

Chris Merchant is awarded Eagle Scout



Eagle Scout, Chris Merchant (left) presents red roses to his mother. His father looks on.

On Wednesday evening May 12th Troop #39 held its first Parents Night and Court of Honor for the Charter Year.

The program opened with a few words of welcome from Mr. Harold Etsell, Advancement Chairman and also Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Tim Keller, a Star Scout, gave the invocation which he had written himself for the occasion. Tim has received the God and Country Award in Scouting.

The opening ceremony was planned and staged by John Day, Senior Patrol Leader. John used a number of scouts to help explain the various Scout Progress Awards (Rank Advancements).

Mr. Gerald Alleman, Scoutmaster took the opportunity to cover many of the things which the Troop would like to do in this Charter Year.

Among the many things some of the following were hi-lighted: The Troop will be selling subscriptions to the **Susquehanna Times** and **Susquehanna Magazine**.

One of the new tents was on display, which have recently been given by members of the Mount Joy Rotary Club. The entire room was well displayed and arranged, all of this was done on Tuesday evening by Tim Keller, Quartermaster and Fred Straub, Patrol Leader.

A garage sale will be held to clean up some of the surplus unused equipment, the dates are June 3, 4, 5, and 6th. The Troop will be attending the J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation the week of July 4-10, 1976. Two Scouts from Troop #39 will be attending the Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico leaving Lancaster, Co. on June 25, 1976; they are Dave Chapin and Dale Boyer.

The weekend of May 14-16th Tom Bair, Patrol Leader and Kelly Leshner, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader will be taking their Ordeal to become members of the Order of the Arrow, a group of honor campers who are elected by their local Scout Troop for membership.

It was announced that the Forest Fire Danger Board located next to the G.C. Murphy Store on Main Street is in operation and is being manned by members of the Troop.

Troop #39 will participate in the Scout Bicentennial Trek of the local Council by working at Donegal Church and Donegal Springs on Wednesday, June 30, 1976.

Mr. Sam Crowl, Assistant Scoutmaster was called on to speak about the weekend spent at Long Park in Lancaster as part of the local Council Scouting on Parade, where Troop #39 received a special award for their activity station which was working a Forest Fire Prevention Board similar to the one in use in Mount Joy.

The awards portion of the program began at this time with a commendation being presented by Mr. Etsell and Tim Keller to Mr. Dale Boyer for his years of service as Scoutmaster.

Mr. Etsell showed the Badge of Office to be given to the Scouting Coordinator Mr. James Helig who was unable to be in attendance. also Mr. Etsell showed the Badge of Office to be presented to Mr. Irvin Smith, Jr. the Troop Committee Chairman who was also unable to be present.

Mr. Etsell then presented Badges of Office to members of the troop committee, Mr. Rufus Bleacher, Mr. Lester Hostetter, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Chapin, Mr. Donald Straub and Mrs. James Youglivish.

Mr. Etsell then installed the new Scoutmaster, Mr. Gerald Alleman. In turn, Mrs. Alleman installed the Assistant Scoutmasters, Mr. Sam Crowl, Mr. Chris 'Merchant and Mr. John Shireman. Next, Mr. Alleman installed the Junior Assistant Scoutmasters, Dave Chapin and Joe Coover. This was followed by the installation of the Senior Patrol Leader John Day by Mr. Alleman.

John Day then installed his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Kelly Leshner. Followed by the installation of the Patrol Leaders Tom Bair, Scott Stauffer and Fred Straub.

Kelly Leshner installed the Assistant Patrol Leaders, David Drace, Scott Brandt and Bill Hall. John Day installed the Troop's Quartermaster Tim Keller and the Troop's Scribe, Scott Shireman.

Certificates were presented to the scouts who will serve as instructors in the Scouting Skills Award.

These were presented by John Day to the following scouts: Kelly Leshner, Tim Keller, Tom Bair, Scott Stauffer, Fred Straub, Dale Boyer, Dave Chapin and Joe Coover.

Training Awards were presented to the scouts who completed a basic training course for boy leaders. These were presented by Mr. Alleman to John Day, Kelly Leshner, Tom Bair, Scott Stauffer and Fred Straub.

John Day then recognized the scouts who have earned Skill Awards since the last Court of Honor.

Mr. Etsell presented Merit Badge Cards to the scouts who earned Merit Badges, over half the scouts in the troop had earned one or more Merit Badges since the last Court of Honor.

Mr. Alleman, John Day and Kelly Leshner took the new scouts through the New Scouts Candle Ceremony of Inductions.

Mr. Crowl presented the Tenderfoot Progress Award to the following scouts; Jim Binkle, Alen Brian, John Hall and Scott Shireman.

Mr. Straub presented the Second Class Progress Award to Bill Hall.

Mrs. Shireman presented the First Class Progress Award to Scott Stauffer and Fred Straub.

Mr. Hostetter presented the Life Progress Award to John Day and Kelly Leshner.

The hi-light of the evening began with the presentation of the Eagle Scout Rank Advancement.

Mr. Alleman introduced the presenter, Mr. Joe Shaeffer. Mrs. Dale Boyer gave the background and history of the Eagle Scout.

Mr. Eagle Scout, Chris Merchant, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Merchant

and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. McDonald from York were escorted to the front by John Day and Tim Keller.

One other Eagle Scout was present, Mr. John Day, III.

Mr. Shaeffer then gave the Charge to Eagle Scouts to Chris. He then presented the Eagle pin to Mrs. Merchant to pin on Chris, Chris in return placed an Eagle necklace on his Mother and presented her with a red rose bud.

Mr. Shaeffer gave the Eagle certificate to Mr. Merchant to present to Chris, in return Chris gave his father an eagle tie bar. Mr. Shaeffer then presented Chris with a miniature eagle pin which he can wear on his suit.

Mr. Shaeffer then read a letter to Chris from the Chief Scout Executive and a letter from the Council Executive, and a letter from the Boro Council of Mount Joy.

Mr. Shaeffer introduced Mr. Carl Hallgren, President of the Mount Joy Rotary Club who gave his personal congratulation as well as congratulations from the Rotary Club which sponsors Troop #39.

Mr. Shaeffer called on the Scoutmaster Mr. Alleman who presented Chris with his Eagle Cloth Badge and Eagle Membership card, and his personal congratulations along with a reproduced copy of the first scout handbook from 1911.

Mr. Hostetter then taught an old scout song, Trail the Eagle which was then sung by everyone.

The program came to an end with the Scoutmaster's Minute by Mr. Alleman and the scouts were led in the scouts benediction by John Day.

Refreshments were served by the mothers of the Panther Patrol under the leadership of Mrs. Gloria Straub the patrol leader's mother.

The scout house was returned to order for regular scout Meetings by Fred Straub.

Special lighting effects for the evening was done by Dave Chapin.

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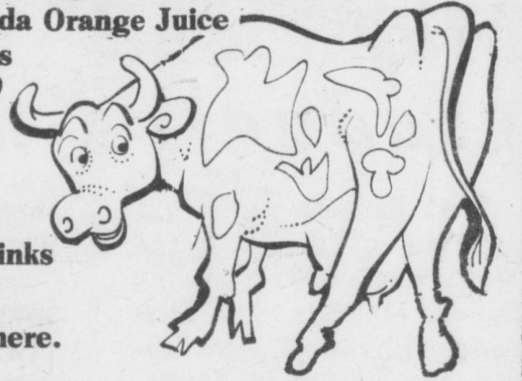
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