

Fifield Woman Among Five Honored for Service to Scouting



Five Headwaters District Scouters were honored for special service to boys. From the left: DeWaine Mattel, of Sugar Camp; Charles Schneider, of Rhinelander; Jackie Merten, of Rhinelander; Mabel Wirsing, of Fifield; and Bill DeWitt, of Sayner.

Doris J. Lund Photo

Five scouters were honored for their service when Headwaters District of Samoset Council, Boy Scouts of America, held its annual meeting Sunday, December 2, in Rhinelander.

Mabel Wirsing, Fifield, has a motto -- "work with youth to keep from being a senior citizen." She was among those receiving special recognition. The 75-year-old is a trained den leader and has been active in cubbing since 1971, serving as den mother and den leader coach during that period. She has worked with all youth, including those at school, 4-H, and at church. Mrs. Wirsing also has played piano at her church since 1938 and served as Sunday School superintendent for 15 years. She also is a member of the Fifield American Legion. Mrs. Wirsing is known by children in her town as "Grandma Mabel."

Two other scouters to receive the District Award of Merit were Bill DeWitt of Sayner and Jacqueline Marten of Rhinelander. DeWitt is Scoutmaster of Troop 538. For the past three years, he has been district growth chairman and has serviced all units in the area.

Miss Marten has been active in scouting for 10 years. At 18, she was a den mother for Pack 501 and president of St. Mark Walther League. She has served as assistant cubmaster and assistant and Cub Scout roundtable commissioner for the district. Currently, Jackie is an assistant district commissioner, cub training chairman and secretary of the newly-formed Lutheran Ass'n. for Samoset Council and is one of the few women to complete Wood Badge training and receive her beads.

Charles Schneider of Rhinelander, a veteran scouter, was honored as Scout Leader of the

Year. Active in scouting for many years, he has held numerous positions on the committee for Troop 529. He has been a reliable worker for the Rhinelander Scout Country Store and the OA Work Trek at Camp Tesomas. Much credit for his troop's 50th year celebration can be attributed to this man.

DeWaine Mattek, Sr., of Sugar Camp, was named Rookie of the Year. He is a trained scoutmaster and has accompanied Troop 568 to all district and council events since it was founded under his leadership in 1978. Patrols of the troop have earned many blue ribbons.

More than 130 people turned out for the annual dinner, where Mr. and Mrs. Richard Paul of Wausau were special guests. He is council executive. Jim Holmes, district chairman, was master of ceremonies, with Miss Martin in charge of the program. Bud Nesja, Ray Giede and John Modjewski took care of awards and John Joswiak and Mark LaDue headed the nominating committee.

Only two changes have been made to date in district chairmen. Harry Macheichok will be the new commissioner and Robert Herskorn is activities chairman. Both are of Rhinelander. Continuing in their respective positions are Holmes, chairman; Herb Post (Park Falls), Ray Giede (Park Falls) and Joswiak, vice-chairmen; Harvey Marten, Scout training; Jackie Marten, Cub Training; Dr. Ray Sloan, health and safety; Post, Protestant relations; Forest Bever, Catholic relations and James Caldwell, advancement.

Positions not filled and of great importance are finance, growth and exploring. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Interested persons can contact Bill Giede,

district executive, 369-1168.

National camping awards were announced for Troop 535, Sayner; Troop 568, Sugar Camp; Troop 572, Crescent and Troop 595, Pine Lake.

Receiving Scouters Training Awards were Scott Brown, Rollie Dale Allison, James Marten, Jr., and Jan Coey, while the Scouters Keys went to James Marten, Sr., Scott Brown, Marty Nelson, Marty Rueter, Don Nelson and Lew Fox. Laura Modjewski and Nelson received the Den Leaders Training Award.

A number of gag awards were distributed to Bud Nesja, others received citations for special service to scouting, scouters' wives were given certificates of appreciation, packs and troops were honored and a number of door prizes given. Lew Fox received a plaque for "a job well done" after completing three years as commissioner. Chairman Holmes also received an honorary plaque and Jack Hall, chef for the bountiful meal, was recognized with a standing ovation.

After a few words from Giede, the meeting closed with Harvey Merten leading the crowd in singing "Cum Ba Ya."

HAPPY HOLIDAYS