

Frank C. “Ted” Baldwin

October 4, 1900 — April 30, 1979

Ted Baldwin was a man of integrity, broad culture, dignity, and warmth; he served as a model for ever so many admirers. One of the most loyal of our alumni, “he was a giver, and gave himself to all of us”; he always wished to help people. Distinguished for his great good will towards mankind, his kind and generous disposition, his fine sense of humor and fame as a storyteller, and the effectiveness of his counsel to students, he won exceptional popularity, regard, and affection. For example, the Chilean refugees that his devoted wife, Anne, aided in bringing to Ithaca have written: “We are extremely appreciative of the warm, quiet, kindly way in which he offered us jobs, recreation, and friendship during a difficult period in our lives. Ted Baldwin gave us hope in the new life facing us.”

Ted was born in Providence, Rhode Island, where he lived until 1915, when his family moved to Pennsylvania. He attended school in Trenton, New Jersey, and spent one year at Blair Academy in Blairstown, New Jersey.

In 1918 he entered Cornell in the Class of 1922, College of Agriculture. During his undergraduate life he was active in Cornell United Religious Work, fraternity affairs (Phi Kappa Psi), Sphinx Head, and Cornell crew, rowing for three years. One of our committee recalls clearly the very good work Ted did in the class in public speaking. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree, he held a position for two years with the Dairymen’s League, but decided to leave business for a career in teaching; and after receiving a master’s degree in education in 1924 from the University of Pennsylvania, he taught mathematics, first at Blair Academy, and then at Pingry School in Elizabeth, New Jersey. In 1936-40 Ted was academic dean of Penn Hall Preparatory School and Junior College, then, in 1940-42, headmaster at Harrisburg Academy.

With the coming of World War II, Ted joined the Army Air Corps and was stationed in Florida. Honorably discharged with the rank of major at the war’s conclusion, he returned to Cornell where he found a position as counselor in the Office of the Dean of Students, later becoming dean of men, a position he filled for fifteen years. In addition to his competent counseling of individual students, Ted worked with faculty and student committees, as well as with the dean of the faculty and the proctor of the University. As dean of men, he served with memorable distinction and in 1953 was elected president of the National Association of Deans and Advisors of Men.

In 1960 Ted was made secretary of the University. He retired in 1966. As a citizen of Ithaca he was active in the Ithaca Youth Bureau, the Rotary Club (president in 1961-62), the Torch Club, the Economic Opportunity

Corporation, as alderman of the Fifth Ward, chairman of the Mayor's Citizens Advisory Committee (winning an award for his services), elder of the First Presbyterian Church. He was chairman of the Ithaca Housing Authority for several years; projects were initiated wherein Cornell pupils studied city problems. Further, he wrote the Class of 1922 column for the Cornell Alumni News and was chairman of four reunions of his class.

Ted travelled widely—to Panama, Israel, Egypt, Greece, Yugoslavia, Austria, England, Spain, Holland, and to Poland, Australia, and New Zealand on trips with members of the Smithsonian Institute.

He is survived by an admirable family—his wife, Anne Gaillard (they were married in 1928); two sons, Frank C, Jr., Cornell Class of 1955, prominent Ithaca physician, and Nathaniel P. “Tad” Baldwin of Washington, D.C.; two daughters, Nancy B. Tenny of Bethesda, Maryland, and Polly B. Gott, of Marshall, North Carolina; twelve grandchildren; and a sister, Elizabeth B. Healey, of Washington, D.C. They have our deepest sympathy in their, and our, great loss.

W. Jack Lewis, Deane W. Malott, Harry Caplan