

Network of Mutuality: 50 Years Post-Birmingham

Presented here are a few of the historical references that influenced some of the artwork in the show

Runaway Slave Notifications

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The Execution of Gary Graham

In 1961, Gary Graham was charged with the robbery and murder of Bobby Lambert, a white man, outside a Houston, Texas grocery store. Graham was convicted based on the testimony of one witness, who claimed to see Graham flee but was in her car, which was located 30 to 40 feet away. Two grocery store workers who witnessed the crime refuted this testimony and claimed Graham's innocence. However, these witnesses were never interviewed by Graham's lawyer. Graham was executed in 2000 despite calls for a retrial from many support groups.

Graham's trial and execution created racial tension in Houston. Protesters stood outside of the penitentiary to support Graham's innocence along with members of the KKK who called for his death.



Non-Violent Protests

Non-violent protests during the Civil Rights Movement were often confronted with police force. Protesters were sometimes dispersed using fire hoses, threatened and attacked with police dogs, doused with pepper spray, or severely beaten.



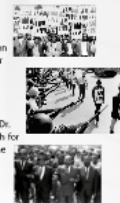
Ku Klux Klan

The KKK was created in 1865 to promote white Christian supremacy through terrorism and hate. The organization adopted a burning Latin cross as their symbol and dressed robes reminiscent of some used in Catholic ceremonies to conceal their identity. Though the symbols they chose were borrowed from Christianity, their message was anything but. Although to a far lesser extent, the KKK remains an active organization.



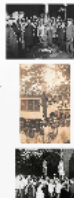
Memphis Strike

On February 11th, 1968 over 1300 black Memphis sanitation workers began a strike to protest racial discrimination, poor treatment, dangerous working conditions, and the recent deaths of two fellow employees. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. joined the protest on March 28th where men carried signs stating, "I am a man." Police responded to protesters with violence which resulted in the death of a 16 year old boy. Dr. King, dismayed at the turn of events, rescheduled the march for April 5th, however, he was assassinated the night before the event while standing on a balcony in Memphis.



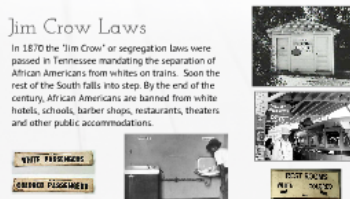
Lynchings

The KKK was responsible for many lynchings of Black men, women, and children. Bodies were often beaten, mutilated, shot, and burned before being hung. The lynchings were attended by hundreds and sometimes thousands of on-lookers as a social event. These events were often glorified as bodies were left to hang for several days so the entire town could witness the murder. Photographs were sometimes taken of the lynchings to be distributed as postcards and memorabilia. From 1882 to 1968 there were over 3,466 lynchings of Black Americans. More than 46 people were lynched in Maryland from 1861 through 1933.



Jim Crow Laws

In 1870 the "Jim Crow" or segregation laws were passed in Tennessee mandating the separation of African Americans from whites on trains. Soon the rest of the South falls into step. By the end of the century, African Americans are banned from white hotels, schools, barber shops, restaurants, theaters and other public accommodations.



Birmingham Baptist Church Bombing

On September 15, 1963 four members of the KKK bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, a center of the Civil Rights community. Four young African American girls attending Sunday school were killed and 20 others were injured. Birmingham, often called "Bombingham" at that time, was the site of many hate-related bombings.



