

# Frou Frou Salad Tosses Jet Jockey

By ROGER GREENE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 (AP)—Jet fighter pilot Merlyn Koecher, 29, wore the look of a man whose life or death depended on hearing every word and obeying instructions explicitly.

It was serious business, all right. Koecher was learning, with painful concentration, how to mix chickory, truffles, hard-boiled egg whites and other mysterious ingredients into a concoction known as French-style frou frou salad. "Believe me, it's tougher than flying jets," he said.

Koecher, who was jockeying Sabre Jets with the Air Force 47th Fighter Interceptor Squadron only a few months ago, turned in his flying suit to don a student chef's cap at what is described as "the only school of its kind in the world."

**40th Anniversary**  
The institution, now celebrating its 40th anniversary, is Washington's famed Lewis Hotel Training School, which has taught students from almost every country in the world and sent out more than 100,000 graduates to operate everything from big luxury hotels to modest wayside inns.

Koecher's goal is to run his own steak house. His background as a jet pilot rates high on the glamor side but caused little stir on the Lewis "campus," where recent students—ranging in age from 18 to 65—have included a Finnish count, an undertaker, a butcher, an Egyptian diplomat, two Carmelite nuns and a retired fireman.

Presiding over this strange but hard-working assembly is Mrs. Mary Catherine Lewis, 78, the founder, who was born in a hotel, married in a hotel and spent most of her life living and working in hotels. Her grandfather, Edmund Bourke, was White House steward for President Lincoln.

Trim, white-haired, with blue eyes and a warm smile, Mrs. Lewis said she believes the bugaboo of tipping is largely responsible for the midcentury upsurge of swanky (and tipless) motels lining the nation's highways and the decline in hotel business. There are now about 55,000 motels and 19,000 hotels in the United States.

**"People Resent Tipping"**  
"People resent tipping their way from taxi to hotel room and back again," Mrs. Lewis said. "That's why motels are booming."

With a faculty of 25 teachers, the Lewis school provides a stiff four-month course covering every phase of hotel business from front door to roof garden—including lessons on how to guard against short-change artists, skippers, rubber-check passers and the old "e.o.d." racket.

Located in downtown Washington, seven blocks from the White House, the Lewis school is a three-story red brick structure built like a miniature hotel, complete with model bedrooms, kitchens and foyer. It offers four 50-lesson courses a year, with a maximum of 400 resident students annually, and has 7,000 "mail" students enrolled in this country and abroad.

Most of the students are remarkably serious about their work. They put in a five-hour day in classes, five days a week, and tuck on at least two hours of home work daily. If absent, a student must bring a written excuse, and it's got to be good.

"The course is so short we have to keep banging away at them all the time," said Miss Mary Bourke, who joined the school staff in 1928 after graduating from the University of Maryland. She is a niece of the founders.

**All Take Same Course**  
No matter how high or low they may be aiming — from hotel manager to lowly kitchen scullion — all students take the same course so that when they graduate they'll know every facet of the hotel business.

Altogether, they study 135 different hotel jobs. Some of the beginners (males) don't even know how to boil an egg. One student, asked to separate eggs, lined up six bowls and popped an egg into each.

Mrs. Lewis and her late husband, Clifford, unwittingly launched the school in 1916 when they were managing the Glacier Hotel in Glacier National Park. To help train his own employees, Lewis wrote a job analysis in clear, simple terms.

**First Hotel Textbook**  
Requests for the booklet soon flooded in from other hotel managers, prompting Lewis to write the first known textbook on hotel training. Then came requests for personal on-the-spot training.

A few months later the Lewis opened the school in Washington where Lewis' father, Morgan Lewis, was manager of the old Willard Hotel.

"Since the beginning there has been no age limit on students. "Many of them are past 50 when they come to us," Mrs. Lewis said. "It's a career you can start after middle age and still reach the top before retirement. No other profession offers greater opportunity for old folks."

Spelled out in each of the school's 50 lessons are Mrs. Lewis' "seven golden rules for success" — honesty, service, cleanliness, efficiency, economy, courtesy and hospitality with a smile.

**Refugees Ask Bibles**  
NEW YORK, Nov. 29 (AP)—The American Bible Society said today that mass requests for Bibles by Hungarian refugees have exhausted the society's supply of Bibles in the Hungarian language, and that special rush printings were authorized of 250,000 more copies, at plants in this country and Europe.



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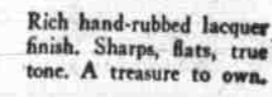
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