

SPECIAL REPORT



SCIENTOLOGY

An in-depth profile of a new force in Clearwater

Price: 25 cents

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The writer

Charles Stafford, the author of this series of articles on the Church of Scientology, has been chief of *The St. Petersburg Times* Washington Bureau since 1968. Stafford, 55, is a native of Grafton, W. Va. and a graduate of the University of West Virginia. Before coming to *The Times*, he was Washington correspondent for the *Tampa Tribune*.

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Layout by Bob Casey of *The St. Petersburg Times*.

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Created by *Times* staff artist Earl Towery, the cover depicts the cross symbolic of the Church of Scientology. The Fort Harrison Hotel, Clearwater headquarters of the church, is in the background. The upright bar of the ancient cross represents spirit, and the horizontal bar stands for matter. Thus the basic significance is that of the spirit and the difficulties of its progression through matter.

Shedding light on Scientology's dark side

By EUGENE PATTERSON

When a strange new force imbeds itself clandestinely in this community and sets out to harm people who raise questions about it, a newspaper has a particular duty to resist intimidation itself and inform citizens fully of what is going on.

For four years *The St. Petersburg Times* has printed fragments of the Scientology story as our reporters painstakingly pieced it together in the face of unending obstacles. Now Staff Writer Charles Stafford is pulling together the whole story in one coherent presentation — or as near to coherence as the cockeyed facts of the matter will permit.

We know now that *The Times* was placed at the top of the cult's "enemies" list shortly after the Scientologists started buying up millions of dollars worth of property in downtown Clearwater — vast tracts of the sparkling little city. They moved a major headquarters off a ship at sea and landed it in our county seat.

BUT WE WERE NOT particularly surprised to discover this No. 1 designation for *The Times* in the documentary evidence that is sending nine of the church's leaders to jail after conviction in a Washington, D.C. federal court. We've felt the heat for many years now as our reporters have toiled to answer the community's question: What is this Church of Scientology, and what is it doing in Pinellas County?

Our reporters, and particularly Bette Orsini, came under attack by the Scientologists from the very start when their inquiries pierced the deceit of a front name and forced the church to identify itself as the secret cash buyer of the Fort Harrison Hotel.

Church officials harshly denigrated Mrs. Orsini and other *Times* reporters in public and slandered them to their editors because

they were insistent on printing the truth. Their investigations of the church's past practices elsewhere in the world had prepared the reporters, though. They knew it was a practice of this peculiar organization to try to ruin persons it perceived as unfriendly.

The record showed it was also a practice to try to intimidate newspapers and other publications with threats of expensive lawsuits if they did not spare Scientology their critical scrutiny.

HAVING ALREADY observed the harassment of its reporters and the efforts to stain their professional reputations, this newspaper fully expected the church's threat of a baseless libel suit when it landed on our desks. We were not dealing with an organization that played by ordinary rules. So *The Times* took the extraordinary step of suing them before they could make good on their threat to sue us. We asked a court to enjoin the church from continued efforts at harassment and intimidation of our reporters. We felt the need for an injunction to protect them as they went about their task of trying to inform the public about the cult that was setting out to control Clearwater. They needed it.

Now you will know what happened next. By infiltration or burglary or both, operatives of the church stole communications between *The Times* and its attorneys, both its St. Petersburg lawyers and its Washington law firm. They were reading our mail. Theft was being practiced by members of a group calling itself a church.

The amateurish vilification directed at *Times* executives by the church's Clearwater publication, *Freedom*, was to be expected. The late chairman of *The Times* board, Nelson Poynter, was falsely accused of being a CIA agent (Scientologists alternately

considered smearing him as a communist, their documents show.) This writer was falsely called an FBI informant. So far as my wife knows, she never received the telephone call a Scientologist plotted to make to her in an effort to get her on tape saying, unwittingly, some uncomplimentary things they could use against me.

Unable to find a yielding pressure point inside *The Times*, church operatives went to an incredible length. They went after reporter Bette Orsini's husband.

THE FACT THAT HE had done nothing wrong did not deflect a poison-pen campaign against him. He was not even a newspaperman. He was the able director of a small charity in Pinellas County. An anonymous letter accompanied by a bale of state documents about his conduct of the charity, supposedly showing criminality, landed on *The Times*' city desk and showed up at two or three other Florida newspapers. Our prompt, in-depth investigation of the allegations showed Mrs. Orsini's husband was innocent of any wrongdoing.

She, then, was assigned to discover who had compiled those documents that accompanied the poison-pen letter aimed at her husband.

Within days this skilled reporter had nailed down the true identity of the man who had used false credentials to procure many of the documents from the state records office in Miami. He was a Scientologist.

As *The Times* built its case for an injunction to protect Mrs. Orsini and her family from victimization such as this, it became clear that the innocent charity was going to be dragged into any court fight between the Scientologists and *The Times* with possible resultant damage to its fund-raising capabilities, through no doing of

its own, and through no wrongdoing by its director. Rather than permit an innocent third party to be even threatened with damage by airing of the Scientologists' false allegations, *The Times* dropped its lawsuit.

But the newspaper and Mrs. Orsini did not drop the reporting effort to illuminate the dark corners of the church's operations in Pinellas County. Documents now available show she had badly shaken the church "Guardians'" confidence that they could prevent her from cracking their whole clandestine spy system. If she could catch the Scientologist in Miami as she had done, they knew she was doggedly following the right track toward the truth about them all.

BUT AT THAT point, the U.S. government, after years of investigation, found a Scientology burglar who was ready to turn whistleblower and tell the truth. Armed with his testimony about wholesale theft of documents from government buildings (which Mrs. Orsini detailed in this newspaper last year), FBI agents obtained search warrants from courts and made raids that produced the staggering volume of incriminating documents that have now sent nine Scientologists to jail.

Far more important than those convictions, though, is the light the documents themselves now permit us to shed on operations of the church. In ignorance of what is happening, a community might submit uncertainly to being terrorized. A newspaper's job is to make plain the nature of what is happening, even if it takes years to piece it together, so that information can guide citizens in their judgments.

Now after four frustrating and at times painful years, we are able, in Charles Stafford's series, to give you the story. The cult is still here. But the community's uncertainty about the facts is forever gone.

Scientology brings 4 years of discord

It was this time four years ago — this time of year when the old-time religion celebrates the birth of a child — that the new religion came to Clearwater.

It came sneaking into town: a religion with beliefs and practices so alien to the teachings of Jesus that are preached in Clearwater's Christian churches, so different from the law of the prophets that is taught in the city's synagogues.

This is the law of the God of Israel: Thou shalt not steal.

ON NOV. 9, 1975 — the Sabbath — an agent of the new religion with the code name "Silver" entered Internal Revenue Service (IRS) headquarters on Constitution Avenue in Washington, and made his way to the office of Charles Zuravin, an attorney in the disclosure division of the chief counsel's office. "Silver" found the file he wanted and began copying documents. When he left late that Sunday, he took with him a stack of copies of confidential IRS documents one foot thick. That was theft.

