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"That is great Chris, thanks. Is there anything special that needs to be done?"

"If you could put out our special Willow Lakes flags and have the barbeque grill ready we would appreciate it."

"OK Chris, we will have them ready. Thanks for calling and letting us know about the tournament on Saturday."

As I hung up the phone I wrote down the information the pro shop had just relayed to me for the weekend. 'Communications' I wondered if Robbie has as good a communications system as our staff at Willow Lakes. Before I realize it, I have already started on the visitation at Robbie's course.



Mr. Thurman Lee in his maintenance area — it was apparent to Tom and I that a maintenance schedule is utilized at Gainesville C.C., one of Mr. Lee's tools in his professional maintenance operation.

I decide that the first thing to do in order to set up a professional meeting is to get all parties together. As I was jotting down some steps that should be taken at the course inspection I was contacting the third party via telecommunications to the Gainesville Country Club.

I have known Mr. Robbins for four years. When I came to Florida Robbie had contacted me about joining the North Florida Golf Course Superintendent's Chapter. (He was the President at the time.) As the phone rang I asked myself, should I talk to him as a friend or as a certified golf course superintendent representing the GCSAA?

The ringing stopped, "Gainesville Golf and Country Club"

I had to say something, "Mr. Robbie Robbins please."

"One moment, sir." Phone clicks on desk. This is one of those times when you hope for a hold with FM music.

I begin to feel like I did when I first talked to our association from the secretary and vice president's side of the podium.

"Robbie here, can I help you?"

Be professional I decide, "Mr. Robbins, this is Don Kooyer

from Willow Lakes Golf Club in Jacksonville. I am calling in regards to a Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America visitation to be held at your club. Mr. Robbins, there will be two class A superintendents coming to visit your club, of which I am one."

Contact had been made with all the parties involved and after a few more business telecommunications with each party we had the dates and information provided by the certification committee ready for the visitation. To be able to judge and be judged by your peers can be one of the best emotional highs in ones professional career. As a member of the national Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America I am very proud of having this chance to work with the superintendent from Timaquana Country Club. Tom and I are director and officer respectively in the North Florida Chapter and will represent our association in this endeavor also.

The day of the visitation I had to meet Tom at Timaquana Country Club so Tom and I could commute to Robbie's facility together. When I arrived at Tom's course I could see why Tom's facility was one of the popular clubs in Jacksonville. My course is only a turn around the bend and this was the first visit I had made to Timaquana. As I drove past the clubhouse and down the winding road to the maintenance facility I could tell the grounds were professionally maintained. Everything was trimmed and manicured from the flower beds that surround the stately southern clubhouse to the shrubs that trailed toward the Saint Johns River. The river rolls past the clubhouse heading to the Atlantic. The palms swaying in the breeze seem to be guarded by the hundred year old and older oaks that guided me down the lane. As I pulled into the maintenance area everyone was involved in their duties. Tom invited me into his office and we had coffee. He introduced me to his assistant and we had a short tour of the maintenance facility. At the same time, we talked about some of the things we should bring up at Robbie's course during our visitation later that morning.

When Tom and I arrived at the Gainesville Golf and Country Club we had both looked over the itinerary that the GCSAA had provided for us. Tom would handle certain areas of the interview and I would handle other parts. When Robbie met us at the maintenance area we introduced ourselves as Golf Course Superintendent Association representatives to perform an inspection of his facility for the purpose of his certification in the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America.

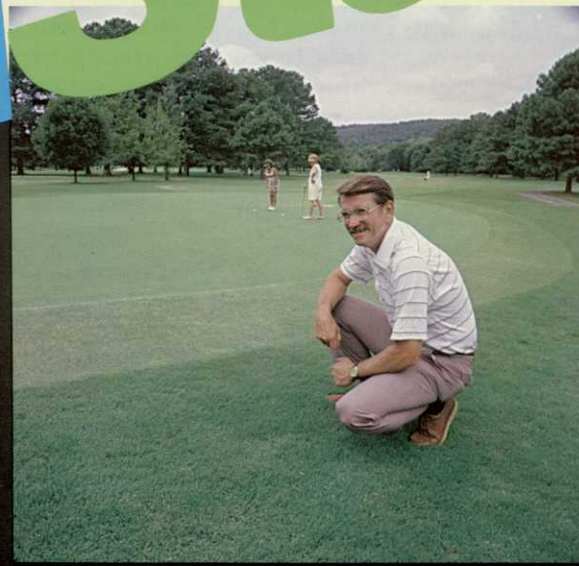
I made up my mind that this was a business trip and I was not only representing the GCSAA but also my professional club.

