



**Smithsonian Institution**

*National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center*

## **Grace F. Thorpe collection - Cyprus College: Jim Thorpe House Dedication Ceremony, 1977**

Extracted on Aug-10-2022 12:58:04

**The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.**

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website ([transcription.si.edu](https://transcription.si.edu)), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center or [transcribe@si.edu](mailto:transcribe@si.edu)

For more information on this project and related material, contact the National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

Cypress College      Paul McLeod  
9200 Valley View      Sports Information Director  
Cypress, CA 90620      826-2220, ext. 213, 214

Dr. Omar H. Scheidt, President

**SPORTS RELEASE**  
Feb. 18, 1977

Using a giant pair of wooden scissors, Grace Thorpe, daughter of the great Olympian Jim Thorpe, officially dedicated Cypress College's new \$3 million gymnasium Friday Feb. 18, by cutting the ceremonial ribbon on the piazza of the building named after her father.

Surrounded by onlookers, the 55-year old youngest daughter of Jim Thorpe's first marriage, smiled and waved to a crowd of about 150 spectators who came to listen to her speech entitled, "My father, the Athlete and the Man," inside the multi-purpose room of the new Thorpe House.

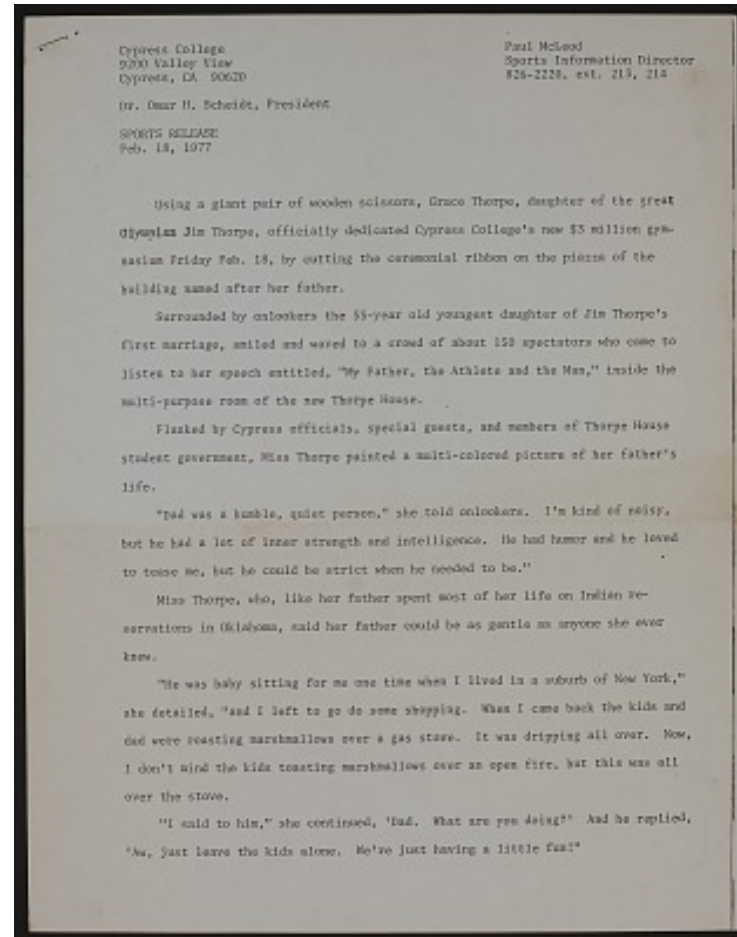
Flanked by Cypress officials, special guests, and members of Thorpe House student government, Miss Thorpe painted a multi-colored picture of her father's life.

"Dad was a humble, quiet person," she told onlookers. I'm kind of noisy, but he had a lot of inner strength and intelligence. he had humor and he loved to tease me, but he could be strict when he needed to be."

Miss Thorpe, who, like her father spent most of her life on Indian reservations in Oklahoma, said her father could be as gentle as anyone she ever knew.

"He was baby sitting for me one time when I lived in a suburb of New York," she detailed, "and I left to go do some shopping. When I came back the kids and dad were roasting marshmallows over a gas stove. It was dripping all over. Now, I don't mind the kids toasting marshmallows over an open fire, but this was all over the stove.

"I said to him," she continued, "Dad. What are you doing?" And he replied, 'Aw, just leave the kids alone. We're just having a little fun!"



Grace F. Thorpe collection - Cypress College: Jim Thorpe House Dedication Ceremony, 1977  
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers  
Extracted Aug-10-2022 12:58:04



## Smithsonian Institution

*National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center*

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu)

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)