This is the commandment of Jesus: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

ON DEC. 5, 1975, the hierarchy of the new religion issued this directive:

"Power Project 3: Normandy.
"Major Target: To fully investigate the Clearwater city and county area so we can distinguish our friends from our enemies and handle as needed."

Neighborly?
This is law of the God of Israel: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

On Jan. 26, 1976, a day when Scientology was still masquerading in Clearwater as the United Churches of Florida, a church official named Joe Lisa informed another church leader that he had devised a scheme to get reporter Mark Sableman fired by the *Clearwater Sun*. This was his plan: "Have a woman (elderly) go into the office and in grief and misemotion (sic) start screaming she wants to see Sableman's boss. She goes in and sees this man and screams and cries about Sableman sexually assaulting her son, or grandson. The woman takes a magazine which is lurid and perverted and throws it into the face of the man/woman and screams 'Look what he gave my son, not to mention what the pervert did . . . sob, sob, to my Johnny.' I'm going to the police. If you can't do something about that pervert Sableman I will see they do something to you."

TWO DAYS LATER citizens of Pinellas County learned that their new neighbors in the Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater were practitioners of a new religion, Scientology, founded just 29 years ago by a science fiction writer named L. Ron Hubbard.

It was 19 months before the government of the United States discovered that agents of the Church of Scientology had been systematically rifling files of government agencies for more than two years.

Discovery of the true nature of Scientology began on July 8, 1977 — to Scientologists a day that will live in infamy — when FBI agents pounded down the doors



Discovery of the true nature of Scientology began on July 8, 1977 when FBI agents pounded down the doors of church offices in Los Angeles and Washington and carted away 48,149 documents.

of church offices in Los Angeles and Washington and carted away 48,149 documents. Many of these were copies of government documents that agents like "Silver" stole after infiltrating government agencies. Others were files of private organizations, like the American Medical Association and *The St. Petersburg Times*.

STILL OTHERS were internal documents of the Church of Scientology, and these would reveal myriad dark secrets.

But knowledge of what the documents contained came slowly to the public.

On Aug. 15, 1978, a federal grand jury in Washington indicted 11 Scientologists, nine of whom held high positions in the church's Guardian Office. That office had this mandate: "To sweep aside opposition sufficiently to create a vacuum into which Scientology can expand." The 28-count indictment charged them with conspiring to steal government documents, theft of government documents, and conspiring to obstruct justice.

The 11 included Mary Sue Hubbard, world traveler, wife of the founder of Scientology, and second-ranking officer of the church; Jane Kember of England, the head of the worldwide church's Guardian Office, and these other Scientologists: Morris

"Mo" Budlong of England; Henning Heldt, Los Angeles; Duke Snider (no relation to the baseball player), Hollywood, Calif.; Richard Weigand, Van Nuys, Calif.; Gregory Willardson, Beverly Hills, Calif.; Mitchell Hermann, also known as Mike Cooper, Hollywood, Calif.; Cindy Raymond, Hollywood, Calif.; Gerald Bennett Wolfe, Areleta, Calif., and Sharon Thomas, Los Angeles.

ALL WERE officials of the Guardian Office except Wolfe and Miss Thomas. Wolfe was "Silver," the agent who infiltrated the IRS, while Miss Thomas was the church's secret agent in the Justice Department.

On Aug. 29, 1978, nine of the indicted Scientologists stood before the bench of U.S. District Judge George L. Hart Jr. in the federal courthouse at the foot of Capitol Hill and pleaded innocent. Two were missing. Jane Kember and Mo Budlong were in England.

For the next 14 months, a platoon of attorneys fought to prevent a trial and to keep the seized documents from the public eye. They claimed the FBI raids on church offices were illegal, that the search warrant was too general. One U.S. District Court judge upheld their claim. But two other District Court judges — one in Washington and one in California — rejected their claim. The Scientologists' appeals to higher courts also failed.

Trial was scheduled for Sept. 24 in Washington before U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey. It did not begin. For two weeks attorneys for the government and the Scientologists argued and bargained, and on Oct. 8 Judge Richey ruled that an agreement had been reached.

As a result of that agreement, Mary Sue Hubbard and her eight colleagues appeared before Judge Richey on Oct. 26. The team of prosecutors headed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Raymond Banoun presented a written statement of the government's case backed up by three folders of documents. The defense attorneys stipulated that this was the evidence the government would have presented had the case gone to trial. Judge Richey then found the nine Scientologists guilty of one count each of the indictment.

This scenario left the defendants free to appeal. They will claim that the convictions should be overturned because the evidence used against them was seized illegally. But they will not claim they are innocent of plotting to infiltrate government agencies and steal government documents. They never have.

HAVING FOUND the Scientologists guilty, Judge Richey lifted the seal from the documents seized in the FBI raids. Six boxes were made public before attorneys for the defendants and the church could appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The appellate court upheld Judge Richey and on Nov. 23, the day after Thanksgiving, the court began releasing the remaining documents.

The number had been trimmed down. Certain documents seized in the raids were returned to the church, apparently because they had no bearing on the government's case. Others were removed to prevent injury to innocent people mentioned in them.

But 20 boxes — roughly half of the documents seized in the raids — were made public.

Examining them is like seeing the dark side of the moon, or stepping through a looking glass.

They were taken from church offices in Los Angeles and Washington. But there is so much in them about Scientology's plans and programs for a quiet city in Florida.

THE DOCUMENTS reveal that the Church of Scientology came to Clearwater with a written plan to establish its program headquarters — its school of theology, so to speak — in the old Fort Harrison Hotel and to take control of the city. They show that

United Churches of Florida was created as a front to protect church assets from seizure by the government.

They show that church officials conceived and carried out plots to discredit their "enemies" — the mayor who questioned their secrecy, reporters who investigated and wrote about Scientology, editor and owner of the area's largest newspaper, even local police departments.

They show that covert agents of the church took jobs with local newspapers, community agencies, and law firms in order to spy.

They underscore what a spokesman for the Church of Scientology told a group of Clearwater High School students recently: "We step on a lot of toes. We don't turn the other cheek."

GOVERNMENT prosecutors, in a memorandum to Judge Richey urging maximum sentences, delivered this judgment:

"That these defendants were willing to frame their critics to the point of giving false testimony under oath against them and having them arrested and indicted speaks legion for their disdain for the rule of law. Indeed, they arrogantly placed themselves above the law, meting out their personal brand of punishment to those 'guilty' of opposing their selfish aims.