Having been a superintendent for fifteen years and a certified superintendent for slightly less, I have a good feeling for what has to be done at a golf course facility. Robbie made us feel at ease and opened his club for our inspection.

We started at the maintenance facility. All areas were well signed with respect to safety; such as fire extinguishers, gasoline pumping station, pesticide usage area, etc. Floors in all buildings were clean and policed, equipment not being used was stored in proper areas.

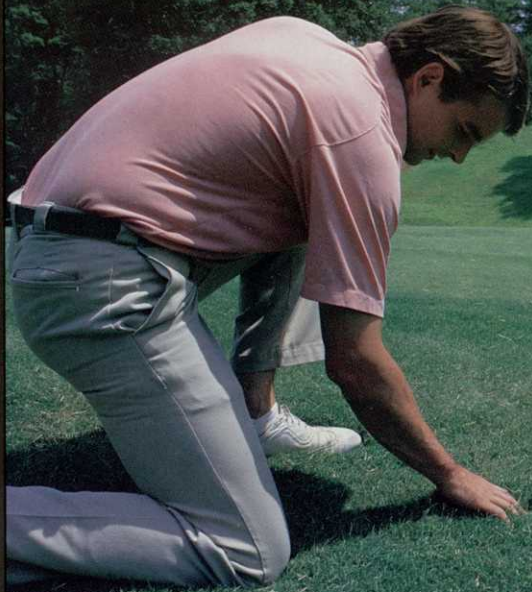
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Mechanics area bay was being used but still orderly and clean.

Robbie introduced us to his head mechanic, Mr. Thurman Lee and we asked a few questions about operating procedures and inventory control of parts and materials. As we talked with Thurman I could tell by visually assessing and by his comments, that he was a true professional. Something that we all look for is a team effort and Robbie seems to have established this at his maintenance operations. After spending some more time at his maintenance area and office looking over records and office procedures, we moved out to the links proper.

We spent quite some time looking at the course design, bunkers, turf quality, taking soil samples and checking overseeded turf. We talked of cup changing procedures, golf car traffic control and equipment traffic control areas. We asked Robbie what some of his problem areas were. Was it drainage, irrigation, budgeting or other areas? Remember there is no such thing as a perfect situation. Robbie took us up to the clubhouse area, beautiful flower beds surround the clubhouse with acres of natural wildlife habitat in the background of the pool and veranda. Mr. Robbins introduced us to his greens chairman and to the club manager and other personnel of the clubhouse.

We toured the entire clubhouse facility and needless to say, we were treated graciously. The entire club is run in a very professional manner. All the members should be very proud of all their staff.

Good luck to Mr. Robbins and his continuing endeavor as a professional golf course superintendent. Our North Florida Superintendent's Association is very fortunate to have such a man as Robbie in our organization, and The Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America will gain a true asset as Mr. Robbins becomes one of our certified superintendents. This visitation is just one step in the certification process and I am proud to have been a part of this educational process.

As we all know, our national association was honored this year for excellence in the educational field. We owe our Educational Committee a great vote of confidence for their work in the field of education and the continuing standards of education. Our association is strong in this field and others because we (the superintendents) continue to stand strong and united in our association's future.

If any of my colleagues are in the Gainesville, Florida area be sure and stop in to see a truly professional golf course operation and enjoy the links at Gainesville Golf and Country Club.

I hope this article brings out some of the points in the certification process which will help to keep our profession strong. The knowledge we gain we must give through continuing education and professional involvement. ■



