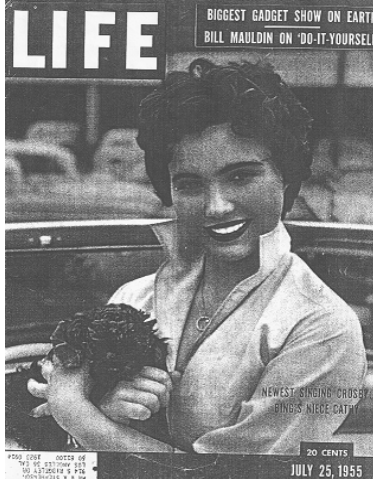
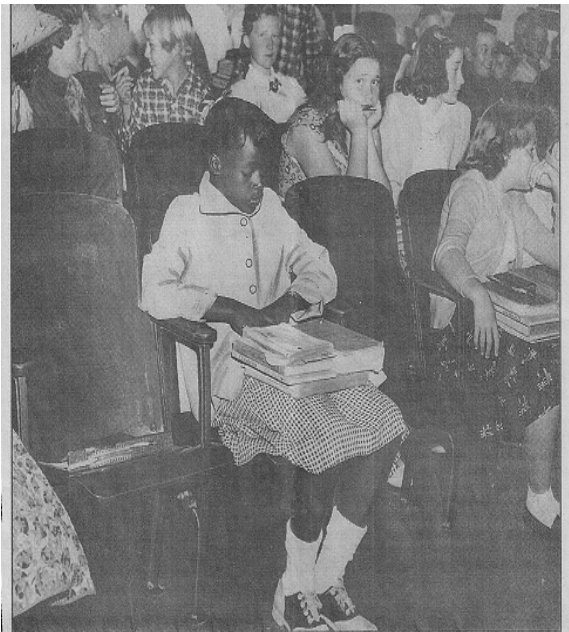


LIFE Magazine was present and Documented the first day July 25, 1955 issue



The magazine reported:

“They all got along”



Courtesy of the Mississippi Valley Collection, University of Memphis
A black girl sits by herself on the first day of the 1955-56 school year in Hoxie.



RIDING THE BUS. children are wary and uncommunicative as they approach school. Some white children sat with Negroes. Others chose to stand.

A QUICK ACCEPTANCE FOR THE NEW PUPILS

The school day, as shown in these pictures by Gordon Tenney, began in an atmosphere of self-conscious tension. White children stared curiously and Negroes tended to treat whites with deference. Some teachers seemed to go almost too far by being overattentive to the newcomers. A few white parents accompanied their children and made no secret of their distaste for the new arrangement. In the shade of a nearby tree, watching with disapproval, were some diehard opponents of desegregation, which applies not only to classrooms but also to buses, toilet facilities, drinking fountains, play areas and the cafeteria.