



*Lekman Kapp, District Scout Commissioner, made the Merit Badge presentations. He has just presented Buddy Rhodes with a Merit Badge Award.*



*Charles Dunlop, District Chairman, exchanges the Scout Handclasp with Jackie Merrell as he presents him the Star Scout Badge. Next step - Life!*

start him on his way to being a champion swimmer. There are Merit Badges in a dozen different fields which will help lead a boy to the top. Too, if a boy lives in the country, the projects in such Merit Badge subjects as Corn Farming, Dairying or First Aid to Animals include many things which will help him become a first-rate farmer.

In developing new interests, Merit Badges are excellent starters. Collecting rocks and minerals on a Patrol hike for the Rocks and Minerals Merit Badge might start a Scout on a hobby that would last him all his life. If he likes to make things, the Merit Badges in Radio, Electricity and Farm Mechanics might be the start of a whole new field that he had never thought of.

The Merit Badge Counselors who test Scouts on their knowledge of the Merit Badge requirements are experts in their particular field and can be of invaluable aid to a Scout who seeks their advice and guidance.

Many men who were once Scouts feel that their entire lives were influenced by their Merit Badge work. There are hundreds of doctors, radio engineers, forest rangers and other men whose ambitions were first kindled while they were Scouts earning Merit Badges.

The next step up the Scouting Trail is the rank of Life Scout. To attain this rank, the Star Scout must have had a record of satisfactory service for a period of at least three months and must qualify for ten Merit Badges. However, the ten may not be ten of the Scout's own choosing. They must include: (1) First Aid; (2) Personal Health; (3) Public Health; (4) Physical Development or Athletics; and (5) Life Saving or Pioneering or Safety.

When a Scout is awarded his Life Scout Badge he is within sight of the peak of his climb—Eagle

Scout. Advancing from Life to Eagle is still an uphill go though. There are many more Merit Badges to earn—twenty-one in all. And of the twenty-one, only eight may be of the Scout's own choosing. The thirteen "required" Merit Badges are: (1) First Aid; (2) Swimming; (3) Life Saving; (4) Personal Health; (5) Public Health; (6) Cooking; (7) Camping; (8) Civics; (9) Bird Study; (10) Pathfinding; (11) Safety; (12) Pioneering; and (13) Athletics or Physical Development.

In addition to the Merit Badges, the Scout must have served satisfactorily as a Life Scout for a period of at least six months, and the Troop's Committee on Advancement (which is composed of Adult Scouters) must secure from those who may be in a position to know from personal knowledge (not from the Scout himself, but from his parents, school teachers, employer, pastor, Sunday School Teacher, Scoutmaster or others) definite, concrete, satisfactory evidence that the Scout has:

First, actually put into practice in his daily life the ideals and principles of the Scout Oath and Law, the Motto "Be Prepared," and the "Daily Good Turn."

Second, maintained an active service relationship to Scouting.

And, third, made an effort to develop and demonstrate leadership ability.

When we see a Boy Scout who has reached the top and is proudly wearing his Eagle Badge, we are seeing the Scouting Movement personified. There goes a boy, who, through Scouting, has learned to value the great heritage which the past has brought to him in the life and ideals of America. He has learned that the way to good citizenship is through service.