"The crime committed by these defendants is of a breadth and scope previously unheard of. No building, office, desk, or file was safe from their snooping and prying. No individual or organization was free from their despicable conspiratorial minds. The tools of their trade were miniature transmitters, lock picks, secret codes, forged credentials, and any other device they found necessary to carry out their conspiratorial schemes. It is interesting to note that the founder of their organization, unindicted co-conspirator L. Ron Hubbard, wrote in his dictionary entitled *Modern Management Technology Defined* . . . that 'truth is what is true for you.' Thus, with the founder's blessings they could wantonly commit perjury as long as it was in the interest of Scientology. The defendants rewarded criminal activities that ended in success and sternly rebuked those that failed. The standards of human conduct embodied in such practices represent no less than the absolute perversion of any known ethical value system.

"In view of this, it defies the imagination that these defendants have the unmitigated audacity to seek to defend their actions in the name of 'religion.' That these defendants now attempt to hide behind the sacred principles of freedom of religion, freedom of speech and the right to privacy — which principles they repeatedly demonstrated a willingness to violate with impunity — adds insult to the injuries which they have inflicted on every element of society."

AS HE PREPARED to sentence Mary Lou Hubbard, Judge Richey told her that her "we have a precious system of government in the United States . . . For anyone to use the benefits of those laws or to seek under the guise of those laws to destroy the very foundation of the government is totally wrong and cannot be condoned by any responsible citizen."

The judge imposed maximum sentences on Mrs. Hubbard and two other defendants: five years in prison and \$10,000 fines — though he said he would reconsider Mrs. Hubbard's sentence after she has spent three months in prison. He sentenced five other defendants to four years in prison and \$10,000 fines, and the remaining defendant to one year in prison — six months of it suspended — and a \$1,000 fine.

There, in capsule form, you have the story of Scientology since it came to Clearwater four years ago. The details are intriguing, and they will come. But first it is necessary to understand the creation of Scientology and its creator.

Individual life force is focus of Scientology

When citizens of Pinellas County learned in early 1976 that a new religion, the Church of Scientology, had purchased two Clearwater landmarks — the Fort Harrison Hotel and the old Bank of Clearwater building — they wondered.

Local newspapers, responding to this wonder, attempted to explain a 26-year-old religion called Scientology.

That can be a hazardous undertaking.

Writing in *The Scientologist: A Manual on the Dissemination of Material*, (copyright 1955), Scientology's founder L. Ron Hubbard said: "... We do not want Scientology to be reported in the press, anywhere else than on the religious page of newspapers. It is destructive of word of mouth to permit the public presses to express their biased and badly reported sensationalism. Therefore we should be very alert to sue for slander at the slightest chance so as to discourage the public presses from mentioning Scientology."

Scientology is Hubbard's creation.

A precocious child, the son of a Navy commander and his wife, Hubbard spent his teen-age years in Asia where — according to his church biography — "he explored many out-of-the-way places and saw many strange-seeming peoples and customs. But it was in northern China and India, while studying with holy men, that he became vitally engrossed in the subject of the spiritual destiny of Mankind."

HUBBARD ATTENDED George Washington University — there is no record that he graduated — and went on to a career in writing science fiction.

He went into the Navy in 1941.

"L. Ron Hubbard, A Brief Biographical Sketch" — obtained from the Church of Scientology — tells us this was his period of creation:

"He survived the early war in the South Pacific. He saw enough of war at first hand to be sickened by it. In 1944, crippled and blinded he found himself in Oak Knoll Naval Hospital. From Commander Thompson of the Medical Corps of the U.S. Navy, a friend of his father and a personal student of Sigmund Freud, he had received while still young an extensive education in the field of the human mind. He developed techniques that would help him overcome his injuries and regain his abilities.

"Altogether, he spent nearly a year at Oak Knoll, during which time he synthesized what he had learned of Eastern philosophy, his understanding of nuclear physics and his experiences among men. He says, 'I set out to find from nuclear physics and a knowledge of the physical universe, things entirely lacking in Asian philosophy.'

"He concluded that the results he was obtaining could help others toward greater ability and happiness, and it was during this period that some of the basic tenets of Dianetics and Scientology were first formulated.

"By 1947 he recovered fully."



"... We do not want Scientology to be reported in the press, anywhere else than on the religious page of newspapers. It is destructive of word of mouth to permit the public presses to express their biased and badly reported sensationalism. Therefore we should be very alert to sue for slander at the slightest chance so as to discourage the public presses from mentioning Scientology."

THAT STORY CONFLICTS with Navy records and with a government document seized by the FBI in 1977 raids on church offices — one of many government documents that had been copied by secret agents of the church.

A Navy spokesman recently told the *Los Angeles Times* that Hubbard rose to the rank of lieutenant during World War II but his service record did not show that he received a Purple Heart, a medal routinely awarded for combat injuries. The spokesman also said, "a review of L. Ron Hubbard's medical record ... does not indicate he was treated for any injuries sustained during his military career."

Documents released by the FBI in 1977 under the Freedom of Information Act show that Hubbard wrote the FBI many times during these years complaining that the Communist Party was attacking him and that Russians were trying to lure him to the Soviet Union to steal his secrets of brainwashing. Someone at the FBI wrote "appears mental" on one of the letters, and after that the FBI ceased acknowledging them.

Among the documents seized by the FBI from church offices was a letter written by Hubbard in 1947, to the Veterans Administration in Los Angeles.

"After trying and failing for two years to regain my equilibrium in civil life, I am utterly unable to approach anything like my own competence," Hubbard wrote. "I cannot account for nor rise above long periods of moroseness and suicidal inclinations and have newly come to realize that I must first triumph above this before I can hope to rehabilitate myself at all."

He requested psychiatric treatment on an outpatient basis.

Did he receive it? The documents do not say.

NOR DOES THE church biography. Instead, it tells us: "In 1948 he wrote *Dianetics, The Original Thesis*, his first formal report of his discoveries about the mind and life. The manuscript was copied out extensively and quickly passed from hand to hand in many countries. A grass roots interest in Dianetics spread. Letters began to pour in asking for clarifications and advice."

By way of response, Hubbard wrote a book: "180,000 words of breakthrough, *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*, exploded onto the booklists of May 1950 like a roman candle of life and hope. Providing, as it did, for a truly workable school of the mind that would predictably improve the human condition, it leapt to the top of *The New York Times* best seller list and just stayed there.

"Almost immediately, thousands of readers began to apply the data from the book and Dianetic groups sprang up across the country, with and without sanction.

"Realizing already at this stage that the mind in itself, no matter how liberated, was limiting and that there was something 'animating' the mind, he permitted the founding in 1950, of the Hubbard Dianetic Research Foundation to facilitate investigation into the realm of the spirit. Thus was Scientology born."

There is a less romantic version of the creation. It begins with Lafayette Ronald Hubbard, science-fiction writer, quite prolific, grinding out sci-fi stories for publications like *Astounding Science Fiction* at 2 to 3 cents per word, or about \$200 to \$300 a story.

IT RECALLS THAT in a 1949 lecture on science fiction, Hubbard said — a remark the church does not challenge but dismisses as a joke: "Writing for a penny a word is ridiculous. If a man really wants to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion."

It traces the creation to a Hubbard article in the May 1950 issue of *Astounding* entitled, "Dianetics — A New Science of the Mind."

