

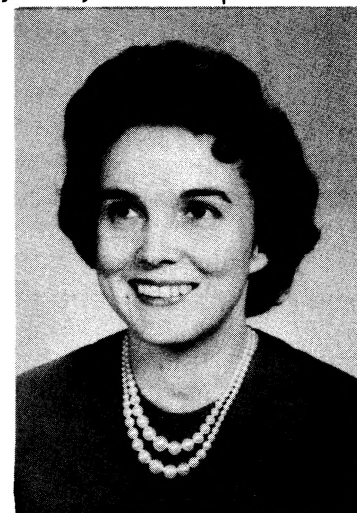
Last June the Koinonia family was enlarged and strengthened by the coming of Al Henry and his wife, Carol, with their three daughters, Janet, 6, Nancy, 10, and Linda, 12. Al is a native Georgian (his mother is Clarence Jordan's first cousin), and he is a graduate of Mercer University in Macon, Ga. He also attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., from which he received his B.D. degree. He later received specialized training in clinical pastoral education at N.C. Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, and at Central State Hospital, Lakeland, Ky. He then served as chaplain at Mississippi State Hospital, and from there he went to the University Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., as its pastor.



Al

But the Mississippi State Hospital wanted him back, and recalled him, this time as Chief of Chaplains. It was from this post that he was called to be pastor of the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Birmingham, Ala.

About this time the civil rights struggle exploded in Birmingham. As a Christian minister, Al did not feel that he could remain either neutral or silent. Since his church was in a fashionable suburb, he knew that to boldly proclaim the word of God might cost him his pulpit, but the urge was upon him. He made many contacts with the Negro community, and some of the ministers became his closest



Carol



Janet Nancy Linda

friends. When the focal point of the struggle shifted to Selma, Al identified with it and joined in the march there. This increased the tension with his church to the point where he felt he had to make some move. Since he wanted to continue his Christian witness in the South, he was naturally drawn to Koinonia. He moved his family here the early part of June. Besides doing his share of farm work, which ranges from

milking to carpentry to office work, he is Koinonia's minister-at-large. He is rapidly becoming acquainted with the surrounding neighborhood, and we believe that in the months ahead he will do much to create a climate of reconciliation in this racially torn and divided area.

Carol is also a native Georgian and a graduate of Mercer University, where she met Al. Her father is a prominent Baptist clergyman, and at present is pastor of the Vineville Baptist Church in Macon, Ga., and a trustee of Mercer. She is an excellent cook, can out-milk Al, and will be lending a hand to the office force. The three girls are all in school: Janet is in the first grade at Thalean, the near-by grammar school, and Nancy is in the 5th grade there. Linda is in the eighth grade at the Americus High School, which is now integrated. There are about 40 Negroes enrolled in the formerly white schools of Americus.

But the children from Koinonia still find the situation mighty rough in the Americus schools, especially the boys. When it becomes unbearable, the only solution is to send them elsewhere to school. For the second year David Wittkamper will be staying with relatives in Indiana. And Lennie Jordan, just turned 13, will spend his first year away from home at the Society of Brothers' Evergreen Community in Norfolk, Conn. In many respects the community is (over, please)

similar to Koinonia, and since we have some very dear friends there, it will be like a second home for Lennie. But just the same, these acres seem empty without David and Lennie.

In our April letter we mentioned that our friend Ashton Jones had begun serving a year and a half sentence imposed upon him for "disturbing divine worship" at the First Baptist Church in Atlanta. We asked that you write to the Governor, asking that Ashton be pardoned. And write you did! Almost immediately hundreds upon hundreds of letters poured in from all over the nation. They were compassionate, moving, eloquent--and effective. By the last of May Ashton was freed by a writ of executive clemency. When he was released he came to Koinonia and we presented him with the huge box of the copies of the letters you wrote in his behalf. He was overwhelmed. And he asked that we thank you for your loving concern which set him free.

The Americus situation is somewhat quiet now, after a very tense summer. There are many causes of unrest here, and the city fathers seem unwilling to face up to the fact that some changes must take place. The match which touched off the summer of violence and demonstrations was the arrest of four Negro women for "blocking a voting place." It was a minor election--for justice of the peace--and one of the four women was a candidate for the office. When they came to vote, they were instructed to get in the Negro line, and they refused. They were immediately jailed, and because they felt their jailing was unjust, they refused to accept bond. They remained in jail until a federal judge ordered their release. During their imprisonment feelings ran high in both the white and Negro communities, which eventually resulted in the slaying of a white youth. Finally the authorities agreed to correct some of the Negroes' grievances, but to date not much has been done. But since the passing of the new civil rights bill nearly 2,000 Negroes have registered to vote, and in future elections this will make itself felt.

At the same election at which the women were arrested, Collins McGee from Koinonia, who was an official poll watcher, was beaten up by a white registrar when Collins challenged his right to tell a Negro how to vote. Earlier Collins had been beat over the head with an umbrella by a very distinguished man when Collins attended the graduation of his white Koinonia friend, Greg Wittkamper. Bricks were hurled at Al Henry, who successfully dodged and ran at the same time.

An outstanding work is being carried on in Albany, Ga., 30 miles south of us, by four young people who call themselves the Freedom Medical and Housing Corps. Their purpose is "to organize the community to remedy the unbearable health and housing conditions found throughout much of the poor community here." Living among the poor, they are giving themselves with great devotion to this positive and practical task. Their total budget, which includes living expenses for all four, is only \$300 a month, but since they have undertaken this on their own, without any sponsoring agency, they never know where even this amount is coming from. We have tried to encourage them, and we commend them to you. For a complete prospectus of their program and personnel, write to Miss Kit Havice, 303 Highland Ave., Albany, Ga.

Our "involvement fund" (a loan fund made up of contributions sent in to help local Negroes get started in their own business) is now over \$1200. And a group of young people in Boulder, Colo., worked at various projects and raised \$75, which they sent in "to be used as you think best." So we decided to buy five second-hand bicycles, which we distributed to Negro children in the neighborhood. And never have we seen so little create so much joy. We were so moved by it that now we're undertaking a "bikes-and-trikes-for-tikes" program. Our goal is to distribute at least 1,000. If you want to help, send a bike or trike if you can do so for less than \$15. Otherwise, it would be best to send the money and let us buy a good second-hand one here for that amount.

We've worked hard this summer building a new candy kitchen and installing new equipment with which to make our "pecan-dy." This will be welcome news to those of you who last season bought and ate many of our "mistakes". The candy this year will be much improved and we think you'll be pleased with it. Our other products will maintain the usual high quality.