

## Madge Hopkins Oral History Excerpt (desegregation)

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Madge Hopkins attended segregated schools in Charlotte, North Carolina. She remembers hearing about Dorothy Counts, a young woman she knew through church, becoming one of the first four students to desegregate Charlotte's schools. Counts struggled with verbal and physical harassment: Her brother's car windshield was broken when he picked her up from school, she was taunted on a daily basis, and her family received many threats of violence. The harassment continued for weeks, and Counts' parents decided to withdraw her from school to protect her safety.

#### Audio

#### File:

**Duration:** 1:48

**Transcript:**

#### *Audio Transcript*

#### **Madge Hopkins**

I became aware of school desegregation and the issue when I was at Northwest and Dorothy Counts began integrating the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and we all talked about it and everybody knew about it.

#### **Pamela Grundy (interviewer)**

When you say you all talked about it, what did you talk about? What did you all say about it?

#### **Madge Hopkins**

What was going on and what was happening to her. You overheard teachers talking. I'm sure -- I think Dorothy had been through Northwest and so we were all aware of that.

#### **Pamela Grundy (interviewer)**

Because her parents worked at Smith, I believe.

#### **Madge Hopkins**

Hm-hm. Yeah. And at one time, and we probably, yeah, we talked about it at church. Her father at one time had been, I don't think he... he had been a supply -- I remember seeing her because her father had been a guest minister or supplied minister at my church. Which is a Presbyterian Church, same church I still attend and he was a Presbyterian minister. And I remember seeing her and her family so I could identify with her although she wasn't at Northwest.

#### **Pamela Grundy (interviewer)**

What were you thinking? Did that seem... I guess what were your feelings about that and maybe even related to yourself and this situation, changing situation.

#### **Madge Hopkins**

I didn't relate to it in terms of myself, in terms of my attending a school other than Northwest because at that time I was at

Northwest. I thought she was brave and... not something that I wanted to do, didn't have any desire to do that.

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