

# LEADERS IN BOY SCOUTS HONOR DONOR OF CAMP

**Dinner Is Tendered Frank Merz,  
Who Made Gift of 366-Acre  
Tract On the Lake**

**NATIONAL OFFICER HERE**

**Harvey A. Gordon of New York,  
Camping Engineer, Is Prin-  
cipal Speaker at Affair**

Frank Merz, donor of 366 acres of Chautauqua Lake property for a permanent Boy Scout camp, was honored Friday evening at a testimonial dinner at the Hotel Samuels given by a group of 66 leaders of boy scouting in the Chautauqua Lake area and marked by the presence of a representative of the National council, Boy Scouts of America. The land, to be known as the Frank Merz Boy Scout camp, is located at Lighthouse Point-by-the Lake.

Four past presidents of the local Scout council and several of the original leaders of the Scout movement in this vicinity attended the affair. Dr. William L. Cook, president of the council, had charge of the program.

During the evening Mr. Merz presented to Dr. Cook a deed to the camp site, which will be known as Camp Merz, and a resolution was adopted expressing gratitude for the gift and, in turn deeding the property to the National Boy Scout council as perpetual trustee for the boys of Chautauqua county.

## Major Hyde Speaks

Dr. Cook presented Major Fred W. Hyde, whose early interest in Scouting and lifetime friendship with Mr. Merz were said to particularly qualify him to introduce the evening's honored guest. Major Hyde spoke in part as follows:

"As I saw that emblem, assembled and heard the boys speak it occurred to me that whatever resemblance this eagle might bear to that of the NRA its scope is far eclipsing. It holds far more promise for the permanent future.

"It is unusual to have the opportunity of introducing a man who has lived here since 1867 and who during 364 days of every year has been at his place of business. He is one of the most familiar figures on our streets. And it does give me unusual pleasure. Ours is a friendship formed 59 years ago, a friendship that has never been impaired and is today stronger than on the day it was formed.

"I came here to learn the jeweler's trade. Part of my job was to be valet and housemaid to a horse and cow. We had chores to do in those days. On the morning of my first day, just after I had finished milking, a good looking young man appeared in my barn. He said: 'My name is Frank Merz.' We shook hands and that was the beginning of our friendship.

"I have always thought that the reason he has gone so much farther than I was because all he had was one cow to milk while I, after milking, had to stay and curry a horse.

"To make a long story short, the success of our guest seems predicated upon certain principles. In the first place, he found his line of work long before he entered it. In the next place he has always been a man of incredible activity. He is the hardest worker I have ever known.

"He always practiced thrift and if he couldn't pay cash for anything he didn't buy it. And then he had the will to win. He was determined to go from the bottom to the very top of the ladder—which he did. He wasn't born with a gold spoon in his mouth. He's a self-made man and I say he

has a right to be proud of his creator. He has become a leading figure in this community.

"The Scouts vow that they will do at least one good turn every day. By his gift of this 366-acre property our guest has done one good deed that will last as long as the earth revolves on its axis. It is a pleasure for me to introduce the giver of this splendid property."

## Honor Guest Speaks

As Mr. Merz rose, the assemblage did likewise and greeted him with singing For He's a Jolly Good Fellow.

"I've known Fred ever since he came to town," said Mr. Merz in opening his remarks. "And he must be a good friend of mine or he wouldn't have stood up with me

when I was married. Fred has always been my friend and I have never had a cross word with him.

"Now about this deed. It is with pleasure that I present it to your president. I'm surprised at the Scouts. Mr. Gordon tells me there's over a million in the United States. When I can see good business men, the best business element in our city, and I know that they're behind this enterprise, then I know that there can't be much wrong.

"I looked over the place today. There are lots of woods and hills and some rough spots, but Mr. Gordon says that's all the better. He says that when the boys are busy building up their camp they won't be in mischief. Mr. Gordon is an engineer and visits many of these Scout properties. He has looked over ours and says it's an ideal place for a Scout camp.

"I was perfectly amazed when I found out about the number and character of people in this work. I've got some grandchildren who will go through Scouting.

"Now, Mr. President, let me present this deed with the hope that it will serve its purpose—and God bless the boys."

In responding Dr. Cook said in part:

"I consider it a great honor and privilege to accept this deed. I assure you that we will endeavor to use this property and develop it into an ideal Scout camp. I would like to make the suggestion to members of the Council, that we make Mr. Merz an honorary member of the Council. I so move."