

Shortly after midnight on Jan. 14, Sumter County Sheriff Fred Chappell telephoned Koinonia Farm that another explosion had taken place at our Roadside Market. Harry Atkinson and Clarence Jordan quickly went to the scene. A terrific charge of dynamite had been planted inside the building and the explosion blew the whole structure to bits, pieces of it going as far as 240 feet. Fragments showered the highway and surrounding property. Fire burned what was left of the building, equipment and goods. When Harry and Clarence arrived, the grass around the building was burning and was about to set fire to a bee-hive. Although there were gathered there about 40 white people, including officers and state patrolmen, no one attempted to stop the grass fire. There was no word of greeting. A Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent asked, "What was the size of the building?" We replied that it was 20 ft. by 30 ft. He then asked what we thought was the value of the building, fixtures and merchandise. We guessed it between \$5000 and \$7000. This was the extent of the interrogation.

There had been three previous attacks upon the Market. In June a .44 pistol was fired into it, doing little damage. On July 23 a charge of dynamite placed outside the building wrecked the front part and destroyed much equipment. The damage was estimated at \$3000. The third attack, November 27, consisted of several rounds of buckshot which destroyed a refrigerated meat case valued at \$300. As previously reported, the Market is 5 miles from the main farm. No one lives on the property.

We have decided, at least for the time being, not to clean up the wreckage, but to leave it beside the highway as a mute testimony to passersby of the fruits of hate and prejudice. It is fairly certain that, due to its distance from the main farm, we will not rebuild the Market on the same location within the foreseeable future.

We shall, however, continue to carry on the mail order business from here as best we can. Our entire supply of about 125 smoked hams and large quantities of Bacon, sausage, tongue, etc. were lost. Quite a number of orders had been packaged and were to be mailed the following morning. We lost all of our refrigeration and cold storage equipment, as well as processing equipment and supplies for curing meat. Over 100 lbs of shelled pecans, a large quantity of shelled peanuts, honey, popcorn, syrup, eggs and other products went up in the flames.

The loss of the Market is a serious blow, not only because of the actual loss, but because it deprives us, at least temporarily, from what was developing into one of the major sources of income. Last month our gross sales, largely from mail orders, amounted to over \$7000. This is about what our annual sales (through the Roadside Market) were before the mail order business began. We cannot tell now how soon we'll be able to get set up again. Our manpower is limited, and it is extremely difficult to get materials. A short while ago we were notified by Mr. Willis Shiver, head of the Shiver Lumber Company, that no more building materials would be sold to us. Mr. Shiver is a steward in the First Methodist Church. Fourteen of our buildings have been erected wholly or partially with materials obtained from him. He said that the reason he cut us off was "pressure from level-headed business men" and that his own feelings made him receptive to the pressure.

Yesterday, Jan. 17, the phone rang just before noon and Ora Browne answered. A voice said: "Tell Clarence to be on watch tonight, and be careful." Before Ora could ask any questions, the party hung up. Last night we doubled our watch, but it was in vain. About 2 A.M. the watchmen saw flames from one of our houses leaping into the sky. The house was located about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the cluster of community buildings and was the main residence on an adjoining farm which we purchased several years ago. Because of its distance, we had not used it for living quarters. It was valued at about \$1500. Due to the fact that the flames were far advanced when first spotted, and because we thought it might be an attempt to lure the men away from the main community, no one went to the scene until daylight. The sheriff was notified at once, but he never came.

About 4:30 A.M., while the house was still burning, Gil and Marguerite Butler, and Clarence Jordan went to the house of a neighbor, Jack Singletary, who was to accompany them on a previously planned business trip to Atlanta. When they arrived, they noticed a small fire under his large barn in which were stored his tractors, combine, fertilizer, feed and seed. They stopped and Gil ran to the barn where he found three kerosene flares which had been tossed from the road into the barn. Two of the flares had gone out, and one was still burning under a plank which was about to burst into flames. It was extinguished, and the party continued on to Atlanta.

Shortly after 7 A.M., Mrs. Singletary saw smoke coming from the barn. She went out to find a fourth flare which had been either overlooked or planted later. It was smoldering under a pile of lumber in the barn. She summoned help, and even though the pump and water pipes were frozen, they managed to break the ice on a cattle watering tank to get enough water to put out the fire. The Singletarys, who have four small children, live about six miles from Koinonia and have had a warm relationship with us over the years.

Several months ago the barn of another white neighbor, Mr. J. D. Clements, was mysteriously destroyed by fire. Because nearly all of his heavy machinery was housed in the barn, the loss was around \$30,000. Mr. Clements had helped with the Singletarys' crops while Jack was in the hospital for six months from burns suffered from an exploding fuel oil can.