Addie Mae Collins (14)
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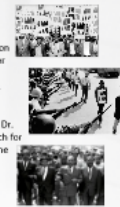
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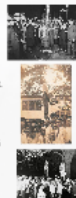
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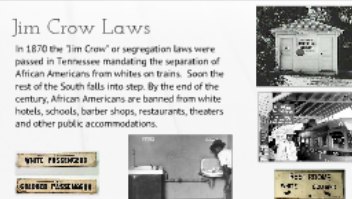
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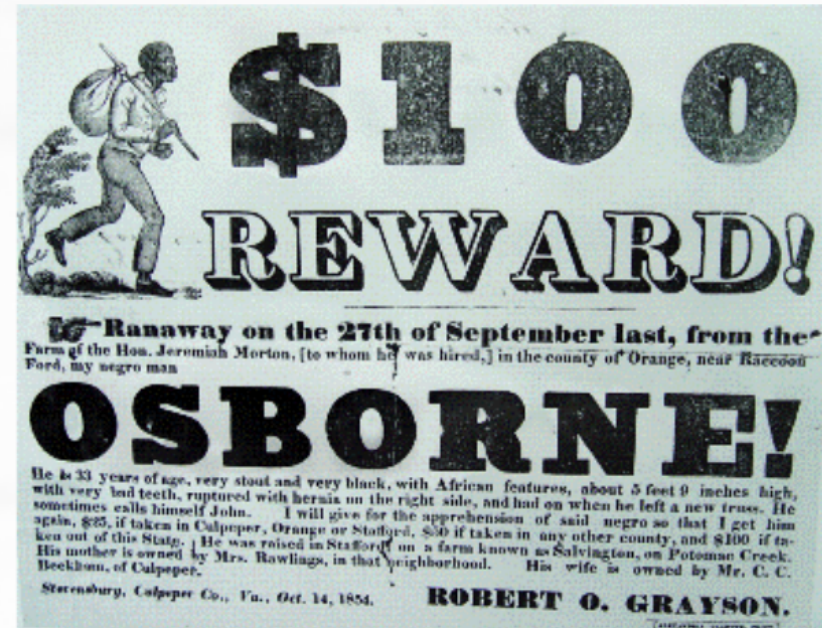
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\$100

REWARD!

Runaway on the 27th of September last, from the
Farm of the Hon. Jeremiah Morton, [to whom he was hired,] in the county of Orange, near Raccoon
Ford, my negro man

OSBORNE!

He is 31 years of age, very stout and very black, with African features, about 5 feet 9 inches high, with very bad teeth, ruptured with hernia on the right side, and had on when he left a new truss. He sometimes calls himself John. I will give for the apprehension of said negro so that I get him again, \$25, if taken in Culpeper, Orange or Stafford, \$50 if taken in any other county, and \$100 if taken out of this State. He was raised in Stafford on a farm known as Salvington, on Potomac Creek. His mother is owned by Mrs. Rawlings, in that neighborhood. His wife is owned by Mr. C. C. Beckham, of Culpeper.

Staffordburg, Culpeper Co., Va., Oct. 14, 1854.

ROBERT O. GRAYSON.

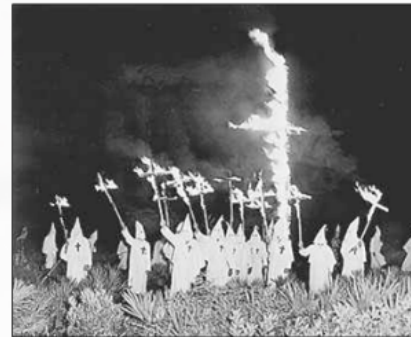
Copyright 1854 by R. O. Grayson

No. 2023. \$1.50.



