

All summer Koinonia has been unwittingly and unwillingly a part of Georgia's political scene. There have been three candidates for governor: the present lieutenant governor, Ernest Vandiver; state representative Wm. T. Bodenhamer, pastor of the Baptist Church at Ty Ty, Georgia, and for several years executive secretary of the States Rights Council (known also as White Citizens' Council); and Lee Roy Abernathy, a north Georgia gospel singer. From the beginning, the race was actually between Vandiver and Bodenhamer.

The number one plank in the platform of both candidates was "maintenance of segregation at all costs." Bodenhamer claimed, however, that Vandiver was a "weakling" on segregation and that he himself was the real champion of the Georgia way of life. He then sought to link Vandiver with Koinonia because Robert Jordan, Clarence's brother, was chief aide to the lieutenant governor during 1955, '56 and '57. Bodenhamer published a paper called "Georgia Progress" and the July issue had a full page attack on Koinonia under the caption, "Vandiver Forces Bring Race-Mixing Farm to Georgia." Sub-headings were: "Vandiver's Chief Aide Jordan Attorney for Koinonia Farm;" "Koinonia Children Attend Integrated Summer Camp;" "Sumter County Grand Jury Charges Koinonia Farm-Communist Ties;" and "Bill Bodenhamer Pledges to Close Koinonia By Eminent Domain Law." The latter article stated: "Candidate for Governor William T. Bodenhamer has pledged himself to remove Koinonia Farm and any similar organizations from the State. The power of Eminent Domain will be exercised so that the State may condemn and take possession of any such operation in Georgia. Bodenhamer's creed of 'Strength, not weakness. Action, not words' is exemplified by this positive pledge to remove this blight." He further states, "On September 10, 1958, the people of Georgia, in unmistakable language will tell the world that the likes of KOINONIA have no place in Georgia."

In his public speeches and on radio and TV networks, Bodenhamer spent a good part of his time denouncing Koinonia. To climax his campaign, he came to Sumter County and in a speech before the courthouse in Americus, he called upon the people of this county to free themselves of "this festering blight" by electing him governor. He reiterated his pledge to close Koinonia immediately by eminent domain law.

On September 10, 1958, the people of Georgia did go to the polls. When the votes were all in, Vandiver had carried 156 counties, Bodenhamer 3, Abernathy none. And Sumter County was not one of the three in the Baptist preacher's camp. Said the Americus Times-Recorder (Sept. 11): "Sumter County voters gave Lt. Gov. Ernest Vandiver one of the most one-sided victories ever accorded a gubernatorial candidate here Wednesday in the state Democratic primary, winning by almost a four to one majority over William T. Bodenhamer. Vandiver racked up a total of 2,337 votes to his major opponent's scant 604." (An interesting sidelight is that in Clarence Jordan's native county (Talbot) Bodenhamer was defeated 10-1, while his brother, Robert, was elected, unopposed, to the State Senate.)

Earlier in the summer, the voters of Sumter County elected, among other officers, representatives to the state legislature. Up for re-election was Jack Murr, who introduced into the state legislature last spring the bill to "investigate" Koinonia, as reported in our May newsletter. But his intense opposition to Koinonia evidently was not enough to get him sufficient votes and he was soundly defeated.

Since Mr. Murr was the chief spark plug in the proposed investigation of Koinonia, and since he is not being returned to the legislature, we do not know what the outcome of the measure will be. Besides, before the bill was passed, its teeth were pulled. The provision giving the committee subpoena powers was removed, as was the appropriation of \$50,000 for the expenses of the committee. Thus, with neither power nor money, the committee would find it very difficult to function. However, we still maintain that we would welcome an honest investigation.

The boycott continues in effect, though its principal accomplishment at the moment is inconvenience. We have to go 30-40 miles for dental and some medical care, farm supplies and equipment, and most other necessary supplies. However, many business men, both white and Negro, in the outlying areas have helped us to obtain the things we need. The major items which we have the most difficulty obtaining are gas and diesel fuel, and fertilizer. So it seems to us that the people who are being hurt the most by the boycott against us are the ones who are doing the boycotting. The \$150,000 which Koinonia normally spends in this area each year is simply being transferred outside the county.

A few weeks ago a local white merchant came out to Koinonia and said to us: "I don't want you to think I've come out here trying to get your business, but I've stood this boycott about as long as I can and I want you to know that you'll be welcome in my store anytime." We tried to explain to him that the last man who said this to us had his feed store blown up. He said: "I know all that, but you leave that end of it up to me. I fought in the last war, and I figure this is still a free country and I ain't gonna let anybody tell me how to run my business any more. I want you to come to my store in the broad open daylight. Don't sneak in the back door, but come in the front door standing straight up." So far, nothing has happened to him, or to us.

