

Small Business Saturday . 8



Operation Christmas Child . 5

de Stolfe Journal Candid



October 2013

Issue 2.10

Time Moves On . 6

A Note About Halloween . 7

Charles Marion Russell . 10

Black and White . 11

I Did All Right . 12-13



Extra special fall coloring on this ash (?) tree this year.

Contents



The Usual Stuff

- 3** **Editorial**
Don't let the season wear on you
- 3** **Saddle Break Reads**
A mail sack of various goodies
- 4** **Monthly Scriptures**
Learn not to fear!
- 10** **Artist Abstract**
Charles Marion Russell : Cowboy artist
- 12** **Back Page Literature**
I Did All Right : French competition



This Issue Stuff

- 5** **Operation Christmas Child**
A simple shoebox does a lot of good!
- 5** **Special Birthday Wish**
Mom, this is for you!
- 6** **Goin' Back In Time**
Daylight Savings Time, again?
- 6** **Comments on Slow Burn**
Controlled burns can help with wild growth
- 7** **A Note About Halloween**
It's more than you give it credit!
- 8** **Small Business Saturday**
Help support small businesses!
- 9** **Cows Chewin' Cud**
This is my small "business" of crafts
- 11** **Things That Are Black and White**
Digital Collage : black and white stuff

On The Cover
A big pile of pumpkins at the nearby grocery store. This batch of medium pumpkins sold for \$4.99 each.



<http://www.facebook.com/rg.destolfe>



<http://myworld.ebay.com/cowbovrg>



<http://pinterest.com/cowbovrg>

Moving Into The Season



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Well, here we are now in the middle of fall and fall is all around us! Depending on where you are, you've had nice colors of leaves or perhaps you've had periods of rain, snow, or even drought. The temps are definitely yo-yoing depending on the waves of cold fronts.

Okay, so enough about weather!

Holiday Rush

We are two months until the end of the year with Thanksgiving and Christmas yet to come.

While many people start needlessly stressing about the holidays, they completely miss the holidays for their busyness! Balance out those times of

necessary busyness with times of rest and relaxation; **you just need to do it!** No excuses, no justification, make the time, and shut everything else out! People stress because they "think" they need to do it. That brings up another point. Another source of the stress is from over doing the holidays! Make the holidays simple and enjoyable, don't over think it and don't overcomplicate it with elaborate events and activities. And most of all, throw perfection in the trash and let it go! The holidays will be fine and you will be fine. As I said before, relax! You just need to make time and do it!

Handmade Craft Sales

In other news, since we are nearing Christmas, I am once again thinking about the crafts I make to have available for purchase. I have some new items I'm working on as well as the items I've been offering. I'll report more in the next issue of the newer items. The one problem I do have is that I have so many ideas of different types of craft items to make that I'm often not in the frame of mind to actually work on them! But once I am, I get a bunch made and am good to go with them.

Support Small Businesses

In this issue on page 8, I cover the topic of Small Business Saturday. We have Thanksgiving Thursday, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday. Well, to that list, we now have Small Business Saturday. This is a "movement" started by American Express to bring more attention to the pulse of small businesses. The idea is that on that Saturday, you should shop at small businesses to support them. While many people moan about the cost or inconvenience of small stores, you still won't get that small business feel and service and type of products at chain stores, restaurants, etc. In the long run, you are better for it and the small

business is better for it. If you don't, life becomes much more shallow and cookie cutter for everyone. And once that specialness disappears (or more accurate to stay, gets stomped out of existence!), it's gone!

OCC of SP

Take a look on page 5. There, I talk about the Operation Christmas Child program of Samaritan's Purse. The deadline is soon arriving to turn in the shoe box donations. Please be sure to read about it and if interested in it, participate in the program. You won't regret it!

Journal Updates

As always, I continually find ways to make the issues better and include more interesting stuff. If you ever have any ideas of things you'd like for me to include, please contact me! Most of what I include are personal interest items, quirky things, interesting dynamical discoveries, and whatever else I think of or stumble upon, like with the archival stuff. This issue I've continued to make more like a magazine, purely for interest!

