

25th Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **25th Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, District of Columbia on May 22, 1952, sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company.

Competition

The winner was Doris Ann Hall, 13, of Hudson, North Carolina, correctly spelling the word *vignette*.^[2] Second place fell to Majorie Follart, 33, of Crafton, Pennsylvania, who failed to correctly spell "farraginous", followed by Mary Ellen Rusk, age 12, of Washington in third place.^[2] Follart, a return speller, could also spell any word in reverse.^[1] Hall had also been in the prior year spelling bee, but had missed spelling the word "condign".^[3]

505 words were used in the competition.^[4]

There were 51 contestants this year, 31 girls and 20 boys, ranging in age from 10 to 14.^[1]

Benson S. Alleman was pronouncer.^[5] The first prize was \$500 in cash (plus a loving cup and a plaque for the winner's school), and an appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Second place received \$300, and third \$100; the lowest prize to any contestant was \$40.^[1]

References

- ↑ (22 May 1952). *Spelling Bee Listed Today: Winner of National Event Will Get \$500, Appear on Television* (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19520522&id=VRYrAAAAIBAJ&sjid=oZwFAA-AIIBAJ&pg=6802,2246392&hl=en>), *Reading Eagle* (Associated Press)
- ↑ (23 May 1952). *Girl, 13, Wins Spelling Bee on 'Vignette'* (<http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1952/05/23/page/1/article/girl-13-wins-spelling-bee-on-vignette>), *Chicago Tribune* (Associated Press)
- ↑ (5 June 1952). *"Vignette" Makes North Carolina Girl A Champion* (<http://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn92074110/1952-06-05/ed-1/seq-1/>), *Duplin Times*
- ↑ (21 May 1953). *Kids Line Up To Do Battle With Webster* (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1310&dat=19530521&id=cmxWAAA-AIIBAJ&sjid=ueIDAAAIBAJ&pg=5495,3099734&hl=en>), *Eugene Register-Guard* (Associated Press)
- ↑ Edson, Arthur (22 May 1952). *Spelling Bee Pronouncer Amazed at Kids' Ability* (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=888&dat=19520522&id=DoxaAAAAIBAJ&sjid=v08DAAAIBAJ&pg=1852,276793&hl=en>), *St. Petersburg Times*

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Department of Commerce auditorium

Date	May 22, 1952
Location	Department of Commerce auditorium, Washington, D.C.
Winner	Doris Ann Hall
Age	13
Residence	Hudson, North Carolina
Sponsor	<i>Winston-Salem Journal</i>
Sponsor location	Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Winning word	vignette
No. of contestants	51 ^[1]
Pronouncer	Benson S. Alleman
Preceded by	24th Scripps National Spelling Bee
Followed by	26th Scripps National Spelling Bee

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