When Mr. Harrington, a farmer from the other side of the county, moved in a few weeks ago to pick our corn (we have no corn-picker of our own) he was immediately beset by all kinds of physical and legal harassments, which became so acute that he had to quit before the field was more than one-fourth picked. He is now contemplating selling out and moving away.

On the night after Christmas, a car stopped on the highway, put a powerful spotlight on our recently installed gasoline pump and fired four heavy-calibre steel-jacketed bullets into its mechanism, then sped away. The pump is located a short distance from one of our dwellings. Just before dawn on New Year's Day, the sign at the entrance of our drive was riddled with bullets from an automatic rifle.

Lest you think all is darkness in this southwest Georgia county, let us quote a front-page article in yesterday's Americus Times-Recorder:

LOCAL MINISTERS ATTACK KOINONIA FARM VIOLENCE. The Americus and Sumter County Ministerial Association met in a called session Wednesday at the Lee Street Methodist Church to consider possible action relating to the act of violence which resulted in the destruction of the Koinonia Farm market on the Albany Road Monday evening.

A spokesman said the meeting was called by the executive committee after numerous requests by laymen and preachers had been received that some protest should be voiced by the ministers of the churches of the city and county.

A committee of ministers, which had been appointed by the Association in its December meeting, reported that there had been a series of acts of violent nature leveled against the people and property of Koinonia Farms. Among things reported were repeated instances of gunshots into market property and residence buildings, destruction of road signs and two bombings of the roadside market, one in July of 1956, the other Monday night of the present week.

Following a thorough discussion of these incidents and other related factors, the ministers unanimously adopted a resolution decrying violence and lawlessness. The resolution adopted read as follows:

RESOLUTION

"We deplore and condemn the use of violence in any form against property and/or persons because of their personal beliefs which do not endanger the rights of others. As Christians and citizens we hold the right to disagree with others concerning their beliefs without forcing their agreement or yielding ours.

"We further condemn lawlessness in any form and call upon every citizen and the forces of law to do all things necessary to protect the rights, properties, and lives of others in our community, state, and nation.

"In these difficult days in which many nations and people look to these United States for moral as well as political leadership, it behooves each citizen--and especially each Christian--to assert positive efforts to strengthen the cause of civic righteousness."

The president of the Ministerial Association is Rev. Mr. Edward Carrouth, pastor of the Lee Street Methodist Church, Americus. The action of these men might bring them under fire. Letters from you will help to reassure them of moral support. We know from experience how much letters mean in time of crisis.

The Ministerial Association also sent a letter to Governor Marvin Griffin, but no copy of the text was available.

We want to share with you our own feelings at this time. We cannot say that we are exactly easy, but we are not afraid. We are not at all down-hearted or discouraged, and there is not the slightest thought of giving up or moving away. We know that the things which God has given us to uphold and preserve are eternal and must abide. We are constantly praying for those who oppose us, and we are asking God to free us completely from every semblance of hate or ill-will. Laughter is frequent among us, and there is a deep, abiding joy, even though there are at times, evidences of fatigue and strain. We have ample food, clothing and shelter. In manifold ways, God continues to multiply His grace toward us. We shall seek to be true and faithful witnesses to His Way, and to His Love as we see it in the face of Jesus the Christ

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MAIL ORDER NEWS - If you have ordered anything recently, and have not received it, please be patient. We are trying to get everything straightened out. We will send your order or your refund as soon as we can.

Approximately 50 hams and 20 slabs of bacon were hanging in the smoke-house on the night of the bombing, and so escaped. This meat is fully cured and smoked, but has not been aged to come to full flavor. It can be cooked and eaten right away, but would be better if it could be held a month or so until a good mold develops. We would greatly appreciate moving this meat at once. The hams weigh from 8 to 18 lbs. and the price is 85¢ lb. postpaid. The bacon is 60¢ lb.

We still have ample supplies of the following for sale:

PECANS:	5 lbs. - \$2.75	50 lbs. - \$22.50	Shelled pecans: pieces \$1.10
	10 lbs. - 5.00	100 lbs. - \$38.00	halves 1.25

PEANUTS: We have only raw, shelled nuts, and have both the small spanish peanuts, which can't be surpassed for flavor or for making peanut butter, and the medium-sized Virginia bunch peanuts.

5 lbs. \$2.50	50 lbs. \$20.00
10 lbs. \$4.50	100 lbs. \$35.00

(All prices POSTPAID on orders of 5 lbs. or more East of the Rockies. For less than 5 lbs., or on West Coast orders, add 15¢ a pound to cover postage.)

That's all we have to sell right now, but we'll keep you informed as to future supplies of products. Your orders mean much to us, and we want you to know that we are deeply grateful.