Lafayette — Alfred McZeal is the first full-time person hired by Southern Consumers Co-operative, SCC, a non-denominational, interracial co-operative organized in 1961, by Father Albert McKnight, C.S.Sp., to promote the economic well being of Louisiana citizens.

Fifteen communities are involved in the co-operative’s People’s enterprise through which money is available at low interest rates to SCC members. McZeal is a native of Lafayette parish. Born in Ridge in 1931, he moved to Lafayette in 1946. He married the former Vergis Sampia in 1952. They have three daughters and one son.

Prior to employment with Southern Consumers Cooperative, McZeal worked on farms, as a porter and cook. He became active in SCC when Clyde Coco and Clayton Bourges approached him for membership six months after the co-operative was organized. He has served as chairman of the local area and now he is a custodian.

RESPONSIBILITIES as a full time employee entail testing the co-operative market, selling the idea of co-operatives to those who need the services of SCC, and educating the public on co-operative principles.

The custodian calls on people in their homes, encouraging them to invest in SCC, and explaining the functions of the People’s enterprise and how shares increase in value.

McZeal says members are encouraged to purchase at least one share a month, amounting to $12.50. Savings can be withdrawn at any time, he said.

His employment with SCC started June 15 of this year, and to date he has grossed $6,300 in new business for the co-operative.

“The present condition of the co-operative is good,” he said.

People are asking more questions and showing more interest. They want to get involved.”

McZEAL BELIEVES the co-operative has a promising future. “It’ll be big business. Money will come in, and that’s exactly what we’re working for. We want SCC to be a success so we can help the people of this area.”

He makes a monthly report to the board of directors. The co-operative’s board has two committees: Officers of the co-operative, consisting of Father Albert McKnight, president; Clyde Coco, Lafayette, vice president; Lester Scurlock, New Iberia, second vice president; Rita J. Joseph, Lafayette, secretary-treasurer; with Father August Thompson (Diocese of Alexandria), Ned Robinson, Gueydan, Coley Bellamy, Rayne, Herman Spikes and Alvin Biagas, Lake Charles, serving as representatives.

The second committee is the SCC Education Foundation consisting of Una Mae Hargrave, Lafayette, president; Dr. James R. Oliver, vice president; Carole Prejean, Lafayette, secretary-treasurer. Serving as representatives are Father Ivan Arceneaux, Lafayette; Miss Joseph, Lafayette; Miss Susan Lies, Lafayette; Scurlock, and Coco.

**Interracial Co-op Employs First Full-Time Person**

**Door to Door**

A custodian for Southern Consumers co-operative has a lot of sidewalk pounding to do, according to Alfred McZeal, first full-time worker with SCC. He calls on members and prospective members, trying to increase membership and investments.

**Selling the Co-operative**

It takes more than a smile to sell the co-operative idea. Alfred McZeal claims, but area citizens have been interested and more people are beginning to join the Southern Consumers co-operative.