

The Jimmy Carter Collector



February 2018 A Chapter of the American Political Items Collectors (www.apic.us) Michael J. Brooks, Editor (michaeljbrooks2011@gmail.com)

The Koinonia Connection

by Michael J. Brooks

Former Carter White House Chief-of-Staff, the late Hamilton Jordan, wrote in his 2000 book, “No Such Thing as A Bad Day,” about his father’s cousin, Clarence Jordan, whom he called “Uncle Clarence.”

“As I grew older, I learned to both understand and appreciate my unusual Uncle Clarence and began to visit him—without my parents’ knowledge—once or twice a year, starting with my junior year in high school. G.K. Chesterton one said, ‘The only problem with Christianity is that no one has ever tried it.’ Chesterton obviously never met my Uncle Clarence” (pp. 120-121).

Clarence Jordan founded Koinonia Farms in Americus, Ga., in 1942, wishing to demonstrate that people of different races could live and work together in harmony.

“Koinonia” (coin-uh-NEE-uh) is a Greek word used in the New Testament to describe relationship or fellowship, and is demonstrated in Acts where Luke wrote that the young church in Jerusalem “had all things in common” (Acts 2:44).

Jordan earned his college degree in agriculture, graduating in the same class as Sen. Herman Talmadge at the University of Georgia. He met and married his wife, Florence, while a student at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville where he earned his Ph.D. in New Testament Greek.

The Jordans and former American Baptist missionaries Martin and Mabel England moved to a 440-acre site



Clarence Jordan

outside Americus to begin their work. They cultivated a reverence for the soil, calling it “God’s holy earth,” and sought to pay fair wages to workers of all races.

The Koinonia partners lived in relative peace alongside their Sumter County neighbors initially, but as the civil rights movement heated up, some local white citizens increasingly perceived Koinonia, with its commitment to racial equality, a threat. In the 1950s and 60s Koinonia became the target of a stifling economic boycott and repeated violence.

A storefront in downtown Americus was bombed in May 1957. It was owned by a local vendor who did business with Koinonia despite the boycott.

When Jordan sought relief from President Eisenhower, the federal government refused to intervene,

Continued on Page 3

President's Message

Dear Fellow CPIC Members:

We are looking forward to a great New Year for all the Carter Collectors.

In July of this year the APIC, our parent organization, will hold the National Convention in Springfield, Illinois—the hometown of President Lincoln - July 17-22. Also, other Regional Shows will be held this year.

We are working on our Annual CPIC Convention to be held Sept. 21-23. At this time, we are working on a speaker and always a good time with the auction and other events, so mark your calendar. We will have the details to follow with the next newsletter.

The hotel for the auction and banquet will be the Quality Inn, 1205 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Americus, Ga. The phone number is 229.924.4431 for reservations.

I'd like to let you know that a new book by President Carter, "The Craftsmanship of Jimmy Carter," published by Mercer University Press, is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. The book came out Dec. 1 and is a coffee table-sized book. The book is showing many wood-working projects of President Carter, illustrated with wonderful color pictures of his projects. I think every collector would enjoy it very much, as I do. (Editor's note: The club gave the president some router bits for his birthday a few years ago. No doubt these were used in his wood-working projects!).

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their dues for 2018. If you haven't yet—enclosed is a membership form, also a membership form for the Parent Organization, the American Political Items Collectors, you get a monthly newspaper and four magazines which are a great guide in collecting and learning the schedules of Regional Shows.

I hope that you can contribute with a story or an item for sale or want item. You can use this newsletter at no charge—please forward the information to our Editor, Mike Brooks.

I would like to take this opportunity to say it is an honor to serve another two years as your President of the Best Chapter of the American Political Items Collectors and serving with our Vice President, Mike Brooks; Secretary Mike Motes and Treasurer, Shirley Van Sickle.

On a sad note, Judi Label passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 2 at age 72. As many remember, she was always

a big help with our auctions at our convention.

This was Shirley's first cousin and she will be missed. John Parker also passed away on Oct. 29 at age 77.

Many of us remember John working in Hugh Carter's store. John always came to our events and was an expert in Carter political.

I hope to hear from many of you and we will keep you updated on events and our convention. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Always like to hear from you. Phone 740.815.9292.