PS: You've probably noticed that my editorial this month is much less angry! :-]

I hope you enjoy this issue!

Monthly Scriptures

1 John 4:17-19

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."

Deuteronomy 31:7, 8

"Be strong and of good courage... And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

Psalms 23:4

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me..."

2 Timothy 1:7

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Luke 8:50

"...Fear not..."

Saddle Break Reads

Photo Flashback

I took this photo in October 2003 at night in southeast Lubbock. Someone painted this industrial spool orange to look like a jack-o-lantern and put it next to a sign to advertise selling farm fresh produce (including pumpkins) for Sunburst Market. A very resourceful way to work with what you have!



G'Day Mate

The World Finals of the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) was October 22-26, 2013. A world renowned bull fighter, Flint Rasmussen, fights the dangerous Australian bull snake. Isn't he a beaut!

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=415095688617669>

Thinking of Christmas

Sometimes I get questioned as to what I want for Christmas. Of course, after I graduated high school, those types of questions sharply dropped off! But for the very few people who do ask or for those people who don't ask but try to assume an answer, here's an easy answer to that question: gift cards! I know they are not personable, but they are very convenient! Don't get me wrong, I like actual gifts too, but most of you are so far removed from me—or rather that I am so far removed from y'all—that you don't have a clue what I might or might not like. So, I hope this helps. (I did leave the type of gift card blank so you can determine that part, but general Visa gift cards work too.)



Who is This??

Well, this intruder strikes again! This apparent Siamese/tabby mix comes into our back yard every so often. I don't know anything about this cat other than that I think it belongs to one of the neighbors somewhere around here.

(I have noticed though that when any cat is in the back yard, the squirrels are nowhere to be found!)



What's This Plant?

I've seen this plant several times near a business I go to regularly. I have no idea what it is! I tried googling for it, but with nothing to go on, my search results just didn't relate. Obviously, it grows in a high elevation climate that is cool and relatively dry. I like the coloring and the shape of the leaves. Please email me if you have a clue what it is, then I can find more information about it.

Major Freeze

We are in the season where weather can be relatively warm one day and freezing the next. Well, I woke up in the morning of October 18, 2013 to quite unexpectedly find it snowing! While the snow was light, I apparently must have been oblivious to the weather forecasts of snow this day! No matter, just a few hours later and most of the snow was gone with in and out of sun and clouds. Now back to fall!



In the morning of October 18, 2013.



Later that same day. More like fall!

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a project by Samaritan's Purse, headed by Franklin Graham, son of mega evangelist Billy Graham. This program first started in 1993. Basically, OCC works like this: you start by choosing if you want to give to a boy or a girl. Then you choose one of three age ranges. With that, you take a shoebox and prayerfully and thoughtfully fill the shoebox with various hygiene items, toys, school supplies, and whatever other items that are appropriate for kids, keeping in mind that certain type of items cannot be included. In most cases anymore, people have opted to use the small plastic storage boxes so that even the box is a gift along with what's in it. Every year, the program establishes a week for collecting the boxes, which in recent years has been to select churches around the country. These churches by prior agreement somehow get the boxes to one of several processing centers. There, they go through and inspect the boxes to make sure people have complied to what items to include versus not include. From there, OCC has some sort of plan established as to where boxes get shipped to predetermined countries and cities around the world, with some not openly disclosed for some sensitive and security reasons.

I first heard about this program through my church and have been doing it every year now for about 7 or 8 years. Most of the time, I choose a boy in the 5-9 or 10-14 age ranges. Collection week this year is **November 18-25, 2013** and you still have time to put a box together and deliver it to a collection location. Most cities will have somewhere you can take the box to. Also, you have no limit as to how many boxes you can give. Just note that each box also needs a \$7 donation to cover the shipping along with whatever you spend for the contents. If you have kids, let the kids decide what to put in the box (with your guidance, of course!) so that you can truly know what a kid across the world might like!