Then came the book, and the birth of Scientology.

Scientology has its foundations in the eastern religions: Buddhism, Hinduism.

According to the Scientologists, the Judeo-Christian religion begins with a God and relates man and nature to Him. The Eastern traditions begin with man as a spiritual agent and offer ways for him to attain salvation.

Scientology, a book of the Church of Scientology setting forth its beliefs, tells us that the "Eastern religio-philosophic mode has been that adopted by Scientology. The expressed ideal that from self-realization, and the resulting increased spiritual

awareness, comes harmonious integration with other life forms, the physical universe and ultimately, the Supreme Being, is the seminal concept of Scientology."

Scientology centers on the Thetan, "the individual life force, the soul ... the person himself ... simply that which is aware of being aware." The Thetan is immortal.

SCIENTOLOGY BELIEVES "that Man is basically good, and seeking to survive, but is encumbered in so doing by painful past experiences, and his harmful acts against others."

Hubbard theorized that the mind — which he considers a vehicle of the spirit, used to establish orientation in the physical world — is divided into two parts, the "analytical" and the "reactive." The analytical mind is described as an efficient, rational instrument, but it rarely works at full capacity because of interference from the reactive mind, a memory bank of painful past experiences known as "engrams."

"... The stored pain and command phrases in past upsets and injuries, acting like hidden hypnotic commands imposed on the Spirit, can cause the misery of countless psychosomatic illnesses," Scientology states. "All these have variable manifestations but all stem from the same basic cause: old and forgotten incidents containing pain and language command value ... As in an electrical condenser, this potentially harmful significance and energy is stored in the sub-levels of the reactive mind, and when activated, is discharged against the analytical mind of the Thetan. This is the real but underlying cause of the eternal recurrence of war, illness and aberration. To reverse this pattern of human misery in all its tragic multiplicity is the goal of auditing, the religious practice of the Church of Scientology."

The book says, "Auditing is the Scientology pastoral counseling procedure by which an individual is helped through confessional unburdening, and in stages, to recover his complete self-determination and ability. It is done during a precise period of time called a 'session,' in which an auditor ... utilizes inter-personal communication and carefully devised questions and drills ... which enable the person audited, called the PRECLEAR, to discover and thereby remove his self-imposed spiritual limitations."

THE AUDITING process is done in stages, like climbing stairs, the book states. "When no part of the mind remains which is not under the individual's own control and direction, the State of CLEAR has been achieved — a state of supra-human awareness and ability ..."

The person who seeks relief from his engrams contracts for auditing. The schedule of "donations" for auditing services range from \$25 for a beginning session to between \$1,000 and \$5,000 for more advanced auditing. Converts might pay \$10,000 to \$12,000 to obtain the "State of CLEAR."

This is the source of the church's wealth, of the funds used to purchase the Fort Harrison and the Bank of Clearwater building.

Scientology is governed by a creed written by Hubbard. The creed — the church's bright face — has the ring of virtue: "We of the Church believe: That all men of whatever race, colour or creed were created with equal rights. That all men have inalienable rights to their own religious practices and their performance ..."

It goes on to encompass 20 specific beliefs.

Two of these 20 state: "... all men have inalienable rights to their own defense" and "no agency less than God has the power to suspend or set aside these rights, overtly or covertly."

Within those two beliefs, apparently, there is justification for Scientology's long war with the government of the United States.



Scientology has been in and out of federal courts and in again in battles with the IRS over its tax-exempt status. It has even resorted to illegal tactics, placing an agent in IRS headquarters where he stole thousands of documents concerning the church.

Dispute over tax status goes to court

On Jan. 4, 1963, two large vans escorted by motorcycle policemen pulled up before the Washington headquarters of the Founding Church of Scientology at 19th and R streets.

U.S. marshals climbed out of the vans and entered the church property. There they seized 100 "E-meters" and about 20,000 pages of church literature. They were acting for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Though relations between the Church of Scientology and the government had been strained for most of the 13 years since L. Ron Hubbard created the new religion, that incident marked the first formal action against the church by the government.

OTHERS FOLLOWED, most of them generated by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The church has long claimed that it is the victim of harassment by a government angered because Hubbard refused to share with it revolutionary knowledge about freeing the mind of traumas. But the actions the government has taken against Scientology all center on a fundamental question: Is Scientology a religion, or a pseudo-scientific con game involving amateur psychology?

The answer is vitally important. A valid religion, or church, pays no taxes.

SCIENTOLOGY HAS been in and out of federal courts and in again in battles with IRS over its tax-exempt status. It has even resorted to illegal tactics, placing an agent in IRS headquarters where he stole thousands of documents concerning the church.

The battle is fought at every level of government. Since coming to Clearwater, the church has been locked in a fight with Pinellas County officials over whether it must pay property taxes on the Fort Harrison Hotel, the old Bank of Clearwater building, and other property it has bought in the county.

Last Friday, the Church of Scientology paid \$126,753.82 in back taxes, a figure representing 45 percent of its total four-year tax bill in Pinellas County.

The payment ended a long legal battle

between the Scientologists and Property Appraiser Ron Schultz's office over the church's 1976 and 1977 tax bills. But it does not mean the church is giving up its claim to be tax-exempt as a church. Scientology President Kenneth Whitman vowed the church will pursue legal battles over its 1978 and 1979 tax bills, which total \$151,157.51.

SCHULTZ SAID the church was certain to lose its case on the earlier tax bills and hence decided to go ahead and pay them in an effort to "buy some PR (public relations)."

The Pinellas County Circuit Court held that the church had to pay its 1976 tax bill, a decision affirmed by the Court of Appeal in Lakeland. The case was pending before the Florida Supreme Court. The 1977 tax bill was pending at the Circuit Court level.

There is much at stake in the tax battles. The Church of Scientology is obviously wealthy. It paid around \$3-million cash for the two pieces of property in downtown Clearwater. Its funds come from the fixed donations that church members pay for auditing, the pastoral-counseling procedure designed to free their minds of painful memories.

The Food and Drug Administration charged the church in 1963 with making false claims for a small device called a Hubbard Electrometer, or E-meter, a device used in some auditing sessions.

THE E-METER — essentially a simple galvanometer — is a small box bearing five knobs and a magnetic needle. It operates on a rechargeable 1 1/2-volt battery. A Y-cord from the box leads to two small cans that resemble frozen orange juice cans. The person being counseled grasps the cans as the counselor asks questions. By watching the needle on the dial, the church says, the counselor knows when the person is recalling pain.

FDA accused the church of falsely claiming that the meter would "improve the health, intelligence, ability, behavior, skill and appearance" and cure arthritis, tuberculosis, ulcers and other ailments that Hubbard considered to be psychosomatic.

The FDA case lingered in the courts for 10 years. It was finally settled in 1973 when

U.S. District Judge Gerard A. Gesell ordered the E-meters returned to the church.