The violence seems to have practically subsided. Apart from a couple of shots at John Gabor while he was grinding feed, and a pot-shot at Clarence on the tractor as he cultivated corn, there has been no violence since our last newsletter.

Perhaps the most encouraging and strengthening thing which has happened to us has been the coming of the Baer family in June. It consists of Mama and Papa Baer (Edna and Alan) and 12 little Baers: Ruth, Miriam, James, Moses, Mark, Naomi, Luke, Zenas, Ammon, Amos, Jonah and Joel. They originally came from Ontario, where they were members of the Mennonite Church. Feeling the call to church-community, they left Ontario and joined New Rosedale Colony, a Hutterian community in Manitoba. When this community branched out, the Baers were among those sent to help establish the new one, Forest River, located at Fordville, N.D. It was from there that they came to Koinonia. Their long experience in community, their devotion to Christ, and their ways of love and peace have contributed greatly to the up-building and strengthening of the Koinonia.

How a family of 14 functions is still something of a mystery to the rest of us. For example, when the community bell rings for breakfast at 6 o'clock each morning, a child fully clothed seems to pop out of the Baer den every 10 seconds, beginning with the youngest, who is just able to walk, until last of all Mama and Papa Baer emerge as calm and unruffled as a still lake at midnight. Though we haven't located it yet, the rest of us, who have only two to four children, are sure they have some kind of a dressing chute where clothes are fed in automatically and drop around the youngster as he runs through it. Moreover, their house is always one of the neatest on the place, inside and out. It just goes to prove that they're not only cheaper by the dozen, but better. Of course, we're not saying about the second dozen.

Speaking of children, Con and Ora Browne are expecting their fifth in January, to break the tie between two boys and two girls. During July, the Browne family spent twelve days visiting relatives and attending a Browne reunion in Kansas. The Wittkampers also spent some time with relatives in Indiana, and the Peerys were with Kinfolk in Kentucky and Ohio.

Ross Anderson recently returned from a Peacemakers' Conference at Woolmandale in Pennsylvania and a visit with friends in Toronto. Clarence Jordan spent three days at Martin Luther King's church in Montgomery, Ala., delivering an annual lecture series. In June he addressed the Gen. Council of the Congregational Christian Churches in Boston, and also the Brethren Men's Rally at Camp Mack, Ind. In July he spoke at the General Convention of the AME Zion Church in Columbus, Ohio. On October 8 he will be the speaker

at a one-day retreat of the faculty and students of Harvard Divinity School, and on Oct. 14 will address the Mid West Regional Meeting of the Missions Council of the Congregational Christian Churches at Ft. Wayne, Ind. He is slated to address a young people's rally in Minneapolis, Minn., on Nov. 9, and to speak at Vespers at Emory University in Atlanta on Nov. 16.

Paul Goodman was sent to Forest River Community in North Dakota for two weeks in August in response to their request for help in the grain harvest. A welder by trade, Paul quickly learned to handle one of their self-propelled combines.

The newest addition to the Koinonia family is Dorothy Swisshelm from Cincinnati. A long-time friend, she has had a growing desire to go deeper in her commitment to Christ and spent two weeks with us last spring exploring the idea of church-community. She then decided to ask for a year's leave of absence from her job (psychiatric social work) so she could be with us longer. We hope that the population of Cincinnati has permanently decreased by one. (Incidentally, Koinonia's population now stands at 43.)

While in Cincinnati, Dorothy was a member of Maurice McCrackin's church, which has been in the spotlight lately because Rev. McCrackin, a pacifist, refused to pay income taxes because he feels that it violates his Christian conscience as much to buy bombs as to drop them. In addition to being pastor of his church, Rev. McCrackin is head of the Findlay Street Neighborhood House, a Community Chest agency. Both the church and the Chest have stood behind Mr. McCrackin, but because of the tremendous pressure put on the Chest to oust him, the Neighborhood House has agreed to accept only funds designated for it. About \$40,000 is needed to meet its annual budget.

The oat crop, harvested in June with a combine rescued from the junk heap by John Gabor, was a bumper one, averaging almost 90 bu. per acre on 34 acres. Corn, after a late start and severe damage by hail and insects, finally came through with the highest yield in our history. We estimate that it will run well over 90 bu. per acre on 110 acres. But the heavy rains which boosted corn yields hurt the peanuts, and it now appears that we'll make scarcely over 30 tons on 82 acres, about half a crop.

The pecan crop looks fairly good this year, and will probably run about 80% of normal. We think nuts will begin falling around Oct. 15 and will be dry enough to start shelling Nov. 1. We can start filling your orders with new crop pecans shortly after that. We're enclosing a price sheet and order blank with this newsletter.

