

# Ex-GIs Out To Kill Pension Plan By Taking Over Offices Of American Legion, V. F. W.

By DOUGLAS LARSEN  
NEA Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON.—Within the next few months there will be drastic changes in America's veterans organizations.

For the first time, veterans of World War II will take over leadership of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

And a merger of Amvets and the American Veterans Committee, which is in the wind, stands a good chance of being accomplished.

Probably the most important result of these changes is a possible death blow to the expensive pension plans which were defeated in the 81st Congress and which would have been of most immediate benefit to World War I veterans.

Newest and most surprising development is the possible merger of AVC and Amvets, the only strictly World War II vet organizations still surviving. In 1946 the Amvet convention voted against joining with AVC, because of the latter's left-wing taint. But Amvet leaders, backed up by the opinion of most experts on veterans' affairs, now feel that the AVC has successfully purged itself of the Reds.

Both Sides Agreed  
Leaders of both organizations say frankly that a merger would be mutually beneficial especially since both are agreed on practically every big issue.

Both Harold A. Keats, Amvet national commander, and Gilbert A. Harrison, AVC national chairman, claim that there have been

no preliminary, high-level talks on the subject.

They fear that a report of such discussions would prejudice and antagonize rank-and-file members, who will have the final say in sanctioning it. If the merger materializes at their conventions coming up in a few months. Talk of it, they say, has come spontaneously but independently from both groups.

Their successful side-by-side fights against the pension plan and for the national housing bill which was passed, coupled with AVC's Red purge, has brought the merger to a head. And an analysis of the constitutions of both outfits reveals practically no basic differences of goals.

Both exclude members of the Communist party and both are for world government, extended social security, federal health insurance and other liberal plans. Their biggest difference with the Legion and VFW has been over the pension plans.

Younger Heads Slated  
Both the Legion and VFW will probably elect World War II vets as national commanders at their 1949 conventions. It's a certainty that Clyde A. Lewis, 36, a former



EUGENE will be host to the 15th annual Oregon State Softball Tournament Aug. 28-Sept. 1, and Diane Barnhardt will rule as Miss Softball. The finalist in the state beauty contest at Seaside recently is shown here being crowned by Maurice Jacobs, president of the host Eugene Softball Assn.

## Counter Suit Filed In "Horseburger" Action

PORTLAND, Aug. 18.—(AP)—A meat dealer sued yesterday for \$15,000 on a charge that he sold a restaurant ground horsemeat as ground beef, answered yesterday with a \$40,000 suit alleging that the claim was false and designed to destroy his reputation.

Talmadge F. Staley, president and general manager of Holgate Farms, Inc., filed the \$40,000 suit against the proprietors of Wiggle Inn, southeast district restaurant. Their suit alleged that his firm sold horsemeat to them. They paid a \$100 fine in municipal court for sale of unlabeled horsemeat.

Staley's suit asked \$25,000 for damage to his reputation and \$15,000 punitive damages.

## Town Finances Spray To Fight Polio Threat

ONTARIO, Ore., Aug. 18.—(AP)—This town emptied its pockets to finance spraying with DDT as an anti-polio measure.

Some \$1,400 has been contributed for the spraying work, which would not be financed out of city coffers. Public health officials hope to spray within a week.

Whether DDT actually prevents the spread of polio is not

bomber pilot and Plattsburgh, N. Y., attorney, will take over VFW leadership. He has served as Vice Commander this year.

The Legion choice is limited to one of the three eligible candidates. They are Jim Green, an Omaha attorney; Erle Coche, Jr., a farmer and railroad executive from Dawson, Ga., and George N. Craig, an attorney from Brazil, Ind. All three have held high Legion offices since the war.

The Legion convention will undoubtedly feature a fight over whether or not to reverse the Legion's pension stand. Key members privately admit now that the pro-pension fight has hurt the organization with the public, and is tending to drive a wedge between World War I and World War II members.

The switch to a World War II commander isn't expected to affect the VFW very much in its traditional stand for a pension. But if all goes as some of the World War II boys hope, the VFW will be alone in supporting a pension plan before the next Congress.

## Humble Scribe Fills His Eyes, Ears At \$5 Million Gem Display

By ED CREACH

NEW YORK, Aug. 18.—(AP)—If you really can't decide what to get me for Christmas, there's a little doodad on display over at the Waldorf-Astoria that would suit me like chestnut dressing suits roast turkey.

Not that I'm hinting, mind you. As a matter of fact I'm not sure what I am doing. I've just come back from that \$3,000,000 jewel show at the Waldorf and

The American National Retail Jeweler, whose baby it is, says it's the biggest display of precious stones and baubles ever held. Acres of diamonds. Bushels of rubies. Pearls by the peck.

In one word: Golly! Anyhow, there I was, holding a cigarette and wishing I had a match, when a big, happy-looking fellow held out a tricky little gadget, touched a button and presto! there was flame.

"Thanks," I said, lighting up. "That's quite a lighter."

"You like it?" said the man, Carl Begemann of the American Safety Razor Corp. "Well, sir, you can have this lighter."

"Gosh, thanks. But..."

"...for \$5,000," continued Begemann, looking even happier. I didn't say anything. I couldn't.

