

THERESA SMALLRIDGE Becomes Collier County's TOP SPELLER

Clint Smallridge, CGCS, golf course superintendent at the Royal Poinciana Golf Club, Naples, Florida, is regarded as one of the top superintendents in the Naples area. And now, Clint's daughter, 13-year-old Theresa, an eighth grade student at Pine Ridge Middle School, is regarded as "Collier County's Top Speller."

Theresa Smallridge defeated four other contestants in less than 20 minutes during the Naples Daily News Collier County Spelling Bee Championship held in the studio of Palmer Cablevision on Saturday, April 4, 1987. Four students, including Theresa made it into the finals. It was noted that being in front of the cameras caused a case of nerves in the remaining four good spellers. And as the almost equally nervous parents (including Clint) observed, 32 words were spelled . . . four of them incorrectly . . . before Miss Smallridge was crowned champion. She spelled a dozen words including "pulley" which tripped the runner-up.

The contest was decided when Theresa correctly spelled "pulley" and then followed with the correct spelling of the final word "chivalry." A complete list of her words during the competition is as follows: "herring," "alien," "amateur," "beggar," "Knapsack," "burglar," "scrump-tious," "eerily," "biscuit," "hymn," "pulley" and "chivalry."

Theresa is certain to face some stiff competition again, when she travels to Washington, D.C. on May 25, 1987, to represent Collier County in the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee. Students from all across the United States will converge on Washington, all, with the hopes of walking away the winner.

The Naples Daily News, local sponsor of the event, will pay Miss Smallridge's way to Washington. Clint plans to accompany his daughter. Theresa also was presented with a set of the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Random House Dictionary of the English Language and Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus. Theresa enjoys chorus, jazz dancing, track and softball. She also hopes to have time to visit Congress while in Washington.

We, at *The Florida Green*, want to give our congratulations to Theresa and we also want to sincerely apologize to her for any misspelled words in this article. ■



Beautiful and smiling Theresa Smallridge is the Collier County Spelling Champion.



Theresa feels the pressure of competition at Palmer Cablevision.



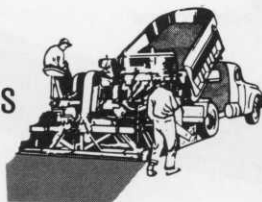
Proud father Clint Smallridge (left) stands with friend and owner of Naples Beach Hotel Henry Watkins.

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