

9th Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **9th National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, D.C. on May 30, 1933, organized by the Louisville Courier-Journal. Scripps-Howard would not sponsor the Bee until 1941.

The winner was 12-year-old Alma Roach of Twinsburg, Ohio, sponsored by the Akron Beacon Journal, correctly spelling the word *torsion*. George Meltzer (age 14) of New Jersey placed second^[3] (missing *propitiatory*), followed by 13-year-old Virginia Wood in third (missing *holocaust*).^[4]

Roach won \$500 for first place (a drop from the usual \$1000), followed by \$300 for second, and \$100 for third.^[4]

The event was broadcast on radio.^[5]

Roach (married name Mercer) became a teacher, retiring from Solon Middle School in her hometown of Twinsburg in 1983. She died at Akron General Hospital on July 31, 2003.^[6]

References

- 1 (12 June 1933). Returning Heroine, *Nevada Stage Journal*, p. 5, col 7 ("Being able to spell 'propitiatory' when the other 15 best spellers in the United States couldn't ...")
- 2 (25 May 1933). Can Ask for Definitions (<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/103781681/>), *Wilkes-Barre Record*
- 3 (15 October 2012). George Meltzer (obituary) (<http://obits.nj.com/obituaries/jerseyjournal/obituary.aspx?pid=160462413>), *The Jersey Journal*
- 4 (30 May 1933). Paper's National Spelling Bee Won By Akron Girl, 12 (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1917&dat=19330530&id=HV8hAAAAIBAJ&sjid=SYYFAAAAIBAJ&pg=5152,2937236>), *Schenectady Gazette*
- 5 (28 May 1933). On WABC (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/59843978>), *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*
- 6 (2 August 2003). Alma R. (Roach) Mercer (obituary) (<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ohio/obituary.aspx?n=alma-r-merceroach&pid=1207504&>), *Akron Beacon-Journal*

9th National Spelling Bee



Date	May 30, 1933
Location	National Museum in Washington, D.C.
Winner	Alma Roach
Age	12
Residence	Twinsburg, Ohio
Sponsor	<i>Akron Beacon Journal</i>
Sponsor location	Akron, Ohio
Winning word	torsion
No. of contestants	16 ^[1]
Pronouncer	Charles E. Hill and H.E. Warner ^[2]
Preceded by	8th Scripps National Spelling Bee
Followed by	10th Scripps National Spelling Bee

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