He ruled that (1) the church could no longer advertise its services as a scientific cure for disease, (2) must label the E-meters as ineffective in treating illnesses, and (3) could only use the E-meter in "bona fide religious counseling."

IN HIS 14-page opinion, Gesell described Scientology as a "pseudo-science that has been adopted and adapted for religious purposes . . . There is a religious substance to everything when seen with the eyes of the believer." He called Hubbard "a facile, prolific author" whose "quackery flourished throughout the United States and in various parts of the world."

The judge said Hubbard first advanced "the extravagant, false claims that various physical and mental illnesses could be cured by auditing" in a science fiction magazine in the 1940s.

As the church developed, he said, "auditing was guaranteed to be successful. All this was and is false — in short, a fraud. Contrary to representations made, there is absolutely no scientific or medical basis in fact for the claimed cures attributed to E-meter auditing."

Since Gesell had said the church was entitled to First Amendment protection as a religion and that it could use the E-meters for religious counseling, the church hailed the decision as a victory.

The church's fight with the Internal Revenue Service seems destined to go on forever.

At present, 14 churches of Scientology in the United States — all except one — are recognized as tax-exempt. The Church of Scientology of California, of which the Clearwater operation is a branch, is contesting in U.S. Tax Court an IRS ruling that it must pay taxes.

THE IRS does not grant tax-exempt status, a spokesman explained. Churches are exempt by law as long as they comply with the law. Should IRS have reason to believe a church is not complying, then it can audit the church's records, which can lead to a determination that it must pay taxes.

The crucial question is how a church makes its money and how it spends it. The income must be used for the general good and not for the profit of individuals.

How this applies to Scientology is well illustrated by an IRS memorandum concerning the tax-exempt status of the Church of Scientology of Florida, headquartered in Miami. The Florida church is separate from the Clearwater operation, which is a branch of the Church of Scientology of California.

THE IRS memorandum, dated Sept. 1, 1972, was among the documents stolen from IRS headquarters in Washington by the church's agent. It was made public in connection with the trial in Washington of the agent and eight other Scientologists on charges of conspiring to steal government documents.

The National Office Technical Advice Memorandum was sent to the IRS district director in Atlanta in reply to his request for advice on revocation of the exempt status of the Church of Scientology of Florida.

The memorandum stated that almost all income of the Florida church came from fees paid for counseling and from the sale of books and artifacts. The church in turn paid 10 percent of its income "to the international organization as a 'tithe' to promulgate and defend the religion of Scientology." This money went into Swiss Trust Accounts.

"In order to qualify for the claimed exemption, Scientology must establish that it is devoted exclusively to religious purposes," the memorandum said. "The presence of a single nonexempt purpose, if substantial in nature, will destroy the

exemption, regardless of the number or importance of truly exempt or religious purposes . . . Based on this exclusivity test, we have concluded the Church of Scientology of Florida fails to qualify for exemption because (1) its sales of books, tapes, artifacts, processing and training constitute a substantial commercial purpose, and (2) a portion of the net earnings of Scientology may inure to the benefit of L. Ron Hubbard, a private individual . . .

"While the information available does not specifically disclose the inurement of funds, the organization has not established that the tithing of 10 percent of its gross income to the Swiss Trust Accounts has been distributed for exempt purposes. The Trust accounts are held in the name of L. Ron Hubbard and Mary Sue Hubbard, his wife, as the sole signatories. Therefore, the organization has failed to establish that neither the legal title nor the beneficial use of the funds is held for a recognized charity or charitable purpose."

The memorandum recommended revocation of the Florida church's tax exemption, but no action was taken.

In an apparent effort to circumvent the objection that Scientology funds went to the benefit of Hubbard, he and representatives of five churches of Scientology — California, Washington, D.C., Michigan, Minnesota and New York — signed a document on June 25, 1973 "to memorialize in writing" a trust arrangement they said had been in existence since July 18, 1962. The five churches agreed to pay tithes of 10 percent of their monthly incomes to the trust fund. Hubbard, as the sole trustee, was responsible for managing, administering and disposing of the fund.

A month later, a new agreement recorded the resignation of Hubbard as trustee. Responsibility for the fund was placed in the hands of a three-member board of trustees, one of whom was Mary Sue Hubbard. The agreement gave Mrs. Hubbard life tenure and the power to appoint the other two trustees who would serve two-year terms.

Terms of this agreement were reported in July 1976 by *St. Petersburg Times* reporter Bette Orsini. She also found that 11 of the 12 churches of Scientology then holding tax-exempt status had collected a total of \$3.3-million in 1974 and contributed \$846,310 of that to the Church of Scientology of California. Nine of the churches had deposits totaling \$1-million in bank accounts in Luxembourg.

The trust agreement was put in written form at a time when the IRS was going to court to force the Church of Scientology of California to open its books for audit. Today, the California church is contesting revocation of its tax-exempt status in the U.S. Tax Court.

The IRS said the church owes \$1,150,458 in taxes on \$8,684,542 in gross receipts for 1970, '71 and '72. To this it has added a penalty of \$287,614.

THE CHURCH replied that the church was tax-exempt. But should it be found that it was not, the church said, the government was still wrong in its assessment of tax liability because it had understated church expenses. The church claimed it had net taxable losses for the three years totaling \$8,859,165.

The church asked why IRS was putting the church and the court to the time and expense of a trial "when the IRS has already acknowledged to petitioners that after an extensive 1 1/2-year audit of church records, they could find no basis for denying the church exempt status."

It accused IRS of stalling and of violating the church's First Amendment rights.

The case was opened in December 1977. Court observers say it won't be settled for quite some time. A decision in any court case involving the church seldom comes swiftly.

In its 16-year war with the government, the church has employed tactics that reveal the dark side of Scientology.

Church moves to defend itself against 'attackers'

The Church of Scientology has a persecution complex. It apparently was born with it.

The church was founded by science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard. A biographical sketch supplied by the church states that Hubbard devised the basic doctrine of his religion while recovering from World War II injuries in a naval hospital.

It recounts that Hubbard explained his theories in a 1950 book entitled *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health* and then, in response to grassroots demands for more information, founded the Hubbard Dianetic Research Foundation.

The biography continues:

"The United States Government at this time attempted to monopolize all his researches and force him to work on a project 'to make man more suggestible' and when he was unwilling, tried to blackmail him by ordering him back to active duty to perform this function. Having many friends he was able to instantly resign from the Navy and escape this trap. The government never forgave him for this and soon began vicious, covert international attacks upon his work, all of which were proven false and baseless, which were to last 27 years and finally culminated in the government being sued for \$750-million for conspiracy."

YOU WON'T find that story in any government history books. Attempts to learn from the Navy whether any of Hubbard's story is accurate were unsuccessful.

Queried about the church biography's description of Hubbard's career, a Navy spokesman said:

"His service record contains no entry indicating that he was injured as a result of action against the enemy. Injuries he may have suffered during World War II, if any, would be filed in his medical record. Under the Privacy Act, information contained in a person's medical record may be released only with the written consent of that individual.