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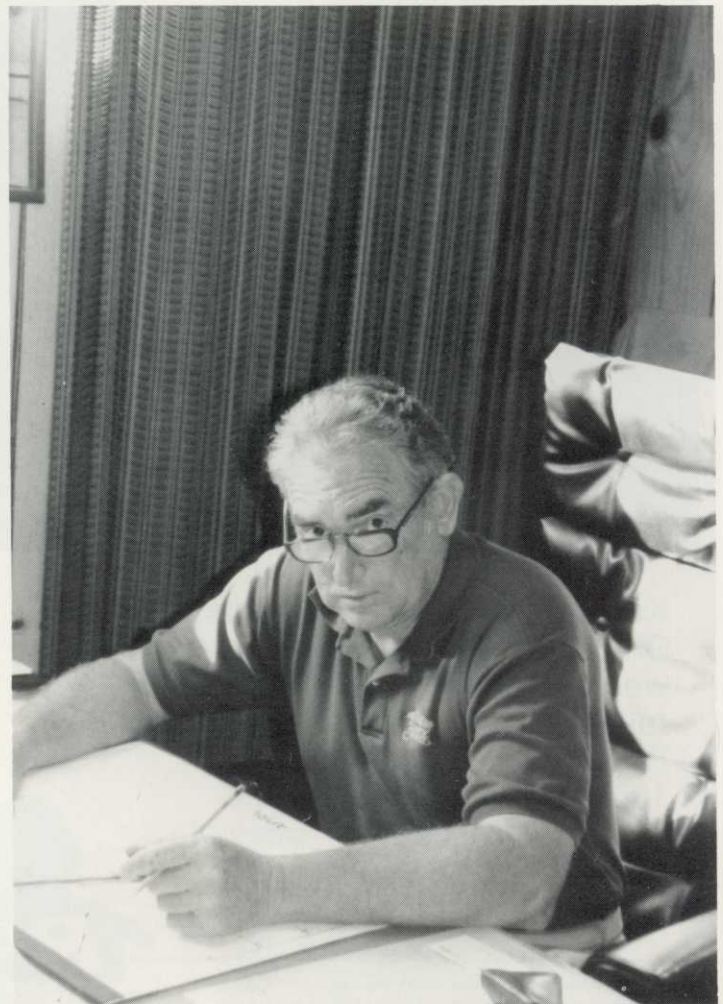
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The World of Golf

By Denise Jones

The game of golf is over 500 years old. The earliest playing fields for golfers were found on the Scottish Linkland and were referred to as links. The golf game was first played in Scotland along the estuaries of the rivers Eden, Tay and Forth, and was entirely designed by nature. It is speculated that the earliest golfers made rabbit holes their putting cups.

In the 15th century King James II of Scotland took great pleasure in the game of golf. Mary, Queen of Scots also found golfing enjoyable and started to play it at a very early age which started a tradition leading to the creation of the St. Andrews Golf Club in Scotland in 1552. St. Andrews is recognized as the birthplace of golf. The members of the St. Andrews Golf Club drafted 13 basic golf rules that still govern the golf game today.

By 1608 golf started to spread into Ireland and then England. Golf was introduced into America as early as 1779 and a golf club was founded in Charleston, South Carolina in 1786. In 1829 a club was formed in India.

The golf game was introduced to France by Scottish officers convalescing near the Pyrenees. They also built the continent's oldest course, the Pau Golf Club in 1856. Golf was also being played in Hong Kong and on the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa by Scottish soldiers and engineers. By 1870 golf courses were appearing in Australia and New Zealand and by 1876 five golf courses were located in Canada. Most of these early courses were played on undeveloped premature courses having only a few holes.

Despite its far-ranging introduction the game of golf was still not widely known or played. By the 1800's several golfing events were capturing the public's attention in England and Scotland. In the 1840's a number of widely publicized golf matches were being played at the St. Andrews Golf Club.

It was another 70 years before the game of golf began to gain real popularity in the United States. A lot of the credit for this increase in popularity was given to Frances Quimet who lived near the Brookline Country Club in Massachusetts. The club became the site for the U.S. Open and Quimet an ex-caddy, entered the match.

After 36 holes Quimet's score was 151, four strokes off the pace. Moving into the final round Quimet was nervous but soon relaxed and moved past the early leaders. On the 18th hole Quimet sank a four-foot putt for a par round and took the title. The upset victory of Quimet's over the best golfers in the world brought the sport into the limelight and its popularity contributed enormously to it.

Sports historians give credit to a Scotsman, John Reid, with laying out the first structured golf course in the United States in Yonkers, N.Y. Play began there Feb. 22, 1888. The U.S. Golf Association was first called the Amateur Golf Association and was formed in 1894. The first U.S. and Amateur Championship tournaments were held in Newport, R.I. in 1895.

Here's a few facts about golf that I found extremely exciting that I'd like to share with you.

- Golf was played on the moon in Feb. 1971 by Capt. Alan Shepard (U.S.), Commander of the Apollo XIV Spacecraft.

