My Father Said Yes: A White Pastor in Little Rock School Integration

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Central high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, seemed to have a lot going for it. She says, "We went to get new shoes and we were really trying to decide what to wear." Negroes escorted into school, reported the Manchester Guardian, noting that two white protesters clashed with the soldiers and were injured. From the archive: how the Guardian reported the Little Rock civil rights showdown in 1957. Five days later, the Little Rock School Board issued a statement saying it would comply with the decision when the Supreme Court outlined the method and time frame in which desegregation should be implemented. Arkansas was at the time among the more progressive Southern states in regard to racial issues. The University of Arkansas School of Law was integrated in 1949, and the Little Rock Public Library in 1951. The governor also stated that integration would occur in Little Rock when and if a majority of people chose to support it. Faubus' defiance of Judge Davies' court order was the first major test of Brown v. Board of Education and the biggest challenge of the federal government's authority over the states since the Reconstruction Era.