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Paramilitary camp owner dealt with Klan, paper says

United Press International
HOUSTON — The owner of a rural site used by the Ku Klux Klan as a paramilitary training camp — once visited by members of a Boy Scouts unit since disbanded — has used three names and has associated with the Klan despite repeated denials of KKK involvement, a newspaper said Wednesday.

The Houston Chronicle in a copyright report said Robert John Sisente, who announced last week he was temporarily closing his 10-acre training site because of publicity and threats, also had used the names Dennis Robert Sisente and Robert John Bauch, had first denied, then admitted attending a Klan rally.

The Chronicle published a photograph it said was Sisente standing with white-robed figures and said it had a tape recording of the rally at which Sisente introduced himself as chief of security at the rally and as a captain of the Texas Emergency Reserve, a paramilitary arm of the Klan.

Sisente refused to discuss the report with United Press International: "I have nothing to say. Don't harass me. Goodbye."

In an earlier interview with UPI, he had denied he was a member of the Klan or any political or paramilitary organization. Sisente denied he was a racist and said his main concern was protection of families during possible national economic chaos.

But the Chronicle said Sisente, 51, a Korean War veteran who named his camp near Houston for the late Marine Gen. Lewis "Chesty" Puller, admitted attending a Klan rally near Mauriceville in May 1979, as a chief of security. The Chronicle said those attending the rally repeatedly shouted "White Power!" and denounced blacks, Jews and Mexican-Americans.

The Chronicle tape indicated Sisente was introduced as a "member of the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan." The newspaper said

his unit also was training in the area. "We're not making any money out of our women," he said, just teaching them to use guns. "Now, in spite of the law and bear arms, our government passed a law in 1968, the National Firearms Act, which forbids us to have guns, so we are very careful we have machine guns, but we have AR-15s, which are the best to the M-16 (the first line of infantry weapon in Vietnam)." "This is the semi-automatic and this is what we train on," he said. "Now the women they train the first and the day and the men train the second and the women train the fourth Sunday of every month have a chaplain so you will miss church. We give it to you in the field."

"What we teach you is small arms tactics, weapons proficiency and physical fitness," the voice identified as Robert John Sisente said. "If you're not fit enough to carry a rifle, it doesn't matter what a good shot you are."

Sisente and his security team at the rally were dressed in camouflage fatigues and some were armed with high-powered rifles.

On the tape, the voice identified as Sisente introduced himself to the rally as "CO (commanding officer) of the WVOC, Texas Emergency Reserve." WVOC stands for Veterans for Victory Over Communism.

Sisente said there were three locations (the Chronicle identified them as Camp Puller south of Anahuac and sites near Cleveland in Liberty County and Mauriceville in Orange County) where his unit offered paramilitary training and said those interested could check with their "ECs" — an abbreviation for exalted cyclops, a Klan officer.

"What we teach you is small arms tactics, weapons proficiency and physical fitness," the voice identified as Sisente said. "If you're not fit enough to carry a rifle, it doesn't matter what a good shot you are. So we do give you exercise. You won't be able to use the roads if we go to war. You'll have to go through the woods, so we do teach you how to read a compass and a map."

"And weapons proficiency. We tell you how to tear the weapons down and find stopgaps and correct them and also how to fire on a target accurately."

He cited Rhodesian firearms training for women and children and said

The Chronicle said Sisente's aliases were included in a list on him at the Texas Veterans Board in Austin, where he had a loan to buy the land on which he established his training camp. The newspaper said the Missouri newspaper said the Missouri newspaper listed him as Robert Bauch in his military career.

In repeated interviews, Sisente has said any suggestion he was involved with the Klan was "a lie." But the Chronicle said Sisente had changed his mind and said he had attended the rally, invited by the Klan. "I flattered I was asked" to attend.

"About two years ago, when I was in Plains, Ga., I drove through the rally, he drove through the rally stand," Sisente said. "At that time, the Klan asked me to be a captain of my soldiers out there and provide security for them."

Because of alleged right-wing links, Sisente has lost his job. "Now the women train the first and the men train the second and the women train the third Sunday and the men train the second and the women train the Sunday of every month. We have a chaplain and we won't have to miss church. We give it to you in the field," Sisente said.

Houston Oil stock to gain in merger

United Press International
HOUSTON — Houston Oil & Minerals Corp. stockholders stand to gain an estimated \$1.6 billion if they approve the corporation's merger with a subsidiary of Tenneco Inc.

Tenneco Chairman James L. Ketelsen and Houston Oil Chairman Joseph C. Walter Jr. announced the agreement Tuesday, pending a vote by shareholders expected in the spring of 1981.

Negotiations were made public last week when the American Stock Exchange halted trading in Houston Oil stock at 52 1/2.

Tenneco is one of the nation's giant oil and gas concerns, with 1979 revenues of \$11.2 billion and earnings of \$571 million. Houston Oil is a large independent, with 1979 revenues of \$351.6 million and profits of \$65.7 million.

Spokesmen said the deal contemplates Houston Oil's creating a royalty trust prior to the merger and distributing the shares of the trust to its stockholders.

The trust will consist of a 75 percent net profit interest in Houston Oil's currently producing oil and gas properties and a 5 percent overriding royalty on certain exploratory properties.



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