

20th Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **20th Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, District of Columbia on May 29, 1947, sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company.

The winner was 14-year-old girl Mattie Lou Pollard of Thomaston, Georgia, who attended a one-room schoolhouse, correctly spelling the word *chlorophyll*. Pollard had placed sixth in the prior's years bee. Fourteen-year-old Sonya Rodolfo of Chicago (but a native of the Philippines) took second, and failed to spell "maggoty", followed by Suzanne Gelin of Parma, Ohio, who misspelled "sarsaparilla".^{[3][4]} Fourth place went to Sharon Gross of Akron, Ohio, who misspelled "bellicose" in the 31st round.^[5]

Pollard was the first Bee winner from Georgia. She later worked for the Department of Defense, and the National Park Service. She died in Norcross, Georgia on January 10, 2006.^[6]

References

- ↑ (16 February 1947). City Spelling Bee Winner to Enter Washington Tilt (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/52700807>), *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*
- ↑ (31 May 1947). Article (paywall) (<https://newspaperarchive.com/el-paso-herald-post-may-31-1947-p-1/>), *El Paso Herald Post* ("At left is pronouncer, Dr. Harold F. Harding of Ohio State University, Awaiting her turn at right is Joan Horn of Fort Worth.")
- ↑ (30 May 1947). Georgia Girl Queen Bee of Spellers (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=888&dat=19470530&id=PSNPAAAAIBAJ&sjid=5U4DAAAAIBAJ&pg=5043,553203&hl=en>), *St. Petersburg Times* (Associated Press)
- ↑ (9 June 1947). Education: Spelldown (<http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,779068,00.html>), *Time (magazine)*
- ↑ (30 May 1947). Georgian Wins Spelling Bee (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1755&dat=19470530&id=TrYqAAAAIBAJ&sjid=mGQEAAAAIBAJ&pg=3064,5577477&hl=en>), *Sarasota Herald Tribune* (Associated Press)
- ↑ (19 January 2006). NORCROSS: Mattie Lou Cato, 73, won national spelling bee in 1947 (<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/atlanta/obituary.aspx?n=mattie-lou-cato&pid=16393532>), *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

20th Scripps National Spelling Bee



National Press Building

Date	May 29, 1947
Location	Auditorium of the National Press Building, Washington, D.C. ^[1]
Winner	Mattie Lou Pollard
Age	14
Residence	Thomaston, Georgia
Sponsor	<i>Atlanta Journal</i>
Sponsor location	Atlanta, Georgia
Winning word	chlorophyll
No. of contestants	35
Pronouncer	Harold F. Harding ^[2]
Preceded by	19th Scripps National Spelling Bee
Followed by	21st Scripps National Spelling Bee

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