"Of course," Begemann said, "this tray and that little urn go with it. All 14-carat gold. There are 36 diamonds and 24 rubies in the set. Just right for a Christmas stocking, wouldn't you say?"

This last remark was not aimed at me but at another gawker who at least looked as if he might have money, so I drifted away, puffing gingerly at the cigarette which had just had a \$5,000 light.

It tasted like any other cigarette. Bum Guess On Pearls

Then who should come along but a well-proportioned, brown-eyed blonde named Roma Paige. All decked out in a white nylon bathing suit with pearls dripping from every thread.

"Don't I look expensive?" she asked brightly. "You're supposed to guess how many pearls I'm wearing. If you guess right you win a magazine of champagne."

I guessed 2,315 but that could not have been right because a woman's handbag I examined a few minutes later turned out to be covered by 14,000 pearls, and Miss Paige's swim suit was much larger than the handbag.

Well, little larger, anyway. "Actually," whispered Miss Theresa Jacobson who was guarding the handbag, "there are only 13,999 pearls. Somebody dropped it and one pearl fell off."

But there are 20 carats of diamonds and 30 carats of rubies and the setting is pure palladium.

"Gosh," I said. "And the—ah—price?"

Miss J. looked elaborately casual. "Twenty thousand dollars," she said. "It's the most expensive."

Mom Mulkey Plans Annual Dinner For 350 "Brats"

COUGAR, Wash., Aug. 18.—(AP)—Mom Mulkey is having her 350 kids back to dinner again. Mrs. P. A. Mulkey, the Cougar, Wash., woman who is "Mom" to several hundred world war II veterans, scheduled her third annual barbecue picnic for Aug. 21.

Mrs. Mulkey got started writing letters to servicemen — particularly servicemen without families — during the war. After the war ended she decided to invite them all to dinner.

Hundreds of the "Mulkey brats," as she calls them, turned up for that first dinner in 1947. She's been having them annually ever since.

The picnic starts at Mulkey park, six miles east of here, at 12:30 Sunday.

known for certain; but officials here think it is worth trying. One theory is that Ontario's custom of spraying has kept the disease from infiltrating here from Idaho.

## Double Murder For Money Told By Summers

TACOMA, Aug. 18.—(AP)—John E. Summers related here Monday that he shot Mr. and Mrs. Howard Easley in their outlying home after lying in wait to rob them.

The 32-year-old prisoner repeated an hours-long narrative to newspaper men after Sheriff Lee Croft said he had signed a 16,000-word confession of the July 16 crime.

When he was picked up by the FBI in San Francisco, after the elderly couple's bodies were found on a side road near Chinook pass, he insisted the shooting was accidental in an altercation over a suit of clothes.

Prosecutor Patrick Steele said Summers probably will be arraigned on a first degree murder charge today. He said the trial will be in September or October. Steele said he would ask for the death penalty.

Describes His Crime

Summers said he gave up his attempt to "go straight" about two months after his parole from the state prison.

"About 2 o'clock that Saturday afternoon, I pried open the back door of the Easley home with a small knife," he related in a matter-of-fact manner. "I had been in the house the Tuesday before looking for money, but found none."

"I had remembered seeing two rifles there. I was going to take them and pawn them, so I could buy a revolver and start robbing."

He told of returning home, then coming back to the Easley's and waiting for more than an hour. His intentions, he said, were to tie them up and put them in a clothes closet. He said he didn't intend to hurt them.

Easley got out of the car and came in through the back door. Mrs. Easley went into the back yard to feed their rabbits. Easley sat down at the kitchen table. It was a table just like this one," and he pounded the round table in the jail.

Summers came out of hiding and told Easley to sit still. "Mr. Easley jumped up, whirled about and faced me," Summers later said. "I was going to tell him the trouble was loaded and not to make trouble, but he threw the whiskey bottle and jumped at me. My reaction was to pull the trigger. He fell to the floor. At the same time

Thurs., Aug. 18, 1949—The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 9

## Navy Recruits To Get Niftier Dress-Up Uniforms

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—(AP)—Navy enlisted men can look forward to some improvements in their dress-up blue uniform by mid-1952.

The new uniform will have hip and side pockets, instead of just the tiny watch pocket in the present uniform. And the drop front will be replaced with a zipper.

Bell bottom trousers will be retained in the new style. The jumper will have coat style sleeves instead of the tight button cuff of the present jumpers. Although the navy already has

Mrs. Easley came in the door, I turned the gun toward her and told her to stay still.

"Instead she jumped back and screamed. Of course, I shot. She fell over."

Summers said he "felt kind of weak." He could tell Mrs. Easley was dead, but he wasn't sure about her husband so "I shot him once again, while I sat there. I ha' gone that far, so I went all the way."

## Knights Of Columbus Retain Supreme Heads

PORTLAND, Aug. 18.—(AP)—The Knights of Columbus unanimously reelected all the organization's supreme officers at the national convention here Wednesday.

John E. Swift, Boston, was elected to his third term as supreme knight. William J. Mulligan, Hartford, Conn., was reelected deputy supreme knight; Joseph F. Lamb, New York City, secretary; Francis J. Hezari, Asheville, N. C., treasurer; Luke E. Hart, St. Louis, Mo., advocate; Clarence J. Malone, Topeka, Kas., warden; and Dr. Gerald J. Lunz, Hamilton, Ontario, physician.

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