, and who are forming the traditions of the Pasquaney of tomorrow keep alive the memory of one of Pasquaney's most distinguished sons – a man who was great and a man who was good.