We would like to tell you a bit about what goes on in the nut houses. Two large poultry barns have been completely remodeled for this purpose (the other two have been converted into machinery sheds and shops), one of them being used as a warehouse and for cleaning nuts in the shell, and the other houses the cracking, shelling, grading, sorting and drying equipment. The pecans are first run through a huge vacuum cleaner which removes twigs, dirt and light or empty nuts. They empty onto a grading belt where off-color or cracked nuts are removed by hand, and then go into a revolving cylinder about 18 ft. long where they are sorted into about eight different sizes. At this point we'll sack them up for those of you who want them in the shell.

But if you want them shelled, we'll roll them over to the next building and dump them in a tank which holds about 7000 lbs., and they'll be washed and sterilized, then drained for 36 hours. From this tank they'll go into a long battery of cracking machines which delicately hammer one nut at the time so precisely that a kernel is seldom broken. Conveyor belts take the cracked nuts to the shellers, which gently rub off the broken shells and drop both shells and kernels into the blowers. By proper adjustment of the air, we can blow out the shells, leaving the halves and pieces, which are further separated by a sorting machine. The final grading is done by hand

by spreading the nuts out on long tables and removing any off-color or faulty nuts and any piece of shell which might have slipped by. This is the slowest and most tedious part of the process. After being carefully picked over at least twice, the nuts are taken to a drying room where moisture content is lowered to a safe keeping level. This is determined by drawing samples periodically and making a test with an electronic device which gives the moisture content to within 1/100 of a per cent. This is extremely important, because pecans with even a slight excess of moisture will mold either en route to you or shortly thereafter.

When fully dried, the nuts are packaged in either bulk boxes or 1 lb. cellophane sacks and sent to the shipping room, where they're put on their way to you.

Space forbids our telling you about the hundreds of people who have been here this summer for varying lengths of time. Our guest book reads like a Who's Who Around the World. If anyone has the feeling that Koinonia is isolated or withdrawn or lacking friends, let him send for the guest book, or better still, come by and sign it.

For the love of God which has been shed abroad in so many hearts, for the Christ-given peace which underlies the tensions and conflicts with the world, for the joy of the High Call to discipleship through the Holy Spirit, we are humbly grateful. To each of you, whether known or unknown in person, we send our warm greetings. May God strengthen you in the doing of His will.

--from all of us at Koinonia

Koinonia Community

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A.C. Miller,
161 Eighth Ave., North,
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Pecans and Peanuts from
KOINONIA FARM, Americus, Georgia

SHELLED PECANS (Minimum order 2 lbs)

	<u>Halves</u>	<u>Pieces</u>	<u>Sprinkles</u> (for cookies and topping)
Boxes of 2, 4, 8 and 30 one pound cellophane bags	\$1.50 lb	\$1.35 lb	\$1.20 lb
Bulk - in boxes of 28 lbs (halves) and 30 lbs (pieces) (see special discount below)	\$1.40 lb	\$1.25 lb	\$1.10 lb
<u>Gift Box</u> - 1 lb select shelled, postpaid anywhere	\$1.85 lb	\$1.65 lb	

PECANS IN THE SHELL (Bulk)	5 lb box or bag - \$ 3.00	10 lb box or bag - \$ 5.75
	50 lb bag - 23.00	100 lb bag - 45.00
(1 lb cellophane bags)	2 lb - \$1.50	4 lb - \$ 2.75
	8 lb - 5.25	24 lb - 15.00

PEANUTS IN THE SHELL (With instructions for easy roasting in your own oven. The aroma and flavor of freshly roasted peanuts are a real treat.)

4 lb sack or box - \$ 1.60	8 lb sack or box - \$ 3.00
40 lb sack - \$13.50	80 lb sack - \$25.00

All prices are delivered to you postpaid, except on orders going west of New Mexico, Colorado, Cheyenne, Wyoming and the Dakotas. For these, add 10¢ per lb on orders under 25 lbs; 5¢ per lb on orders above 25 lbs.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT ON SHELLED PECANS. You may deduct 15% if you order two or more cases (24 to 30 lbs each). This applies to nuts in either cellophane sacks or in bulk, but only to shelled pecans.

We will be glad to mail your Christmas packages for you, enclosing a card, or you may send us your own card to enclose.

Our shelled pecans are packaged in attractive cellophane sacks printed with a Koinonia design on the front, and recipes for pecan pie, cake and pralines on the sides and back. You will want to use them for gifts for nearly any occasion.

To order, cut on line and send to Koinonia Farm, Americus, Georgia

ORDER BLANK

Date of order _____

When ship _____

SHIP TO Name _____ Street (or RR) _____
(Please Print)

City and State _____ Zone _____

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

If you wish part or all of this order sent to addresses other than above, please attach separate list with instructions. Be sure to print names and addresses plainly. Amount Enclosed _____