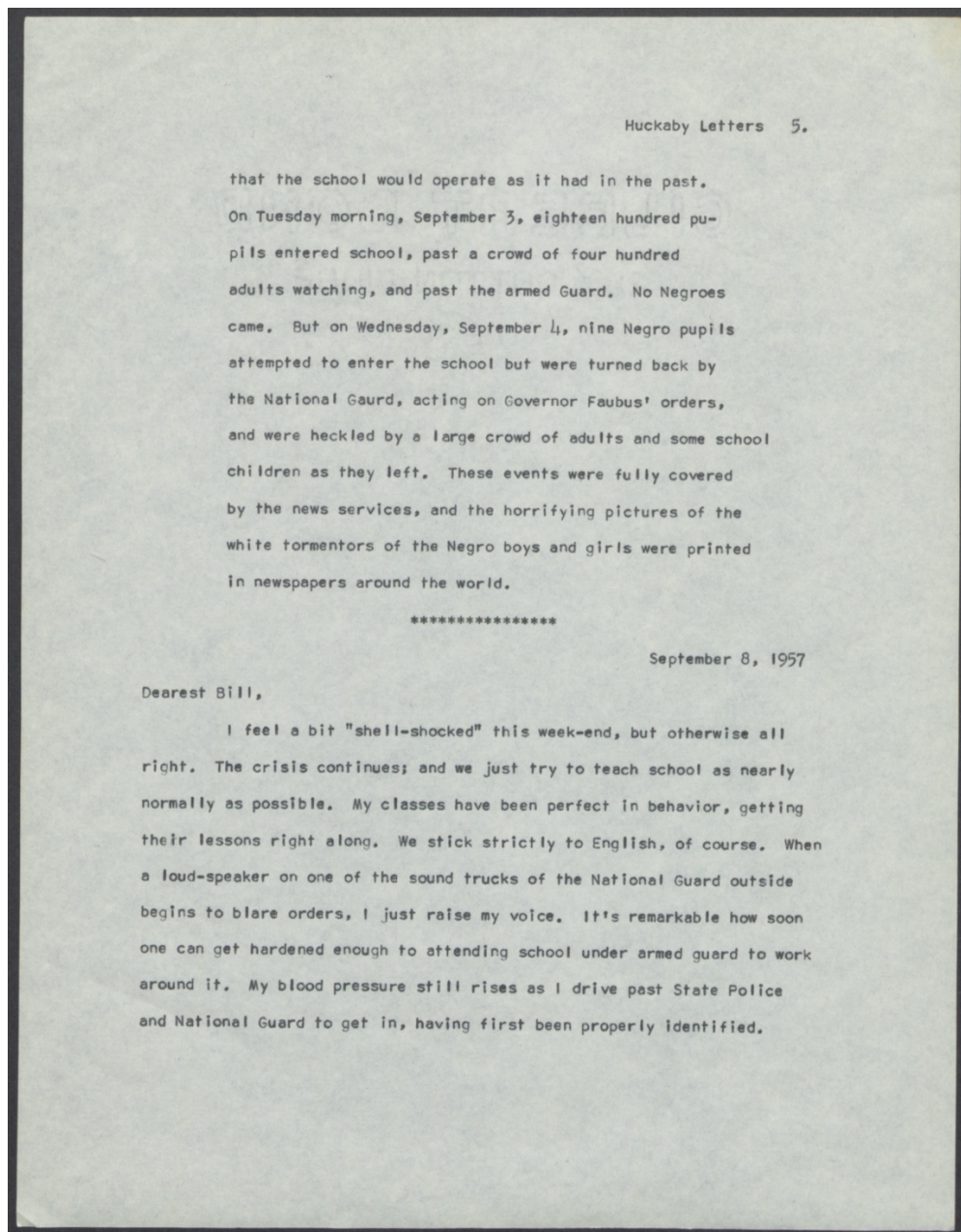


## "THE CRISIS CONTINUES"



CENTER FOR ARKANSAS  
HISTORY AND CULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

### "The Crisis Continues"



Elizabeth Huckaby's letter to her brother Bill, September 8, 1957, p. 1 (Elizabeth Huckaby Papers)

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Huckaby Letters 6.

A little humor creeps in occasionally. I used a routine assignment for the second day in my classes--a theme on the subject of their first day of high school, designed to give me an idea of the stage of progress in English already achieved by my classes. Most of the pupils studiously avoided all reference to the National Guard. One or two said they got the feeling that they were enrolling in West Point by mistake. But I find I have one boy who has originality and probably can be a pretty good writer some day. His remarks said that it was rumored that a submarine was based in the fish pond and a helicopter landing field established on the tower!

The boys and girls pictured in the newspapers are hardly typical and certainly not our leading students. The girl (with mouth open) behind the Negro girl is a badly disorganized child, with violence accepted in the home, and with a poor emotional history. Please don't quote. I'm not supposed to give out school records. The boy waving the Confederate flag on the first day doesn't go to our school this year but to the new high school. He was in trouble with us [last year] from time to time. Many of our leading students would be vocal on the other side, if their parents did not restrain them, knowing the danger it might place their children in. I mean physical danger of attack, as well as verbal denunciation. The law-abiding ones are the least protected in this time. [The superintendent] Mr. Blossom's daughters have had to be sent away for their protection. He can face threats to himself, but not to his lovely children; and no one can blame him for that. School Board members have also had to seek protection of local police.

Elizabeth Huckaby's letter to her brother Bill, September 8, 1957, p. 2 (Elizabeth Huckaby Papers)

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Huckaby Letters 7.

Another note of humor: Friday afternoon I spoke to one of the National Guard youngsters going through the halls. "I've been a teacher so long it's all I can do not to tell you boys to be careful of those guns." "They ain't nothin' in 'em," he replied.

Friday afternoon Glen's niece and her husband came from Louisiana for an overnight visit. Already knowing Walter's feeling about segregation I laid down the law to them that if I so much as heard a reference to the current unpleasantness they could sleep elsewhere. We had a pleasant visit. I did not drive them by high school when I took them riding.

Glen is taking me to the woods this afternoon to search for muscadines--an island of quiet and peace before another disturbed week.

Love,

Liz

P.S. With reference to the third paragraph, don't think I haven't reprimanded this child!

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On Tuesday, September 10, the Federal Court summoned Governor Faubus and the National Guard officers to a hearing September 20 on a preliminary injunction against their interfering with integration. Meanwhile, Congressman Brooks Hays had arranged a conference between President Eisenhower and Governor Faubus for Saturday, September 14. This conference failed, for it did not result in the withdrawing of the National Guard or the opening of the school to the Negro pupils.

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Elizabeth Huckaby's letter to her brother Bill, September 8, 1957, p. 3 (Elizabeth Huckaby Papers)