There's so much more to this than this basic description, so if you think you might want to do this, just go to their website to learn more. You can easily put a box together in a day, and you don't have to spend a whole lot of money. For me, I've gained a few tricks where I gather items throughout the year when I know they'll be cheaper, like in August for school supplies.

www.samaritanspurse.org/occ



What is a Samaritan?

Over the years, you've probably heard of the word Samaritan, like the reference that a person is a good Samaritan, for example.

A Samaritan is a person during Biblical times from a region called Samaria (in West Bank) who were half Jewish and half pagan and generally were not accepted by the Jewish people. Luke 10:30-37 talks about how a Samaritan, a half Jew, helped a robbed man hurt by the side of the road when several Jews did not stop to help.



{ November 9 }

Goin' Back In Time

Quickly, the time changes again in its biannual ritual. Change the clock back one hour before bedtime on Saturday for it to be correct starting 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 3, 2013. While the purpose of the time change is really useless today, the start and history of it is actually rather interesting. Here's a condensed clip I found.

“ While the idea of daylight savings time started with George Vernon Hudson, a New Zealander, in 1895 and even earlier with Benjamin Franklin in 1784 when he was in Paris, the modern introduction of it began with William Willett in 1905. He came up with the idea of moving the clocks forward in the summer to take advantage of the daylight in the mornings and the lighter evenings. However, the idea and later bill to make it law became tied up in the House of Commons and never proceeded (sound familiar!?). Willett died in 1915 and never saw the idea come to effect.

Daylight Savings time did finally start on April 30, 1916 at 11:00 PM in Germany to save fuel for the war effort. Britain, the United States, and other countries quickly followed. Many countries reverted back to standard time post WWI, and did not take

effect again until the WWII. President Franklin D. Roosevelt instituted year round Daylight Savings time in the United States, called “War Time” during World War II from February 9, 1942 to September 30, 1945. 40 days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, enforcement was stricter and the time zones were called “Eastern War Time”, “Central War Time”, and “Pacific War Time”. After the surrender of Japan in mid August 1945, the time zones were relabeled “Peace Time”.

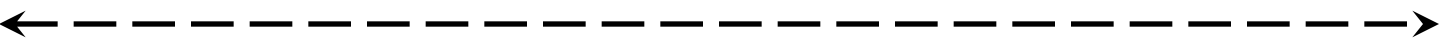
After the war, Daylight Savings time caused widespread confusion from 1945 to 1966 for trains, buses and the broadcasting industry in the US because many states and localities were free to choose when and if they would observe it. Congress decided to end the confusion and establish the Uniform Time Act of 1966 that stated that Daylight Savings time would begin on the last Sunday of April and end on the last Sunday of October. However, states still had the ability to be exempt from it by passing a local ordinance.

The US Congress extended Daylight Savings time to a period of ten months in 1974 and eight months in 1975, in hopes to save energy following the 1973 oil embargo. The trial period showed that DST saved the equivalent

in energy of 10,000 barrels of oil each day, but DST still proved to be controversial. Many complained that the dark winter mornings endangered the lives of children going to school. After the energy crisis was over in 1976, the US changed their DST schedule again to begin on the last Sunday in April. Congress amended it again to begin on the first Sunday in April in 1987. They made further changes after the introduction of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Today, over seventy countries worldwide follow Daylight Savings time and affects over a billion people every year. Although many countries observe DST, the beginning and end dates are often different from the US. The current schedule began in 2007 and follows the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which extended the period by about one month (starts the second Sunday in March and ends the first Sunday in November). Most states observe DST except for Hawaii and Arizona (excluding the Navajo nation), and the possessions of Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam. ”

<http://www.timeanddate.com/time/dst/history.html>



Comments on Slow Burn Comments

In fall 2002, I was in a Range and Wildlife Management class. We took a weekend field trip to Sonora, Texas to go to the Extension Station there to learn about prescribed burning. Okay, fast forward to 2009. In the summer 2009 issue of the Ranch Record magazine, Len Ainsworth contributed an article titled Slow Burn. His article talked about the history of prescribed burns with ranchers. In the next issue, the fall 2009 issue, I wrote a “Letter to the Ranch” which they published. Here is what I wrote.

