

Kentucky's Silent Monks

Continued from page 7
monks from Mellary Abbey in France bought 1,400 acres from the Sisters of Loreto, who had started an orphanage south-

west of Bardtown. Forty men from Mellary in Nelson County is still a treasured possession of the monks at Gethsemani.

The contingent of monks and lay brothers from Brittany in France traveled by steamer, average class, from New Orleans to Louisville and went in three hired wagons to Bardtown. They arrived at Bardtown in a downpour, late at night, a few days before Christmas.

They were given food and shelter by the Jesuit father of St. Joseph's College. The next afternoon the colonists saw the dilapidated cabins that were to be their first home in the forest at Gethsemani.

"Falling on our knees, we recited a 'patry' and an 'Ave' to salute the good guardian angels of Gethsemani, and we kissed the earth so soon to be watered by our sweat and even by our tears," wrote father Eutropius, their prior.

Less than two years later, Pope Pius IX raised Gethsemani from a priory to an abbey and father Eutropius was selected to be its abbot. Dom Eutropius, a successful contractor, supervised the work of establishing permanent buildings and holding the community together through difficult years, when postulants to the isolated monastery were scarce.

Until 1855 the residents at the abbey were Europeans. That year a Kentuckian, who also had been a cowboy in Texas, took the brown habit of a lay brother in the order and

became known as Brother Joachim.

Since Brother Joachim's time an increasing number of Americans have joined the order.

The first native American to become abbot at Gethsemani was Dom Frederic M. Dunne, who came from Florida at the age of 20 to join the order in 1894.

He was prior of the monastery for 30 years and abbot for 13 years. At his death in 1946, the community had increased from 70 members to 160 members. Also, two affiliated houses -- one in Georgia and one in Utah -- were founded in Dom Frederic's time.

The present abbot, also a native American, is the Rev. M. James Fox, a graduate of Harvard University who was a naval officer in World War I. Later he was a revenue agent for the U.S. Treasury Department. He came to Gethsemani in 1927 and was abbot of Gethsemani a few weeks

Gethsemani's house at Conyers, Ga., before he became abbot of Gethsemani a few weeks after Dom Frederic's death.

Thomas Merton, the author of "The Seven Storey Mountain," became a priest at Gethsemani more than 15 years ago. His monastic name is Louis.

Father Louis has described the silent Trappists of Gethsemani this way.

"They have felt the terrible insufficiency of life in a civilization that is entirely dedicated to the pursuit of shadows."

Season's Greetings

May good cheer be yours this Yule...



Dorsey Bros. & Fisher

Christmas



May the true meaning of this season be an inspiration to you and yours...

1966

Dee Jay Auto Parts



May He bless your home...

Coe Oil Service
Stewart Moore, Agent

1966
the merriest...
of greetings to you...



Gene's T. V.



Thanks for your patronage... 1966

Rex and Paul Shell Service