

## Paul Sadler Jr. '45

*Editorial Director of the Phillips Exeter Academy Press, Emeritus  
(1926–2008)*



PEAN

*Paul Sadler Jr. '45 served the Academy for more than 20 years. As the director of publications, he made an indelible mark on The Phillips Exeter Bulletin and the Phillips Exeter Academy Press.*

Paul Sadler Jr. was born in Nashua, NH, on August 7, 1926, the son of Ruth P'45, P'48 and Paul Sadler '23; P'45, P'48. He graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1945 and from Harvard University with an A.B. in 1949. Paul died on March 28, 2008. Nancy, Paul's wife, a registered nurse and an exceptional gardener, died shortly after Paul's death in 2008.

After working for six years in his father's insurance agency, Paul returned to Harvard where he was associate director of the Harvard Fund from 1956 to 1965. He was appointed to the faculty at Exeter in 1965 as director of publications, a position that included being editor of

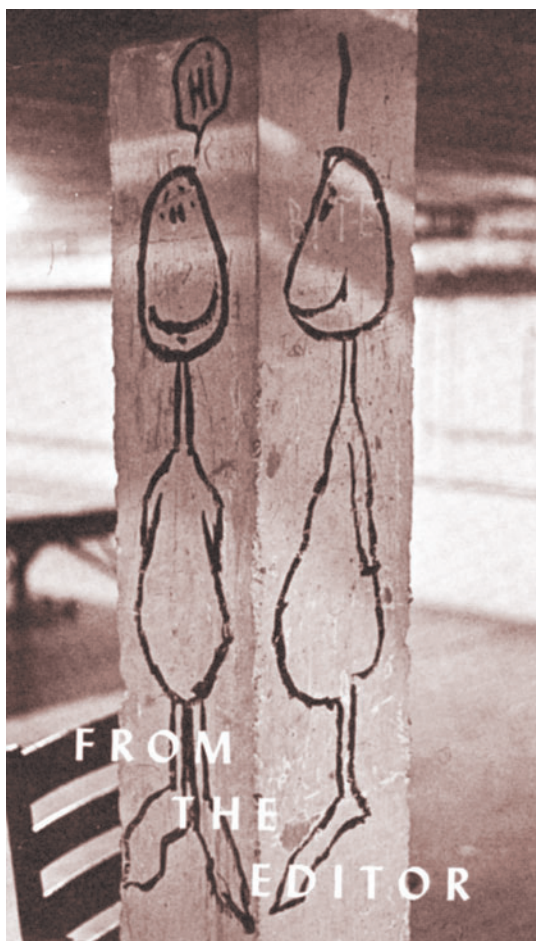
*The Phillips Exeter Bulletin* and eventually editorial director of the Phillips Exeter Academy Press. Paul also served on various faculty committees: student publications, Commencement, catalogue, prize, and emergency planning. When Hollywood came to Exeter to film *A Separate Peace*, Paul dusted off his Coast Guard uniform for a cameo appearance as an officer speaking to a group of boys. Later, the former lieutenant commander in the Coast Guard became harbor master at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Marina.

On June 4, 1988, at the final faculty meeting of the year, Principal Emerita Kendra Stearns O'Donnell '31, '47, '63, '91, '97 (Hon.); P'00 read the following citation on the occasion of Paul's retirement:

"For 20 years Paul Sadler has served this school and this community with distinction and loyalty second to none. The publications which have borne our name are really his, and whether it be *The Exeter Bulletin* or the *Facebook*, his subtle imprimatur has always been there. For our publications, which have been so tasteful in tone, so interesting in content and so elegant in appearance—which have done us proud—we are grateful to Paul Sadler, Mr. Editor.

"Beyond the bounds of the Academy, Paul has also shown a commitment to the town we live in, and to the preservation of our environment and its creatures.

For nearly two decades, he has helped preserve the fragile heritage of two of the islands of the Isles of Shoals. Those who visit his home, or who are lucky enough to be invited aboard his boat, quickly come to appreciate the care that he extends to the animals and the plants and the sea around us. That care inevitably



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enlarges their own sense of nature's beauty, not to mention the enjoyment of Paul's company.

"We commemorate that company: the friendship and cordiality Paul has always shown so many of us, always informed by a deep understanding of the history of this wonderful place, and frequently enlivened by his fine sense of humor."

This sense of humor was so broad that Paul occasionally turned it on himself. When he visited his friend, the poet David McCord, in Cambridge, MA, as a dinner guest along with Robert Frost, he told Frost that he liked his poetry. Frost, with characteristic archness, replied, "You do, do you? Which ones do you like?" Paul clutched as he tried to remember "Two Tramps in Mud Time," and in his nervousness he answered, "Two Bums in a Mudhole." Paul said Frost laughed for at least five minutes.

Paul's willingness to laugh at himself revealed a winningly boyish quality in Paul that always endeared him to us. And who would be surprised that something of the boy in Paul, the man who collected antique fire engines, would generously endow a Commencement prize named for his parents: The Ruth and Paul Sadler '23 Cup "awarded each year to that member of the senior class who best combines the highest standards of character and leadership with excellence in her studies and in athletics." Paul, ever the traditionalist; Paul, Mr. Editor, knew an exactly suitable pronoun when he saw one. ●

*This Memorial Minute was written by Rodney Armstrong '68 (Hon.); Edouard Desrochers '45, '62 (Hon.); P'94, P'97; Joseph Fellows '62; Reginald Frost '46; P'71; Evar Miller; Charles*

*Terry '28 (Hon.); P'80, P'81; Elizabeth Terry '28 (Hon.); P'80, P'81; Jacquelyn Thomas '45, '62, '69 (Hon.); P'78, P'79, P'81; and David Thomas '62, '69 (Hon.); P'78, P'79, P'81, chair, and was presented at a faculty meeting on February 3, 2010.*