Slow Burn Comments

As I read the article “Slow Burn” by Len Ainsworth in the summer 2009 issue, I recalled a field trip to the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station near Sonora to learn about prescribed burnings done on native rangeland in the Edwards Plateau region.

In 1986, the range was divided into several parts. One became the “control” pasture and was never burned, while the other pastures had a schedule of periodic burnings. The largest effect of the burns was with invasive juniper. White tailed deer ate the berries in late summer, but the junipers overpopulated the rangeland and choked out the grass for grazing.

According to the Extension Station, these pastures were all grass in the late 19th century but shrank to about 40 percent by 2000. The effect of the burns was comparable with the control pasture, which became a solid mass of junipers, up to 20 feet high, and Prickly Pear. Each consecutively burned pasture contained fewer junipers and cactus while having more grass and other plants. The prescribed burnings proved to be a two-fold benefit. The overgrowth of junipers became manageable but still available for the deer, while the increased, regenerated growth of grass gave livestock more to graze—a positive result of “prairie fires,” consistent with Ainsworth’s article.

A Note About Halloween

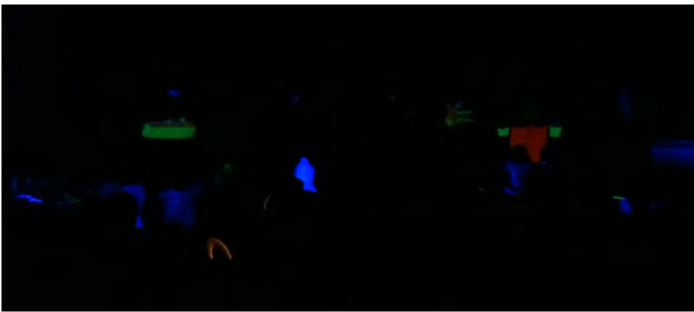
If anyone has known me anytime in the past 8 years or so, I have decided not to celebrate the event of Halloween. Some people call it a holiday, but it's not since it's not a day off and the government and banks are still open. While the apparent "innocence" of this celebration is why most people still celebrate it, no one can argue it's demonic roots and overall evil image. However, there are many ways to glorify God while still having clean fun! God is not a God of stiffness, but of joy and happiness and receives great joy from His people enjoying themselves in His presence! That is why He established harvest celebrations and even the basic weekly Sabbaths.

My church in Lubbock did several things to counteract the demonicness of the event, while still giving everyone a reason to celebrate and have fun. Every year in late October, they have a Hallelujah Night. This night is full of kids in clean, appropriate costumes with volunteers making the night something to remember! In one room, they had various carnival games with prizes of candy and small toys (and everyone wins something). Every piece of candy was wrapped with a scripture to remind the kids of God. In another room, they had a cake walk or some other musical game like musical chairs. In the Fellowship Hall, they usually had a hot dog fundraiser

and drinks. The other half of the evening was the best part because it was the black light puppet show! Now, if you've ever seen one, they're great! The entire puppet show is done in the dark with black curtains, black lights, and puppets and live actors doing the skits and musical segments. The entire puppet show was solely based on how God loves us and how we are to love him and other people. The music was popular Christian music with a very high energy! Not a single person can be sad or feeling crappy after one of those puppet shows! The first few times, the church had a special group come in to do them, and some of the years, the church's youth group actually did them.

Other ways to celebrate the season without dishonoring God is with agricultural carnivals. Usually, these come as corn mazes that include the corn maze, hay bale maze, pumpkin patch, corn jump or zip line sort of thing, farm animals, and food concessions. Many of them do have "haunted" evening mazes, but those are pure evil and you should stay away from them.

If you look around in the paper and community calendars, you can find many celebrations that continue well into November.



