

Williams Team Wins Literacy Bee

BY DOUG RUTTER

Marcus and Penny Williams correctly spelled the words "hemorrhage" and "sarcophagus" to win the Brunswick County Literacy Council adult spelling bee last week.

The husband and wife team representing Brunswick Islands Medical Associates defeated 15 other two-person teams from across the county in the Spell For Literacy Bee last Thursday at Brunswick Community College.

Mrs. Williams, who has a bachelor's degree in anthropology, a master's degree in library science and has studied five languages, said her education definitely helped out.

Williams, a Shallotte area physician competing in his first spelling bee since the seventh grade, said he wasn't caught off guard by the final two words.

He said he dreamed about a sarcophagus the night before the bee. As for the word hemorrhage, the internal medicine specialist said, "I've written that one a few times."

The Brunswick County Schools team of Gloria Yount and Ann Sinclair, who won last year's adult bee, made another strong showing

this year, finishing in second place.

In the final round, they misspelled the word hemorrhage and opened the door for the BIMA team.

On the way to the final round, the Williamses correctly spelled crochet, decipher, tortilla, myrrh, chicanery, soliloquy and malocclusion.

They said the only word presented during the competition that they didn't know was "ukulele."

West Brunswick High School's team of Elizabeth Erickson and Melba Johnson was eliminated on that word in the fifth round.

During the competition, teams were given 30 seconds to collaborate on each word and 15 seconds to spell it.

Teams eliminated in the first round were sponsored by the Brunswick County Democratic Party, United Carolina Bank, The State Port Pilot and Security Savings & Loan.

Second round casualties were Southern Bell, Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. and Carolina Power & Light Company.

The field was narrowed to four as five teams misspelled words over

the next three rounds. Teams sponsored by Brunswick Community College, The Brunswick Beacon, Exide Electronics, Drs. Madison and Ward and West Brunswick High School were eliminated.

Besides BIMA and Brunswick County Schools, those making it to the final four were the NCNB National Bank team of Sara Estep and John Stevenson and the Comprehensive Home Health Care team of Wynn Carson and Rosie Scarborough.

The bee started with a "warm-up" round to introduce the contestants and educate the audience about the Brunswick County Literacy Council.

Masters of ceremonies for the bee were Kitty Fitzgibbon of WWAY-TV 3 and Don Parden of WDZD radio. Charlotte Maher was the time-keeper.

Judges were the Rev. Thurman Everett, president of Helping Hands of Brunswick County; Marie Harrison, chairperson of the Brunswick County Library Board; and Kelly Holden, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.



MOSE LEWIS (right), assistant superintendent for curriculum with Brunswick County Schools, talks about his weaknesses as a speller before presenting a plaque to the winning team, Marcus and Penny Williams.

How Do You Spell . . . ?

Sixteen teams from across the county participated in the Brunswick County Literacy Council adult spelling bee last Thursday.

Listed below are the teams in order of finish, the round in which they were eliminated and the word they misspelled.

SPONSOR	ROUND	WORD
1. Brunswick Islands Medical Associates	8	hemorrhage
2. Brunswick County Schools	7	silhouette
3. Comprehensive Home Health Care	7	boutonniere
4. NCNB National Bank	5	ukulele
5. West Brunswick High School	4	gerontology
6. Drs. Madison and Ward	4	schism
7. Exide Electronics	4	rhinoceros
8. The Brunswick Beacon	3	qure
9. Brunswick Community College	3	languorous
10. Carolina Power & Light	2	cirrus
11. Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp.	2	sieve
12. Southern Bell	1	zinnia
13. Security Savings & Loan	1	flammable
14. The State Port Pilot	1	sherbet
15. United Carolina Bank	1	moculate
16. Brunswick County Democratic Party	1	



THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY SCHOOLS DUO of Ann Sinclair (left) and Gloria Yount collaborate on the spelling of a word. They won the 1990 bee and finished second this year.

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