"He was a patient at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Oakland, Calif., from Sept. 5, 1945, to Dec. 4, 1945. The reason for his hospitalization is not releasable under the Privacy Act for the reasons I have already stated.

"**LT. HUBBARD** was a naval reservist on inactive duty from Feb. 17, 1946 until Oct. 30, 1950. On 30 Oct. 1950 his resignation from the Naval Reserve was accepted. There is no evidence on record of an attempt to recall him to active duty."

In any case, a high level of tension has existed between the church and the government for at least the past 16 years.

This tension, this belief of Hubbard that he and his religion are targets of a government campaign of persecution, has produced the dark side of Scientology. It gained recent national publicity when a group of church leaders, including the founder's wife, Mary Sue Hubbard, were accused of conspiring to steal government documents and obstruct justice.

The manifestations of the dark side of Scientology are a series of policies issued by Hubbard, as commodore of the church, over a number of years.

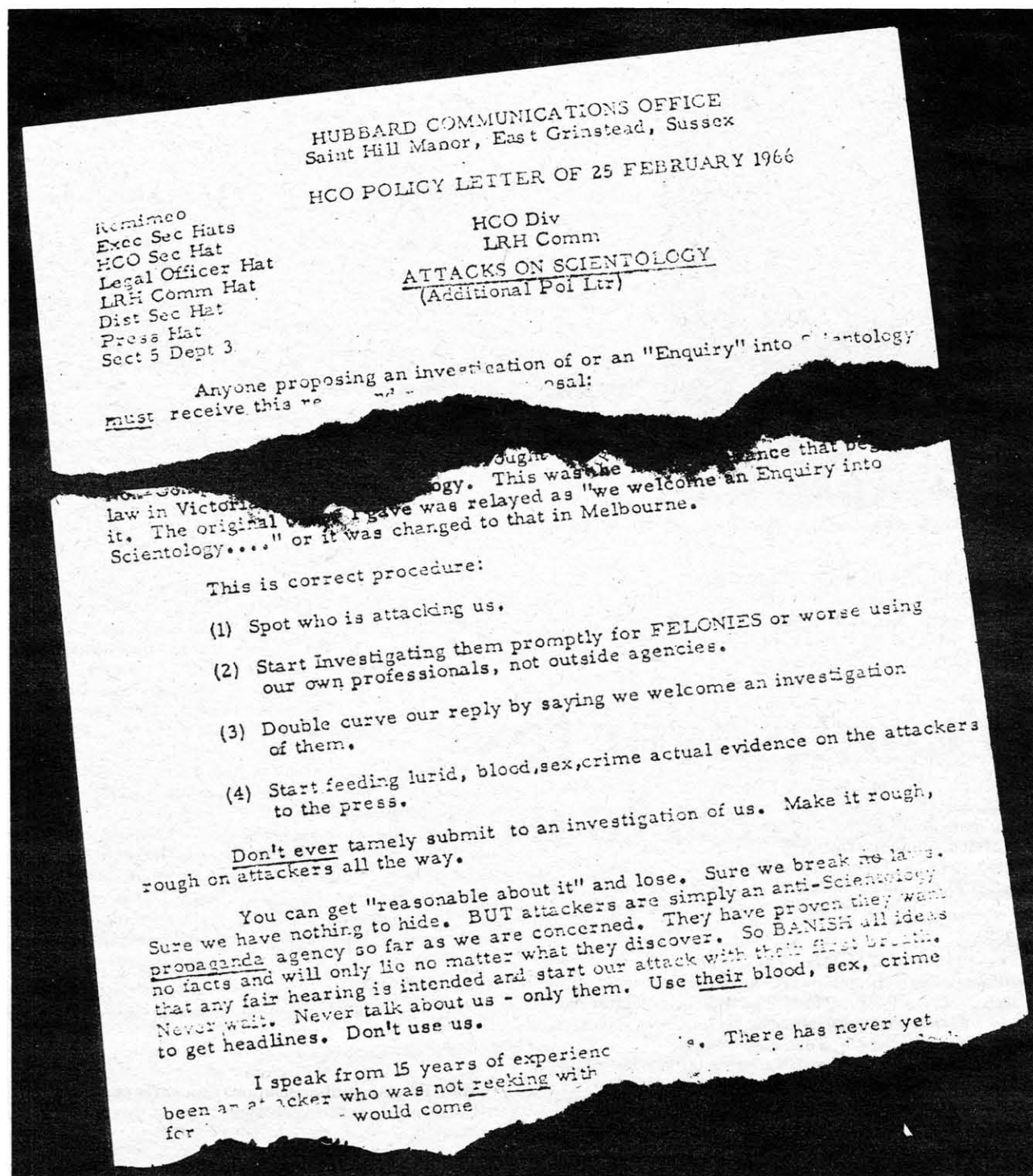
Basic to the dark side of Scientology is this definition, written by Hubbard in his dictionary entitled *Modern Management Technology Defined*: "Truth is what is true for you."

ONE OF THE most controversial of Hubbard's dictums was the "Fair Game Law." Under this 1965 law, a suppressive person (SPs in Scientology jargon) "one that actively seeks to suppress or damage Scientology or a Scientologist by suppressive acts" — should be designated "fair game."

The punishment: "May be deprived of property or injured by any means by any Scientologist without any discipline of the Scientologist. May be tricked, sued or lied to or destroyed."

Mention that policy to a Scientologist today and he will tell you that it was canceled by Hubbard in 1968. But Hubbard's cancellation said this:

"The practice of declaring people fair game will cease. Fair



This 1966 policy letter from founder L. Ron Hubbard details how church officials should deal with those people or groups they believe are attacking Scientology. Hubbard advises: "Never talk about us — only them. Use their blood, sex, crime to get headlines. Don't use us."

game may not appear on any Ethics Order. It causes bad public relations.

"This P/L (policy letter) does not cancel any policy on the treatment or handling of an SP (suppressive person)."

IN 1966, Hubbard advised church officials that the way to respond to attacks was to attack the attacker. He wrote:

"This is the correct procedure:

- "(1) Spot who is attacking us.
- "(2) Start investigating them promptly for FELONIES or worse using our own professionals, not outside agencies.
- "(3) Double curve our reply by saying we welcome an investigation of them.
- "(4) Start feeding lurid, blood, sex, crime actual evidence on the attackers to the press.

"Don't ever tamely submit to an investigation of us. Make it rough, rough on attackers all the way."

Meanwhile, he said, "to get wholly over to cause we must select targets, investigate and expose before they attack us."

Hubbard directed that the courts be used as an avenue of attack. In a 1955 publication, he stated: "... We do not want Scientology to be reported in the press, anywhere else than on the religious page of newspapers. It is destructive of word of mouth to permit the public presses to express their biased and badly reported sensationalism. Therefore we should be very alert to sue for slander at the slightest chance so as to discourage the public presses from mentioning Scientology."

