

Behold the People: R. C. Hickman's Photographs of Black Dallas, 1949-1961



Theater, 1955. The Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin R. C. Hickman Photographic Archive (VN 85-43-000279a)

"There was only one theater in downtown Dallas we were allowed to attend and that was the Majestic. Even there, we were only allowed into six or seven seats in the uppermost part of the balcony we called the 'buzzard roost.'" - R. C. Hickman

R. C. Hickman was a Dallas photographer whose thousands of images produced from 1949 to 1961 document aspects of life in an African American community in Texas. His photographs depict a community largely invisible to white Americans - thoroughly a part of mainstream America by virtue of accomplishment and lifestyle but excluded from it because of race.

Mr. Hickman worked as a commercial portrait photographer, as a photojournalist for several black newspapers in Dallas, as a freelance photographer for national black publications such as Jet, Sepia and Ebony and as a photographer for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). His images reveal his awareness of the broad community context within which individuals survive, grow and understand themselves.

Confederate Flag *con't from page 6*

Personally I think there has recently been a surge in racist group activities, which people don't talk about, because the US is on the brink of electing a black man as president. "Nuff Said".

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Mr. James I. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President, received one of the greatest honors that can be bestowed upon an individual. January 29, 2008 the Stephen F. Austin College of Education was named the James I. Perkins College of Education in his honor. Seated here, Mr. Perkins and Nebraska Runing Back, Cody Glenn, also former Citizens 1st Bank employee; Andrew Melontree of the Tyler Bank and Walter Session, Rusk city Councilman. They are viewing a thank you card to Mr. Perkins from Rusk State Hospital Employees and Superintendent Ted Debs for support given to RSH. The card is signed by each employee and has been framed and placed on display in the bank. RSH provides 936 jobs to East Texas.

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