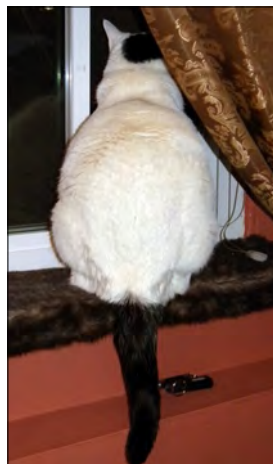
^ Though hard to see, here is the stage of the black light puppet show from October 2010. The orange and green are supposed to look like instruments, the blue are people's clothes, and some of the other colors are glow stick strings.

Here is a photo of the corn maze, At'l Do Farms, in Lubbock from 2010. —>



<--
*Kitty from
the outside.*

*Kitty from
the inside.*
-->



*Now, I can't
forget to
include a
squirrel!*



Small Business Saturday



Saturday, November 30, 2013

The Saturday after Thanksgiving is Small Business Saturday as designated by American Express. The purpose of this day is to support small businesses by purchasing their goods and services for the Christmas holiday, as well as year round. Together, we can support the citizens of the United States by keeping money in the hands who need it!

**For Christmas giving, I have an array of items that would make great gifts or at least stocking stuffers, even for your cats!
See the next page for my available items for sale!**

Christmas Made Easy



I have for sale a large array of handmade items, many are one of a kind! Most items are under \$10 and are great for tree ornaments, gifts, stocking stuffers, or even jus cus! To place an order, simply contact me. A sampling of the items are here, but for a more complete list, go to my Pinterest page:

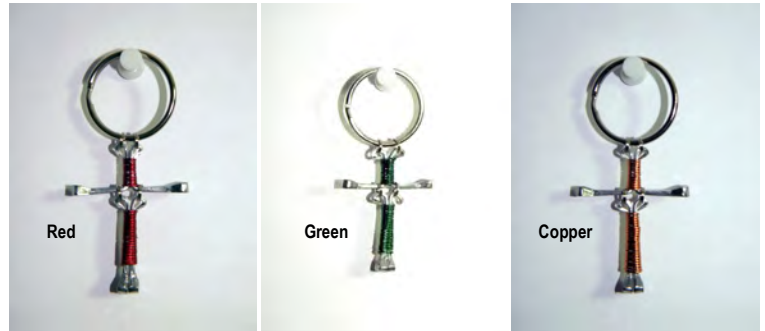
<http://www.pinterest.com/cowboyrg/cows-chewin-cud>

Note: Some items I make upon ordering (if not on hand), but some are in limited quantities and when gone, they're gone! (Unless I can get supplies and/or tools to make more.)

Shipping is extra. I can take cash, PayPal, and credit cards.



Cat toy, good quality yarn, 1 for \$3.50, 2 for \$6.50, 3 for \$9.00, and 4 for \$12.00
4 colors: brown ombre, jazz stripe, red-white-blue, nightwatch



Horse nail Cross ring, \$6.00 each
Color choices: red, green, blue, purple, yellow, gold, silver, or copper