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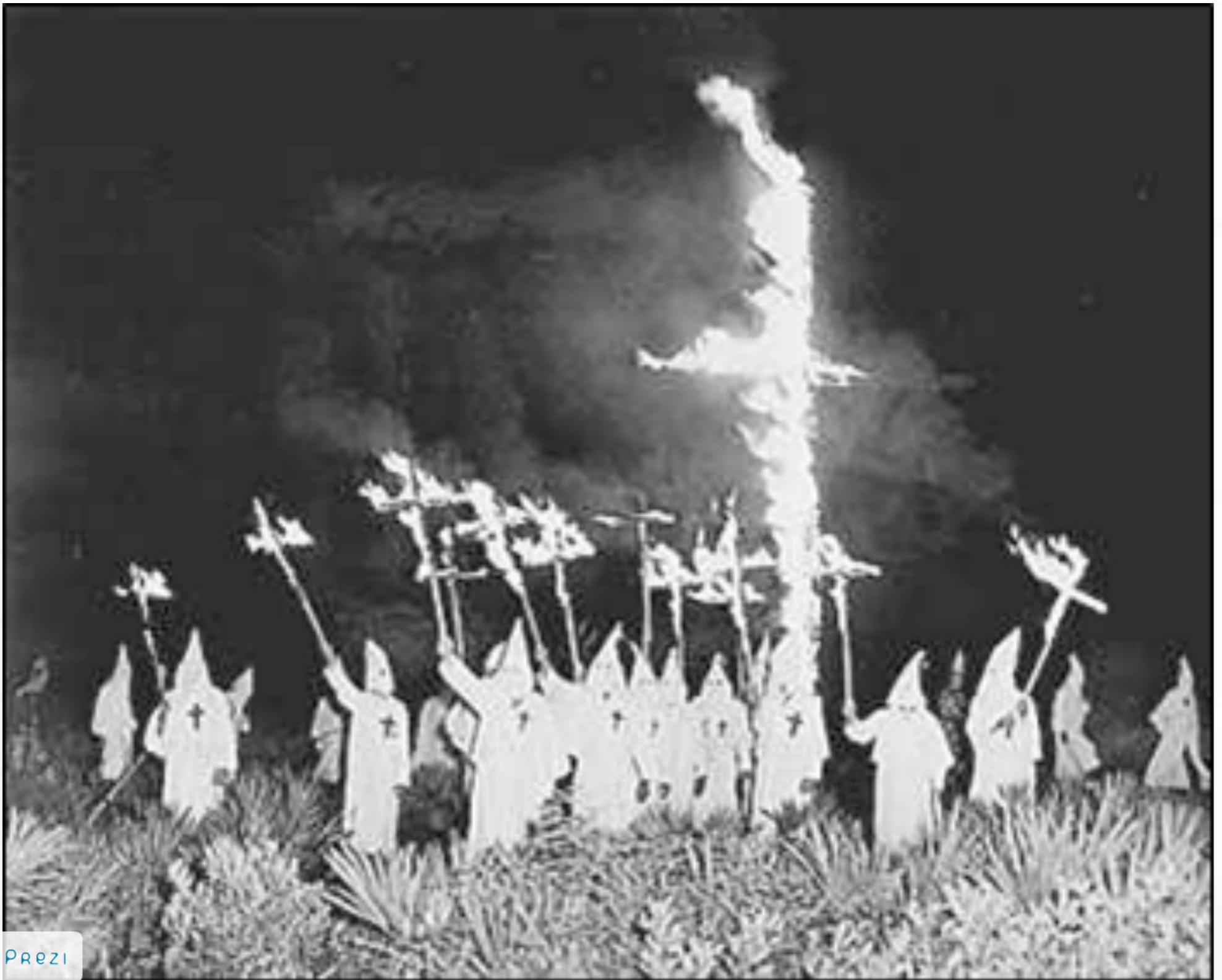
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Catholic robes worn during Holy Week in Seville, Spain.