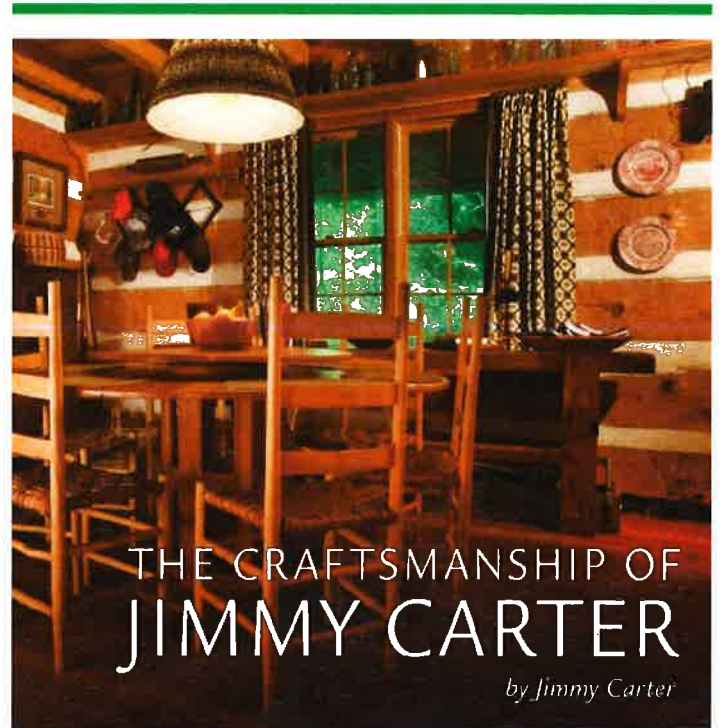
Sincerely,

Roger M. Van Sickle

CPIC President



"Like" Carter Political Items Collectors on Facebook



instead referring the matter to the governor of Georgia who ordered the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to examine Koinonia's supporters and partners for purported Communist ties.

Through it all Jordan maintained a commitment to pacifism and non-violence.

In the late 60s Jordan began to turn his energies to speaking and writing.

His best-known books are the four-volume "Cotton Patch" translation of the New Testament. Jordan believed it was necessary not only to translate individual words and phrases, but also the context of scripture. For example, he retitled Ephesians "The Letter to the Christians in Birmingham," rendered Jew and Gentile as white man and Negro and referred to crucifixion as lynching. According to the New Georgia Encyclopedia, Jordan had "John the Baptist conduct[ing] baptisms in the Chattahoochee River, the disciple Peter is given a 'Yankee' accent, and Jesus [was] born in Gainesville" (Georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/arts-culture/cotton-patch-gospel)!

Jordan died in 1969 and is buried, as requested, in an unmarked grave on the Koinonia property.

Millard Fuller of Lanett, Ala., along with his wife, Linda, came to Koinonia to live in 1968 after experiencing life crises. Fuller earned a lot of money in construction, but gave it away and looked for a greater cause. He worked for five years on a new project called "partnership housing," then lived and worked for three years building houses in Zaire, now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It would bring a smile to his face to know that one of his followers—Millard Fuller—took his new vision and transformed it into Habitat for Humanity.

The Fullers established "Habitat for Humanity" in Americus in 1976.

Millard Fuller encouraged former President Carter to affiliate with Habitat in 1984. The Carters began to contribute and then volunteered their time for an annual Jimmy Carter Work Project somewhere in the world.

Habitat affiliates worldwide have constructed or rehabilitated over 800,000 homes by 2013 and were active in more than 70 nations.

Hamilton Jordan wrote, "It would bring a smile to his face to know that one of his followers—Millard Fuller—took his new vision and transformed it into Habitat for Humanity. Clarence would also find it a great and pleasant irony that his farmer-politician neighbor down the road, Jimmy Carter, was one of its main supporters" (p. 142).



President Bill Clinton awarded Fuller the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, and former President George H.W. Bush and the Points of Light Foundation honored both Fullers in 2005.

The Fullers left Habitat in 2005 and established the Fuller Center for Housing, also in Americus. The first board meeting of the new organization was held at Koinonia.

Fuller died in 2009 and is buried, like Jordan, at Koinonia Farms.

Linda Fuller remarried in 2011. The Fuller Center for Housing established the "Lind-A Hand" program in her honor in 2015 in which all-women teams of volunteers build and repair homes.

Hamilton Jordan died in 2008. A cancer survivor, it is believed his death was due to asbestos exposure during his time in Vietnam. His body was cremated.

Visitors to Koinonia Farms today can buy peanuts, pecans, chocolate, coffee and other treats from the gift shop, as well as copies of the "Cotton Patch" New Testament. All profits support the farm community.

Koinonia is located on Georgia Highway 49 South, about eight miles from the Quality Inn in Americus. The website is koinoniapartners.org.

CPIC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

Roger Van Sickle, President
461 Curve Road
Delaware, OH 43015-3021
rmv610@aol.com

Shirley Van Sickle, Treasurer
shirleyavan@aol.com

Michael Brooks, Vice President
10696 Highway 119 S
Alabaster, AL 35007
michaeljbrooks2011@gmail.com

Michael Motes, Secretary
701 Powell Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185
3892motes@gmail.com

Vivian Ekberg, Secretary
Emeritus
81 S. Stanfield Road
Troy, OH 45373
937.552.7338

Rosalynn Carter

28 September 2017

Dear Shirley and Roger,

We are so glad the CPIC annual meeting is held in Plains during the peanut festival. Your presence adds to the success of our festival, and we always enjoy the evening event. It is a nice time to relax with you and the other members present.

In addition to a wonderful evening, the gifts are great! We will enjoy having more than two nice glasses that match, and the pitcher is both beautiful and useful. Thank you so much.

We also send thanks for the donation to our church. Our church members are aware of your contribution and are grateful for your kindness and generosity.

With our very best wishes,

Sincerely, Warmly,

*Rosalynn Carter
Jimmy Carter*

Political Wisdom

You know when I first thought I might have a chance? When I realized that you could go into any bar in the country and insult Lyndon Johnson and nobody would punch you in the nose.

-1968 Presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy

I am an old man, and I have lived through many battles and wear many scars. So listen to me closely. Do not become embroiled in the difficulty in Vietnam.

-former French President Charles De Gaulle to Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in 1967



Habitat's most famous volunteers.