

17.922

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### Stories and Reflections from the Movement

John Edgerton, "Before the Civil Rights Movement:"

[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesontheprize/reflect/r01\\_start.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesontheprize/reflect/r01_start.html)

This essay is incredibly insightful. One of the elements that this essay, as well as the *Awakenings*, approached was the timing that World War II allowed for change in the South. It is unfortunate that the timing was not taken advantage. Edgerton's book seems like a way to see the times from the point of view of a white Southerner. This is important, as it is far different from the typical perspective that the racism in the South is remembered.

A lingering question (one whose answer I believe to be yes) arose from William Faulkner's quote:

We speak now against the day when our Southern people who will resist to the last these inevitable changes in social relations, will, when they have been forced to accept what they at one time might have accepted with dignity and goodwill, will say, "Why didn't someone tell us this before? Tell us this in time?"

Is there still segregation in schools in the South and to what extent (segregated dances, teams, clubs, etc...)? How long will it be until those last Southerners are "forced to accept?"

Courtesy of Matthew Barron

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