IN A PUBLICATION entitled *Ability*, the commodore said: "... The purpose of the suit is to harass and discourage rather than to win. The law can be used very easily to harass, and enough harassment on somebody who is simply on the thin edge anyway, well knowing that he is not authorized, will generally be sufficient to cause his professional decease. If possible, of course, ruin him utterly."

In 1963, the church issued its "Five Press Policies," and one of them instructed members on how to handle a reporter.

"He wants a story," it said. "The only way to handle him are to eject him or to give him a story that he thinks is a story. There are no half-way measures..."

"The rules of newspaper writing today are very exact. And this is probably a far better analysis of the rules than he has, so you could surely win.

"To be printed, a story must contain one or more of these things:

- "(1) Harm (Blood, violence, damage, death, scandal).
- "(2) Sex.
- "(3) Money.
- "(4) Big names.
- "(5) The story must be written to invalidate something.
- "(6) The story must contain a controversy.
- "(7) A story must contain two opposing forces..."



Church entered Clearwater on path of deceit

The Church of Scientology came to Florida's Suncoast in late 1975 wearing a cloak of secrecy that concealed a dagger of deceit.

The mystery began Oct. 27. The Fort Harrison Hotel was purchased by Southern Land Sales and Development Corp. for \$2.3-million hard cash, and then a few days later the old Bank of Clearwater building for \$550,000.

For whom? And why?

A MIDDLE-AGED man in a green jump suit appeared in mid-November to say that he, Sorel Allen, was "director of membership and public affairs" for United Churches of Florida. He said the buildings would be leased to United Churches, a new organization organized by laymen interested in the religious truths of all denominations, and he said this ecumenical group would hold meetings and seminars for persons of all faiths, and everything would be very open.

But Kenneth Seidenberg, an attorney for Jack Tar Hotels, told the *St. Petersburg Times* on Dec. 5 that the sale of the Fort Harrison was "one of the strangest transactions we've ever dealt in." Southern Land Sales wouldn't even give Jack Tar its telephone number, he said.

"We have never been involved in this cloak and dagger (kind of deal)," Seidenberg said. "They have been so secretive that it has been driving us crazy as to who they are and what they are."

United Churches was not the answer.

Documents recently released in the Washington trial of nine Scientologists tell the real story. On Nov. 26, 1975 — nine days before Seidenberg expressed his frustration — L. Ron Hubbard, founder and commodore of the Church of Scientology, issued a secret Guardian Office Order headed "Program LRH Security. Code Name: Power."

FLAG, THE church's program office, sort of a theology center, had been at sea aboard the church-owned yacht *Apollo* for several years. The precise reasons why the church maintained a headquarters operation on a ship are not known. But now it was coming ashore. The quiet Gulf Coast city of Clearwater had been chosen as the new site.

Hubbard's directive said the church should establish a permanent office there. He stated the following goal: "Really attain PROAC (public relations office area control) in the CW (Clearwater) operating area for the organizations operating there, sort out any weak spots or potential threats internal or external and handle . . . Dynamite spots should be predicted far in advance . . . and handled before any repercussion occurs."

That same day, Henning Heldt, Scientology's deputy guardian for the United States, received a letter from someone named Ron, which read: "We have found a whole part of a condominium to rent. It is 5.3 miles from the FH (Fort Harrison). We have been negotiating on it as a simple rental . . . It will be UC (United Churches) or SLD (Southern Land Development) — I don't know what name the mission is using for the negotiation."

"As the office of LRH (Hubbard) will be there, the bus and phone lines will have to lead to there . . ."

"THERE WILL BE an LRH private office at the FH (that is easy as I just drive in the garage and enter the third floor-garage elevator hall door and go on up. There will possibly be a personal office at the bank bldg if they get it clean. This is rougher as one has to step out of a car and walk to the door)."

Ron told Heldt what he would be doing:

"Probably my best layout is to get very well known in the CW area with a camera in my hand and my Universal News press card taking pictures of 'beautiful CW' which is the local button (they hate tourists and also retired people). My photoshoot people will continue, as I have a whole org (translation: organization) for that sort of thing . . ."

"So I think the exact plan will be that I play operations above security, slide in on personal PR (translation: public relations) as that well known photographer very visible with a whole crew camera in hand and living in a nearby town. Not push it. Just let it seep in. My portrait of the mayor will hang in city hall never fear . . . And we count on your B1 (translation: information office) to very quickly pre-alert any trouble so I can go fishing until you handle."

"AND WE COUNT ON YOU GUYS TO MOW IRS DOWN AND WIN ACROSS THE BOARDS."

"THAT IS THE way it will have to be played within the realities of the scene . . . So the program is attached."

Attackers from Page 6

Hubbard devised a technique of using anonymous or covert methods to destroy an enemy's reputation. He called the tactic "Black Propaganda."

Instruction in its use is contained in a Hubbard policy letter of 1971 reprinted in a volume entitled *The Management Series*.

"The most involved employment of PR (public relations) is its covert use in destroying the repute of individuals and groups," he wrote. "More correctly, this is technically called BLACK PROPAGANDA. Basically, it is an intelligence technique."

Hubbard created the Guardian Office to protect the church from attack. Mary Sue Hubbard gave the office its goal. "The primary function of the Guardian Office," she said in a Guardian Order of Oct. 19, 1974, "is: To sweep aside opposition sufficiently to create a vacuum into which Scientology can expand."

ORDERS SETTING out programs for operatives in the Guardian Office were manifestations of Hubbard's policies.

Oct. 21, 1974: "SITUATION: The IRS (Internal Revenue Service), despite extensive legal and PR handling, is persisting in its attack upon the C of S and LRH . . ."

"IDEAL SCENE: IRS with no false reports in their files on Scientology, uninterested in Scientology taxes, other than as a routine matter, doing their jobs and busy elsewhere with the usual red tape of a bureaucracy, with the psychotics located and their influence eliminated . . ."

"PLAN: Finance, PR, and legal continue their actions while B4 enters the arena and gets every single false report in every single IRS file. Once the data has been revealed, the lies can be corrected, the SPs isolated and handled, further PR and legal actions initiated and the IRS attack turned off."

The order directed that agents, "trustworthy and well grooved," immediately infiltrate IRS offices in Washington, Los Angeles and London and obtain copies of the documents.

June 27, 1975: "Info must find the who back of these IRS attacks and document it for exposure plus all other items of interest. It could be IRS and the government is attacking any vocal group to pave the way for some coup by the government. Evidence as to the why of these attacks must be gotten, powerful enough to destroy the attackers when eventually used or revealed."

THIS ORDER WAS from Hubbard, who said that somewhere in IRS was "an insane individual with insane plans" who was operating a "false reports factory." He wanted that person found.