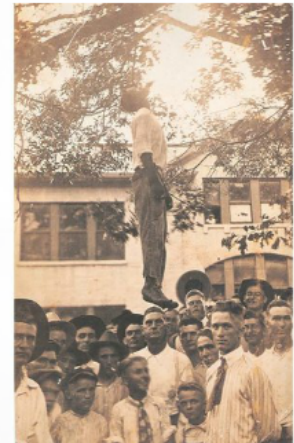




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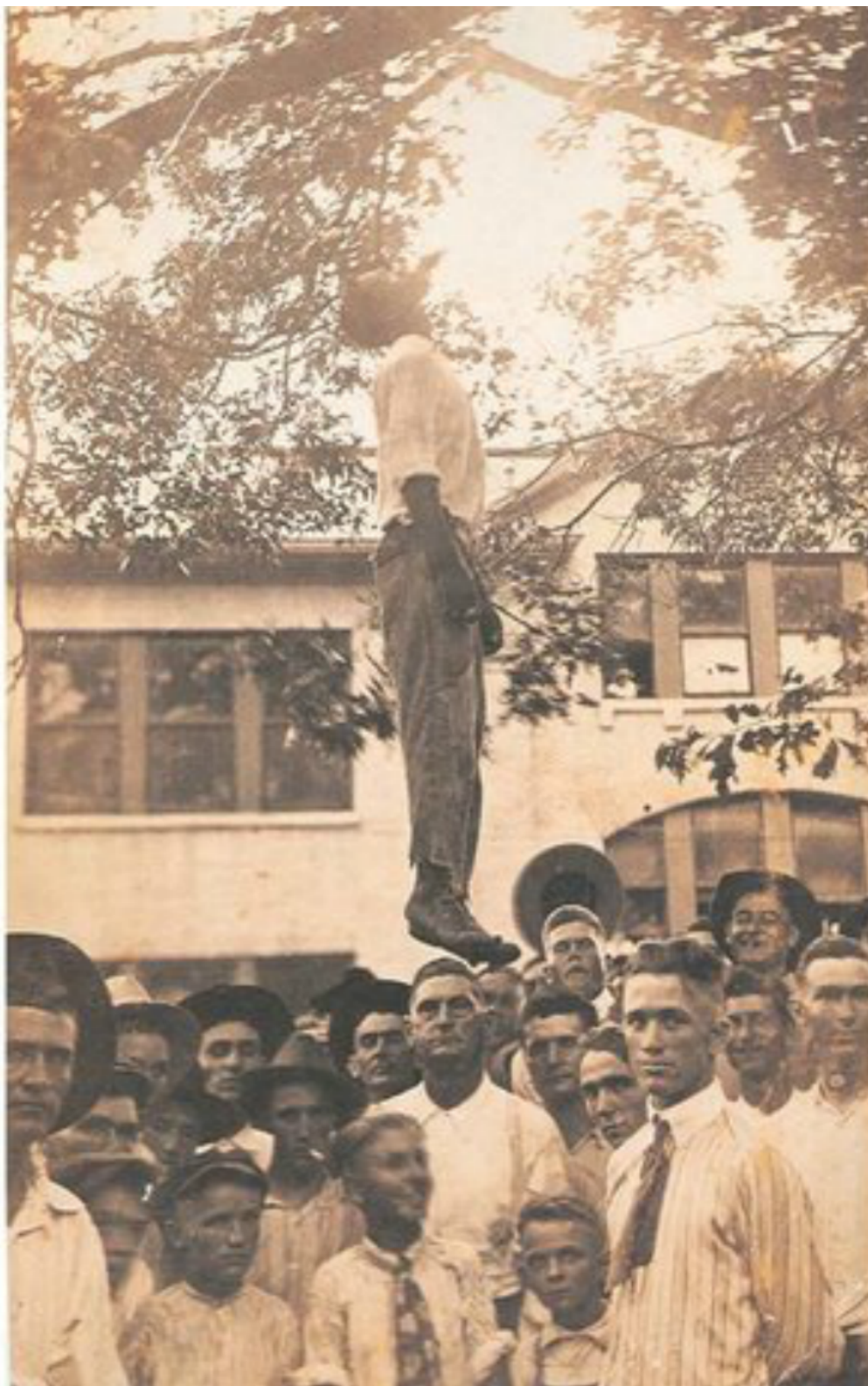
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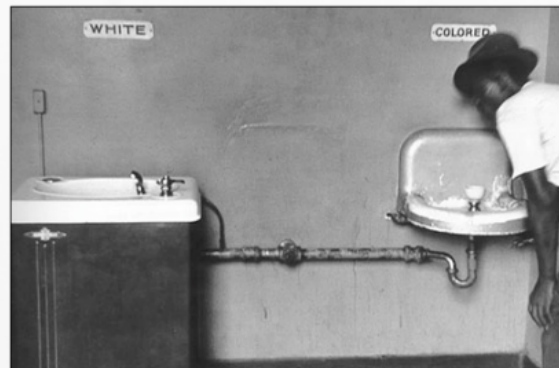
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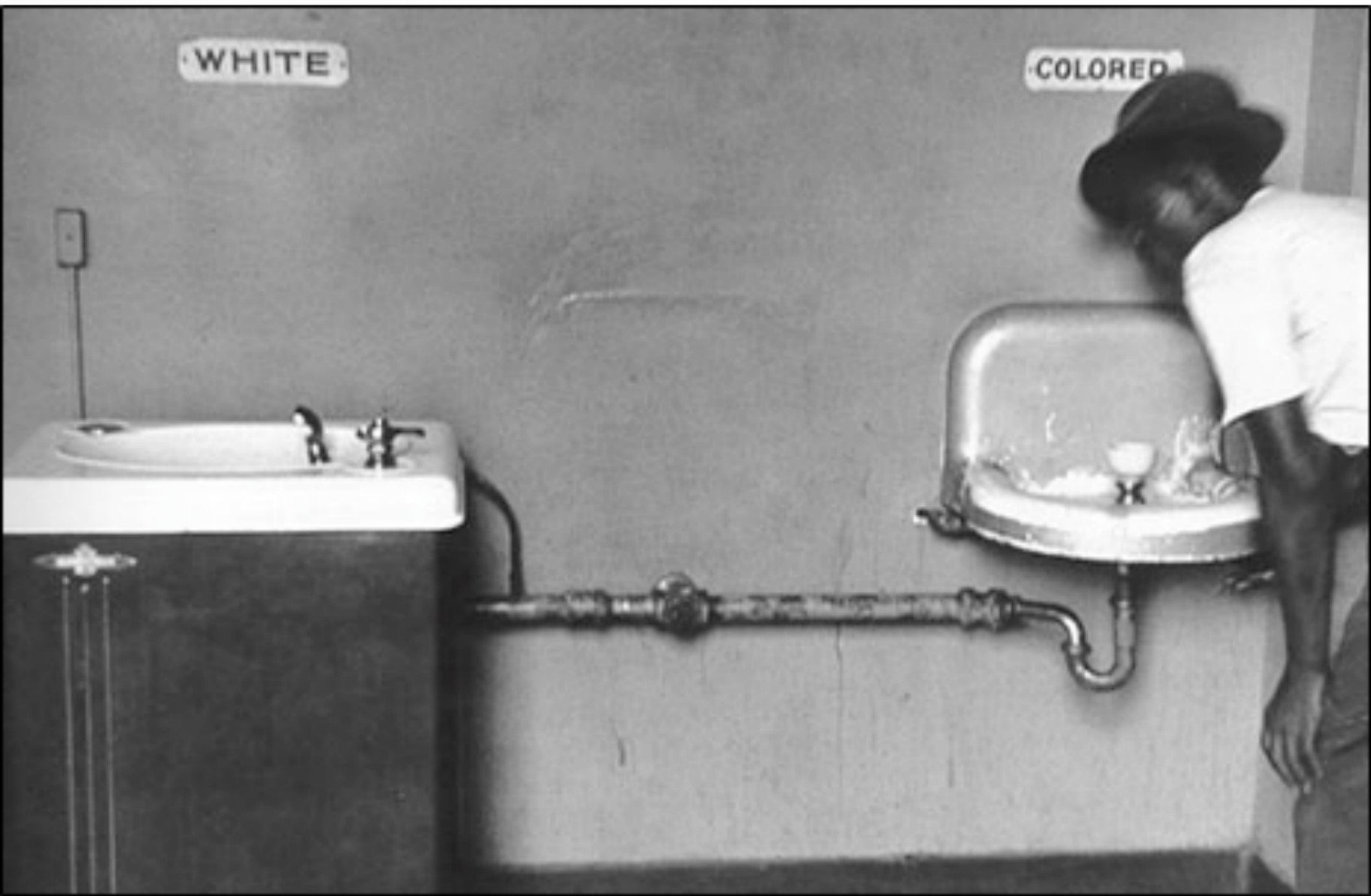
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== FOR ==
WHITE PASSENGERS

== FOR ==
COLORED PASSENGERS







REST ROOMS

WHITE



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L&N

8-13 SIGN 1976

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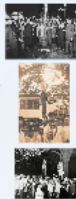
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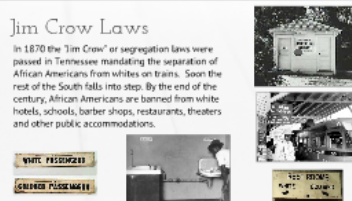
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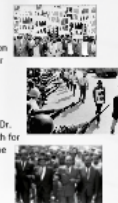
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