Embossed leather cowboy wallet, \$15.00
Embossed leather card wallet, \$15.00



Riding bells, designs vary, \$10.00



Rein snap ring, \$4.00



Leather saddle Cross, \$10.00

Limited Supply



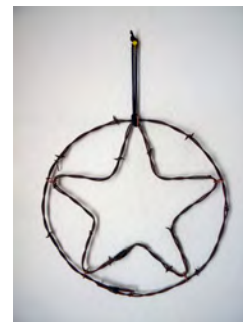
Barbed wire fish, \$6.00



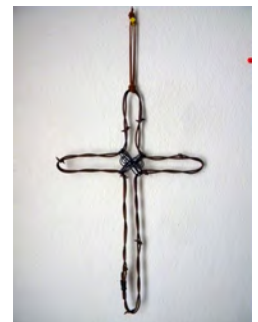
Barbed wire star, \$6.50



Barbed wire heart, \$6.00



Barbed wire Texas star, \$10.00



Barbed wire Cross, \$10.00



Artist Abstract: Charles Marion Russell

“ Charles Marion Russell (1864–1926) was many things: consummate Westerner, historian, advocate of the Northern Plains Indians, cowboy, writer, outdoorsman, philosopher, environmentalist, conservationist, and not least, artist. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Russell dreamed of becoming a cowboy and living the exciting life of men on the range... In 1880, Russell came to the Judith Basin of central Montana a few days after his 16th birthday to try his hand as a cowpuncher. After a brief, unsuccessful stint on a sheep ranch, Jake Hoover, a hunter and trader, took Russell under his wing and taught him the ways of the wilderness...



In 1882, Russell finally secured a job as a night herder with several cattle outfits operating in the Judith Basin. This was the perfect job for the young artist because it gave him the opportunity during the day to observe, sketch, and document the activities and excitement of the cow camps. He worked as a cowboy and wrangler for 11 years before retiring in 1883 to become a full-time artist...

In 1896, Russell married Nancy Cooper, and she quickly assumed the role of business manager and promoter of her husband's career. In 1900, the couple built a modest frame house in Great Falls and, three years later, a log studio that Russell filled with his collection of Indian clothing, utilitarian objects, weapons, cowboy gear, "horse jewelry," and other Western props useful in depicting scenes of the Old West. Russell completed the majority of his significant works in the studio... By the early 1900s, Charlie Russell had become an internationally known artist, yet he opted to spend his entire life after the age of 16 in Montana. His love of Montana and the life he observed and participated in there shaped his art and his personal philosophy for 46 years. Russell died of congestive heart failure in his Great Falls home on October 24, 1926.

A Bronc Twister
1911, Bronze



Russell created approximately 4,000 works of art during his lifetime. His art is first and foremost that of a storyteller, and it was informed by his remarkable ability to capture in paint, bronze, ink, and wax the personalities and events of his time and place. He was the first "Western" artist to live the majority of his life in the West. For this reason, Charlie knew his subject matter intimately, setting the standard for many Western artists to follow.

The Winter of 1886

Information from: www.cmrussell.org



"Waiting for a Chinook" or "Last of the 5000"
Reflecting the winter of 1886-1887.



Bronc to Breakfast
1908 Watercolor on paper

Things That Are Black And White



RENTAL
Linen



Back Page Literature

Continuing with my writings from the past, in this issue I have another writing from one of my composition classes while a student of Florida Community College in Jacksonville. This was my Composition 1101 class, and I wrote this essay in November 1991.

This style of writing I was learning was a narrative theme. The structure of this essay was much different in that the writing could have many paragraphs, instead of the basic five of last month's writing. However, the introduction, body, and conclusion aspects were still the same. This writing was less clinical than last month, but still wordy and not very smooth.

The French competition took place spring 1991 (I think) in Orlando, Florida, so only about six months before the writing. I was a Senior in High School nearing graduation.

I probably reported on this event before in earlier issues of the de Stofte Journal. But, gaps in my archives prevent me from knowing for sure.

Enjoy!

To clarify, the type of competition (speaking, writing, translating, etc) I was involved in was predetermined by several months, while the topic of my speaking was chosen just before I did it.

I have no idea what exactly I meant by this!

I Did All Right

My name was called the Monday afternoon in February. I walked in Kissimmee Hall at the Hyatt Orlando where the lady at the table in front of me said, "Pick three from the pile." From those three folded pieces of paper, I chose one subject. "You have five minutes to write down some notes." she said as she handed me some paper and a French/English dictionary.

I sat down and started writing some thoughts on my subject. I had to take everything into consideration: using the right tense of verbs, making subject and verb agree, and most of all, making sure that I had about two minutes worth of speaking. At the end of five minutes, the lady took the dictionary and my notes. I continued to think about my subject until my name was called to go upstairs.

