

WIN

FROM PAGE A1

Her mother, Sherri, beamed. "I'm so proud," she said. "I'm proud to be present today."

Sara will attend Lutheran High Westland next year.

"We are all very excited here at St. Paul's," said Principal David Kusch. "It's a big deal for a small school. We had chapel this morning and recognized her."

St. Paul's has 140 students in preschool through grade eight. Kusch is also Sara's English teacher.

He teaches two English

classes and two social studies classes.

"The greatest thing Sara had going for her is that she is a reader," Kusch said.

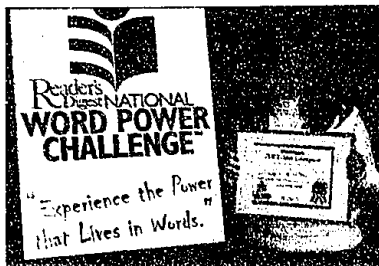
"We have a vocabulary class. Students get a lot of reinforcement."

Though Sara told Kusch she guessed at some answers, he knows they were educated guesses.

"I take all these contests seriously," Kusch said, explaining it gives him an extra chance to recognize students.

Kusch will accompany the Haller family to the national competition.

Staff Writer Patricia H. (248) 477-5450



Sara Haller took top honors in a state competition this week. The Novi resident is a student at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Farmington Hills.

Western retail pioneer Scott Colburn dies

After a decade of living with Alzheimer's disease, local businessman Scott O. Colburn, age 85, died on January 10, surrounded by his wife, Marjorie, and children, friends and caregivers.

Colburn died in the home of

his daughter, Dr. Mary Colburn of West Palm Beach, Fla.

Having begun his career as a square dance caller in 1941,



Colburn

Colburn was considered a pioneer of Western retail in the Detroit area. Well respected by colleagues, he was nationally known within his industry and often referred to as a "gentleman" in the Western Wear business, family members said.

He was a founding member of the Western and English Retailers Association and received numerous awards.

Colburn was trained by Benjamin Lovett, Henry Ford's personal dance master, and taught Early American Dance in area schools. Working with wife Marjorie, who was also his dance partner, he quickly became one of Michigan's most popular square dance leaders.

Colburn founded the Michigan Square Dance Leaders Assoc. in 1949, was the original publisher of the Michigan Square Dance News and established over a dozen square dance clubs in metro Detroit.

He started out selling square and folk dance records at dances in the 1940s and expanded to square dance attire with a Detroit storefront in 1951. The business moved to a larger location in northwest Detroit in 1959, and six years later, the store moved to downtown Farmington, adding horse equipment and boots to the inventory mix. In 1979, he realized his goal of building his own store with a final move to Livonia. The 52-year-old family business continues in operation under the management of daughter Sarah Colburn.

Although Colburn retired five years ago from his Livonia store, customers continue to ask about Scott and recall memories of visits to buy their first pair of cowboy boots, fringe jacket or saddle.

Over the years, Colburn found time for a favorite hobby: collecting political memorabilia. He was a member of American Political Items Collectors for 35 years. Other memberships included: Kappa Phi Alpha Fraternity of Michigan State Normal College (EMU), Michigan Historical Society and Preservation Wayne.

Scott and his twin sister, Mary, were born in Bellevue, Ohio on Nov. 5, 1917. The twins and their four siblings were raised in Ypsilanti by their parents, the Reverend Harvey Colburn (minister of the First Congregational Church of Ypsilanti) and Mrs. Mary Scott Colburn, daughter of O.M. Scott, founder of the Scott Seed Company. Scott met Marjorie while attending Michigan State Normal College (Eastern Michigan University).

They were married in 1943 by Scott's father at the Martha Mary Chapel in Greenfield Village, also the site of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Scott Colburn is survived by his wife of 59 years, Marjorie May Colburn of Farmington Hills and Interlachen, Mich.; his four children: Elizabeth, Sarah, William and Mary; his devoted friend and caregiver, Barbara Tolson; his brother, William Colburn (Pat); his twin sister, Mary (Robert) Gibbs; and niece and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sisters Harriet Tidball, Martha Salter, and Alice Kimmel.

The Colburn family expressed deep appreciation to caregiver Doris Bush; Hospice of Palm Beach County; Scott Colburn Boots and Western Wear employees and neighbors and friends. Visitation will be held today, Jan. 23, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Jan. 24 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25 at McCabe Funeral Home. A private burial will be at Acacia Park Cemetery, Beverly Hills.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Scott's name to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter.

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