- It has been suggested that golf originated with Scottish Shepards using their crooks to knock pebbles into rabbit

(continued on page 18)



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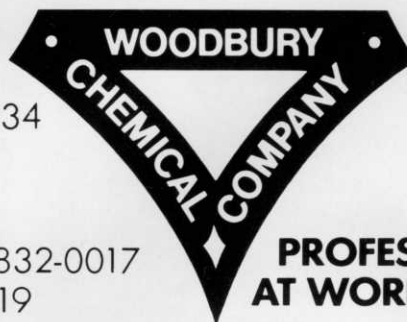
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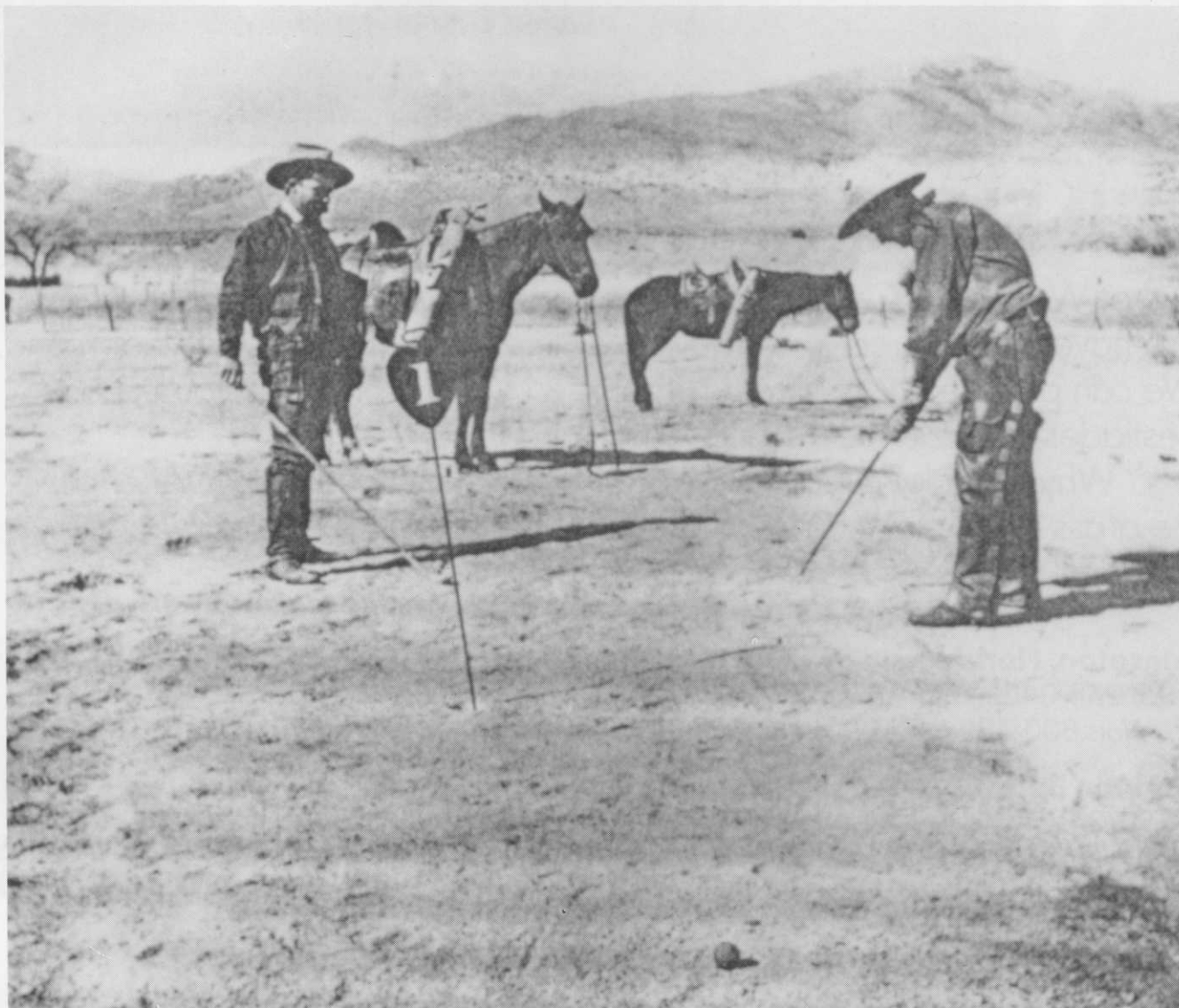
holes.

- The world's longest course is the par-77, 8,325 yd. International Golf Course, Bolton, Mass. from the "Tiger" tees, remodeled in 1969 by Robert Trent Jones.
- The world's biggest sand trap is Hell's Half Acre on the 585-yd. 7th hole of the Pine Valley Course, Clementon, N.J. built in 1912 and generally regarded as the world's most trying course.
- The longest hole in the world is the 7th hole (par 7) of 909 yds. at the Sano Course, Satsuki, Japan.
- Probably the largest green in the world is the par-6, 695 yd. 5th hole at International G.C., Bolton, Mass. with an area greater than 28,000 sq. ft.
- The longest drive was made by Tommie Campbell at a recorded 392 yd. distance in July 1964 at Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, Ireland.
- The longest recorded holed putt was one of 86 ft. on the 13th green at the Augusta National, Ga. by Gary

Middlecoff in the 1955 Masters Tournament.