When I first heard about Le Congrès de la Culture Française en Floride [*French Culture Convention of Florida*] in Orlando, I wanted to go. I did not, however, want to go after finding out my subject. I was afraid I would have to speak to many judges in front of all the other contestants. My teacher, Madame Anne Araman, tried to convince me that I should keep the subject because of my good speaking ability. My category was Discours II [*Speech II*], a category in which I had two minutes to speak about a preselected topic. I spoke all right in French, but I was not too good with conversations. For that reason, I really did not want to keep my category. However, I decided to keep it since all the other categories were filled.

To get ready for the competition, Mrs. Araman gave me several subjects to write about. Every day I tried to write a little on each subject. Then after a few weeks, she gave me additional topics. To really get some practice, I spoke about my topics to my mom, and I spoke in class for several weeks until the competition finally arrived.

Six students, Julie, Glenn, Hughlyn, Hi, Henrietta, Savada, and I from Robert E. Lee Senior High, and two other schools took a bus to Orlando, Florida. After two and a half hours on Sunday, we arrived in Orlando. All the participating schools from Florida stayed at the Hyatt Orlando. That afternoon and evening, the seven of us spent the time getting unpacked and getting familiar with the hotel. We also played in the playground and took pictures in order to keep our minds off the competition.

Monday was the big day. I had my category in the afternoon while my six friends had theirs in the late morning. I went with some of my friends as support to their competitions, but I mainly stayed with Julie since she had the category most like mine. I kept her calm by keeping her mind off the competition. As the hours past, I became more and more nervous. I just wanted to get the whole competition over with. I left my room at about two o'clock and went to the assigned hall. After waiting for at least an hour outside the hall, my name was called, but only because I was required to attend the business meeting at four o'clock.

I was now finished with the preliminary preparation, so I headed upstairs to the Key Largo Room. I was very nervous and anxious by this point. I went in the room; nothing was as I expected. In the front, there

Let's not talk about the clothes.



Me, Glenn, and Savada.

Back Page Literature

was a large table with two judges and off to the side, a lady with a timer. There was also one chair carefully placed in front of the table.

"Have a seat." said one man behind the table.

I handed my form to the man and sat down. I waited anxiously until they finished their discussing.

"What is your name and school number?" he asked.

"My name is Robert-George de Stolfe, and my number is seventy three."

"Spell your last name."

"Small d e, capital S t o l f e." I said.

"What is your subject?"

"My subject is 'Tell about your family'."

The man shuffled with some papers and then said, "The lady with the timer will start timing when you start speaking and will stop when you say stop. You may now start."

I started my speaking trying to remember everything I wanted to say and trying to go as slowly as I could in order to stretch my time. After a long pause, I said, "I am done."

They said, "Thank you, you may go."

While leaving, I also said, "Thank you."

As I walked out of the room, I felt very lightheaded. I was relieved to have finally finished the competition I had been preparing for the past two months. I went back to my room where I found my teacher.

"How did you do?" she asked.

○ "I did all right, I think."

"What did you say?" I explained to her what I said, and she also thought I did all right. I then went to the business meeting and to the banquet afterwards.

The next day around eight o'clock, our group along with approximately two thousand other students went to the awards ceremony. The awards for each category were based against a scale. Therefore, everyone could get an award. I was getting nervous again just thinking about how I did. The ceremony took about four hours. After about two hours, my category finally surfaced. The First, Second, and Third place winners were called, but my name was not there. I was wondering if I even got an award. The Honorable Mentions were then called. Alas, my name was there. I received an Honorable Mention.

The competition in Orlando was a lot of fun. It had turned out much better than I thought. I found out that in some cases what may seem bad at first was not all that bad. I was afraid that I could not like the competition and that I would not have a good time. Instead, I had the best time of my life. I was glad I decided to stay with my original category. At the end, I got valuable experience and many memories to look back on.

No one ever gets my name right!

Ta da! Here's the title!

For being a teen!



Back: Henrietta, Julie, Glenn, Savada, and me.
Front: Hi and Hughlyn.