End of an Era (360 Transition Poem)
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What is the difference between then and now?
When does an era end?
If the Civil Rights Era is over, does that mean everything that they fought for has been won?

If I can touch my parents
and they can still touch memories of
sharecropping and jim crow.
Redlining, and fire hoses.
Picket signs and burning crosses.
If my father can still touch the image of his friends being fired upon with live ammunition at a campus protest in 1968.
Tell me when does then end and now begin.

Those are just memories.
Today, in this country, when it comes to practices of housing discrimination now is still then for far too many groups of people.

We are here to commemorate and to celebrate the advancements made in fair housing, but more importantly we are here to learn. To do that effectively we must make the past ever present in any discussion of the future.

We can only make amends for then if we fight to never let it happen again.