

(Handwritten: Monday, May 14, 1934)

Enoch P. Habegger of north of Berne who celebrated his birthday yesterday was surprised by a number of relatives and friends last evening. A basket supper was enjoyed and Mr. Habegger received several useful gifts.

(Handwritten: Monday, May 7, 1934)

LEROY SCHWARTZ, MARY ELLEN RIESEN WIN COMMUNITY SPELLING CONTEST AND FREE TRIPS TO CENTURY OF PROGRESS

Annual Contest Sponsored by Berne Review Attracts Large Crowd to Auditorium; Spelling Bee Lasts Unitl

11 O'Clock; Estella Steury Wins Third

The Winners

1st Prize - Leroy D. Schwartz, free trip to World's Fair, Book of Travel Memories and Eversharp pencil

2nd Prize - Mary Ellen Riesen, free trip to World's Fair

3rd Prize - Estella Steury, Shaeffer Pen and Pencil Set

4th Prize - Berwyn Sprunger, Winston Simplified Dictionary

5th Prize - Naomi Pusey, desk lamp

6th Prize - Anna B. Liechty, book ends

7th Prize - Louise Lehman, one year's subscription to Berne Review

Leroy D. Schwartz and Mary Ellen Riesen are the spelling champions of the south half of Adams county by virtue of their victories in the contest held at the Auditorium Friday night. Free trips to the World's Fair at Chicago this summer await the two winners while Leroy won an additional prize for being the only one out of 38 contestants to spell all evening without a mistake. He won the trip given to the best speller outside of Berne and Mary Ellen Riesen receives the trip given to the best speller in Berne.

Estella Steury, who won third place in the contest last year, again came in third this year. Two years in a row now, she has missed the fair trip by a very narrow margin. The name of the state "Connecticut," proved to be her downfall and a second later Mary Ellen Riesen stumbled on "Delaware" and Leroy Schwartz was the sole survivor of the group. For nearly one hour, the three had spelled word after word and it was 11 o'clock by the time the contest was over.

The Auditorium was well filled for the occasion and the contest created a lot of interest. The words were pronounced by Clifton E. Striker, county school superintendent. He started with fifth grade words and half of the contestants went down before he proceeded to sixth grade words. The last fifteen or so contestants, however, proved to be good spellers and all of the seventh and eighth grade words refused to make them stumble and if more difficult words had not been taken they would probably still be spelling. The last four or five contestants proved unusually good spellers and a long time was required before this number was finally reduced to three, Leroy Schwartz, Mary Ellen Riesen and Estella Steury. Mary Ellen had little to worry about as she had clinched her trip, but a mistake by either Leroy or Estella would prove final, leaving the other one as the winner of a trip. As mentioned before, Estella failed and dropped out of the running.

The judges were Dean Dorwin, Hugh Andrews and Miss Eloise Lewton of Decatur and their work was satisfactory all around. The decision of the judges was final.

Out of the forty contestants who had entered, all but two showed up for the deciding contest.

C. H. Muselman, general manager of the BERNE REVIEW, awarded the prizes following the contest.

Some excellent music was furnished before the spelling bee and during intermissions by a local young ladies' trio consisting of the Misses Mildred and Marcella Habegger and Eva Mae Sprunger, accompanied by Miss Elaine Baumgartner; by a young mens' quartet composed of Carl Luginbill, Milo Habegger, Emerson Neuenschwander and Leslie Lehman. Oscar Werling and Bob Clem of the north end of the county furnished some fine vocal and instrumental numbers.

Leroy D. Schwartz is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. Schwartz of Monroe twp., and attended district school No. 5. He was in the eighth grade during the past year and is 13 years of age.

Mary Ellen Riesen is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Riesen of Berne. She is 14 years of age and is an eighth grader.

HOW THEY FAILED

Norman Augsburg, who was No. 1, stumbled on the first word in the first round. The word was explore. He spelled it without the last 'e'. The first round also was fatal to the hopes of Paul Kelley, who spelled reply, "replie". Then for a few rounds there were no mistakes but it was not to last and Mary Johnson left an 'e' out of 'homely'. The judges said "Down".

The fourth one to take her seat was Rufine Habegger, who spelled 'charge' instead of 'chart', LaVera Sprunger also put an 'e' where it did not belong, spelling stag "stage" and she was thru for the evening. (Cut off)

....that she left one 'n' clear out of the word. She was followed a minute later by Floyd Windmiller, smiling Geneva youngster, who left one 's' out of "blossom."

No. 8 to hear the judges say "Wrong", was Doris Fricke who spelled hurrah "hurray". No. 9 to misspell was Ernest Fennig who could not find the 's' in the middle of "sausage." The word "curtain" proved the downfall for Portia Burkhead. She spelled it "curtin." Calvin Hahnert slipped on "icy."

He put an 'e' between the 'c' and the 'y'. Christine Neuhauser was number 12 to go down and the first one from Berne. She failed to "inspect" the word carefully enough before she spelled it and made it "enspect."

No. 13 to affl was Gladys Schwartz who failed on "sponge." She put a 'u' where the 'o' belonged. Next in line came Esther Sommer who put a 'u' in "forty" spelling it "fourty." Janice Sprunger failed on "ninety." She left out the 'e'. Ruth Liechty failed to make an "idol" of herself by spelling it "idle." Donald Seesenguth went wrong on the word "priest." He put the 'e' before the 'i' and judges said "Wrong." Marcella Sprunger stumbled on "cupboard" and Edith Habegger failed on "pattern." Eileen Stucky of Berne and a general favorite went down on the word "rival." She spelled it "rivial." Next in line came Alice Meyer, the word "separate" proving her undoing. Lester Strahm did not get promoted by spelling "promotion" the wrong way and Cleola Brunner probably thought it was "horrid" when she left one 'r' out of the word. Marjorie Schindler put an apostrophe in meant. She placed it between the 'n' and the 't'. Eileen Biberstein left the 'e' out of "rhyme" and James Glendening left one 'm' out of "comment." Imelda Welsch failed on "compare." She spelled in "compair". Helen Ellenberger failed on "conscience" leaving Mary Ellen Riesen as the only Berne contestant. Lila Sprunger was next in line on "suburb." She spelled it "suberb." Louise Lehman was positive that the word "positively" should have an extra 's', but she realized too late that one 's' was all that is necessary. Anna B. Liechty put an 'i' in "syrup" and joined the ranks of of the defeated. Naomi Pusey, it seems, did not know enough about the Golden West to spell "San Francisco" correctly and little, but smart, Berwyn Sprunger failed on "shepherd." Estella Steury and Mary Ellen Riesen then went down as mentioned in the beginning of this article.

Adams County Historical Society

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Transcribed by Karin King