- Bobby Jones was reputed to have holed a putt in excess of 100 ft. on the 5th green in the first round of the 1927 British Open at St. Andrews, Scotland.
- The greatest amount ever won in official USPGA golf prizes is \$4,686,280 by Jack Nicklaus through 1985. The record for a year is \$530,808 by Tom Watson (U.S.) in 1980.
- The youngest golfer recorded to have shot a hole-in-one was Coby Orr (aged 5) of Littleton, Colorado, on the 103 yd. 5th hole at the Riverside G.C., San Antonio, Texas in 1975.
- The oldest golfer to have performed the feat is Otto Bucher (Switz.) age 99 years, 244 days on January 13, 1985 when he aced the 130 yd. 12th hole at La Maya G.C., Spain.

* Quoted, Bob Hope once said: "If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf." ■



Cowboys at Russellville, in Cochise County, laid out a five-hole course and rode their horses between strokes.

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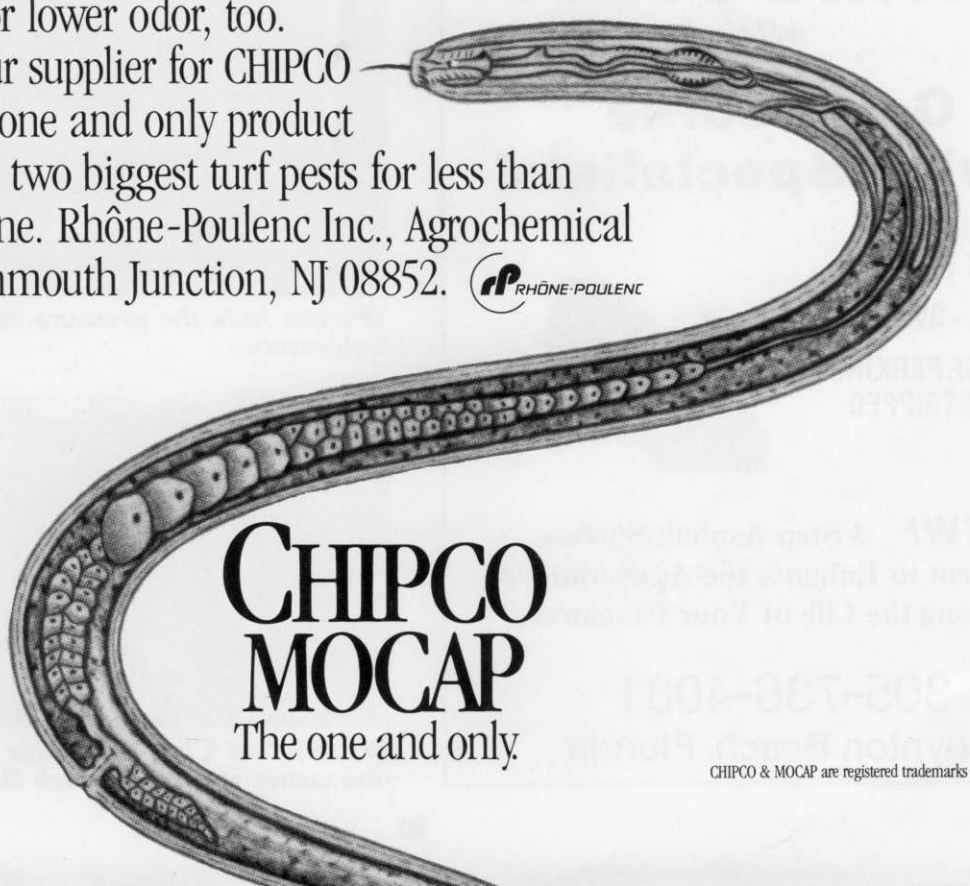


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THERESA SMALLRIDGE Becomes Collier County's TOP SPELLER

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.



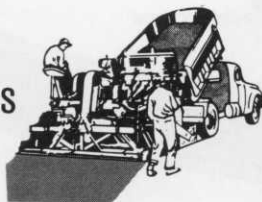
Proud father Clint Smallridge (left) stands with friend and owner of Naples Beach Hotel Henry Watkins.

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