

Hoxie integration taking rightful place in history

Susan O'Connor

The Hoxie 21 reunion last weekend was a success all the way around. I especially enjoyed a visit with Fayth Hill Washington of Memphis.

Fayth has been involved in an effort to include Hoxie's integration in the education of today's students. Through the efforts many, David Appleby's documentary, "Hoxie: The First Stand," will be part of the curriculum in Shelby County schools this year.

As we talked, I told her that I was completely unaware of the events in Hoxie in 1955 until I saw the Appleby film at its initial screening at Arkansas State University. How could such an important event be left out of my education?

My generation is probably the first to have never seen true segregation. It was something I saw in old news clips, and couldn't really fathom. There were black students in my school and for many years, I didn't know that the world had ever been otherwise. I also was lucky enough to grow up in a family where a racist word was never uttered.

Our children don't know the Hoxie story, and it is an important one. David Appleby's film should be required viewing for all Arkansas students.
