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9 Tell Of First Day In School

Pupils Report A Pleasant Day

By ALEX WILSON

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. —

The nine Negro students returned from classes at Central High school Wednesday afternoon beaming with pleasure over their experiences.

Minnie Jean Brown, 15, who plans to major in English, said: "The day was real nice. I won a number of friends."

Smiling broadly, Thomas Jefferson, 15, declared: "I had a most pleasant day attending classes."

Ernest Green, 15, a bright young man, commented: "The white students in my classes were real friendly." Two boys invited me to sit with them. The day was a nice one."

IN FIVE CLASSES

"I got along very well throughout the day," Carlotta Walls, 15, said.

Thelma Mothershed, 15, who plans to major in English, explained: "I attended five classes today. Everyone was nice to me."

Miss Mothershed has a B-plus average. While in the ninth grade, she was president of the Honor Society.

Courageous Elizabeth Eckford, 15, who walked a gauntlet of hooting, jeering whites recently, was enthusiastic about her experiences.

She said: "My teachers are very nice. Among the classes I attended, were French, chemistry and English. The white students were nice to me." Miss Eckford plans to major in history and science.

WONDERFUL DAY

Melba Patilla, 15, who plans to enter drama and music some day, pointed out with restrained excitement: "I had a wonderful day. I just love my teachers."

The other two students, sombr lanky Terrance Roberts 15, and Gloria Ray, did not report any incidents.

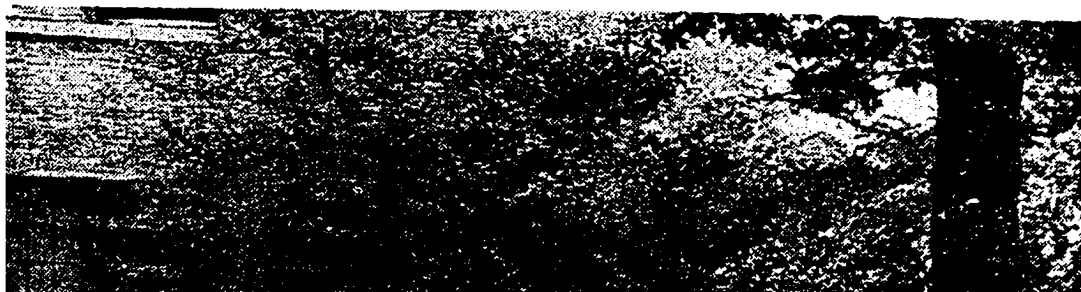
The nine young people were transported from Central high to a convenient central point in an Army station wagon, escorted by paratroopers riding in jeeps.

Most of them entered the home in the central area bubbling with excitement. Later they were either picked up by parents or taken home by friends.

Principal Jess Matthews was able to report during the day that "everything is quiet with the students." His brief statement was supported by a white co-ed who told reporters:

"During class one of the Negro boys was sitting at a table all by himself and a white boy went over and asked him if he wanted to sit at the table with the white students."

"The colored boy looked happy and came over."



MINNIE BROWN (extreme right) one of the nine Negro students integrated into Little

Rock Central high school, smiles at fellow girl white students in front of the school.

This photo was made moments after all students had rushed from the school build-

ing when the rumor was circulated that a bomb had been placed in one of the lockers.