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Cover: The cover photo shows a 1956 meeting between Arkansas State NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) president Daisy Bates, NAACP field representative for Arkansas F. W. Smith, and Little Rock school superintendent Virgil Blossom. This meeting preceded the enrollment of the “Little Rock Nine” by one-and-one-half years and represented one of the early efforts to desegregate schools. At that meeting, Blossom denied the application of the seven students. They are, from left: first row—Irma Shockley, Hazel Smith, Patricia Evans, and Lazette Winstead; second row—Pearline Woodard, Betty Holden, and Shirley Toombs. Arkansas Democrat–Gazette photo by John Bisgood, courtesy of Time, Inc., Picture Collection.

Announcement:
So that this issue of the JNE, originally scheduled for a fall 1998 publication date (yet officially a Fall 1997 designation), would be available for the June 29, 1998, conference described in the “Foreword” (see page 195), it was moved up in sequence to its current status as the Summer 1997 issue. The planned Summer 1997 Yearbook, which was to focus on topics related to education in the new South Africa, will follow next as the Fall 1997 issue. That issue will serve as the Yearbook for Volume 66. Again, thank you for your patience and your continued interest and support as we catch up with our regular production schedule—ED.