Sept. 16, 1976: "Operation Cat." The order said, "The idea is to make a mockery and hold up to ridicule the computer, the security services and authority in relation to FOI (freedom of information)." The goal: "To plant grossly false information in governmental agencies, especially security services files, for later public retrieval and ridiculing exposure."

Operations like these were not limited to the IRS, or even to government. Documents released by a federal court in Washington show that they were also employed against public officials and private citizens on the Florida Suncoast.

On July 21, 1976, one of the strangest of many strange orders was issued. It was entitled "Operation Bulldozer Leak."

It began: "MAJOR TARGET: To effectively spread the rumor that will lead Government, media, and individual SPs to conclude that LRH has no control of the C of S and no legal liability for church activity."

One is left to wonder how it ended, and where the 68-year-old spiritual leader of Scientology now resides, and what policies he will promulgate next.

Could this Ron have been LRH himself? Who knows?

Two days later — Nov. 28, 1975: Heldt issued a new directive, "IRS: Endure." He quoted Hubbard: "Views of the scene are optimistic at this time. However knowing the insane, we must be fully prepared and positioned to get right on operating throughout the U.S. and work until we get a straight jacket on IRS no matter what they do . . . Earlier I advised a new corporation be set up in every org (organization) area in U.S. to parallel the actions of each org and simply sit there dormant, but ready to hire the old org's staff and continue, non successor, in new quarters."

The directive said: "Flag will continue to operate as C of S of C (Church of Scientology of California). C of S of C will be leasing space from United Churches of Florida, a non-profit corporation which will in turn be leasing from the owner of the buildings."

THE PLAN called for organizing "Dormant Corp." and "Mother Church Corp." for possible future use should the church lose its tax exempt status and IRS seize its assets. It also directed that means be found "of safeguarding cash reserves from IRS seizure or wipe-out."

Dec. 5: With Clearwater folk still trying to decide what this United Churches business was all about, the Guardian Office of Scientology issued directives on Project Power.

One goal was to "establish the indispensibility of United Churches" in the community. The directive said:

"The overall plan is to locate opinion leaders — then, their enemies, the dirt, scandal, vested interest, crime of the enemies (with overt data as much as possible). Then turn this over to UC who will approach the opinion leader and get his agreement to look into a specific subject (which will lead to the enemies' crimes). UC then 'discovers' the scandal, etc., and turns it over to the opinion leader for his use. Ops (operations) can be done as a follow up if needed to remove or restrain the enemy."

"EXAMPLE: B1 finds the Clearwater Mayor as an opinion leader and Mr. Shultz as his enemy. Overt (and suitable guise) investigation of Shultz shows him to like little girls and that he walks in the park every Sunday when he attempts to drag little girls into the bushes. B1 turns this data over to UC. UC goes to the Mayor and gets his OK to look into 'what can be done to beautify Clearwater City Park.' Shortly after the Mayor gives his OK to look into the park, UC 'discovers' that there are undesirables in the park and turns the data over to the Mayor. Several days later UC 'discovers' that Mr. Shultz molests little girls in the park and turns that over to the Mayor managing to get press on the whole park campaign and to make a friend out of the Mayor. Now if Shultz is also a potential enemy of ours (which he might be after the above is done) and the Mayor or newspaper hasn't removed him from a position of power then OPS (operations) does."

Church functionaries were directed "to fully investigate the Clearwater city and county area so we can distinguish our friends from our enemies and handle as needed." Dossiers were to be compiled on medical societies, clinics, hospitals, police departments and agencies, public relations firms, drug firms, federal, state and local government agencies, city council, banks, investment houses, local representatives in Congress and Florida's two U.S. senators.

FINALLY, THE directive called for protecting "ourselves against any potential threat by taking control of the key points in the Clearwater area." This was to be accomplished by determining key news media and political leaders and gaining either their allegiance or control over them.

It didn't work that way. Instead of winning the friendship of Mayor Gabriel Cazares, United Churches — which was still fronting for the Church of Scientology at this time — found him critical of their secrecy.

"I am discomfited by the increasing visibility of security personnel, armed with billy clubs and Mace, employed by the United Churches of Florida," the mayor said. "I am unable to understand why this degree of security is required by a religious organization . . ."

Reporters had been working diligently to find out who was behind United Churches. They were finally successful. But on Jan. 28, just as they were ready to publish their stories, Rev. Arthur J. Maren of Los Angeles arrived in Clearwater for a news conference.

HE ANNOUNCED that the Church of Scientology of California was the new owner of the Fort Harrison and was also behind formation of United Churches. The Church of Scientology had kept its involvement secret, he said, because it didn't want to overshadow the work of United Churches.

The secret was out.

Stories about this new religion, Scientology, began appearing in *The St. Petersburg Times* and the *Clearwater Sun*. Mayor Cazares continued his criticism of the church and its methods.

And the church? Did it turn the other cheek? Hardly. That's not part of Scientology's creed.

'Priority' critics of church faced special handling

The secret was out.

It wasn't really United Churches of Florida that had taken over that old Clearwater landmark, the Fort Harrison Hotel. It was the Church of Scientology.

Citizens of Pinellas County received the word on Jan. 28, 1976 when Rev. Arthur J. Maren, a national spokesman, came to Clearwater. He said the Church of Scientology had kept the fact secret because it didn't want to overshadow the good intentions of United Churches.

IT'S A WONDER the truth hadn't come out before then. For L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, was in town. Three Clearwater ministers later recalled that he directed the taping of radio shows in which they had been invited to participate by United Churches.

"He looked very impressive," Rev. Otis Green of Everybody's Tabernacle said of the elusive Hubbard. He was dressed in an army-type khaki-colored uniform with matching tam-o'-shanter, Green said.

Hubbard "came right in and started turning the knobs," Green said. Wearing earphones, he directed people where to stand and was "putting all the sound together."

Rev. R. L. Wicker of Calvary Temple of God said Hubbard displayed "tremendous authority" at the taping of the show for his church. "They introduced him to me as Mr. Hubbard, but that didn't mean anything to me — they said he was an engineer," Rev. Wicker said. "When I saw his picture in the paper, I felt like an idiot — that I had really, truly been had."

Hubbard, like his church, was doing good deeds . . . on the face of it.

THERE WAS such contrast between what Scientology did publicly in its first few months in Clearwater, and what went on secretly in the Guardian office in the Fort Harrison.

Oh, the church lost no time in letting the community know that its velvet glove concealed a rock-hard fist. On Feb. 6, just a week after Maren's announcement, the church filed a \$1-million lawsuit against Mayor Gabriel Cazares — a consistent critic of the secrecy with which United Churches came to Clearwater — accusing him of libel, slander and violation of the church's civil rights.

But five days later, the public was invited to an open house at the Fort Harrison. About 500 people showed up and they found the old hotel looking better, cleaner.

Rev. Fred Ulan, flashing a big smile, greeted everyone and spoke of a week of "ups and downs." He introduced Maren and, pointing at his head, said: "See, no horns."

MAREN TOLD the crowd the Church of Scientology had come in peace and good will.

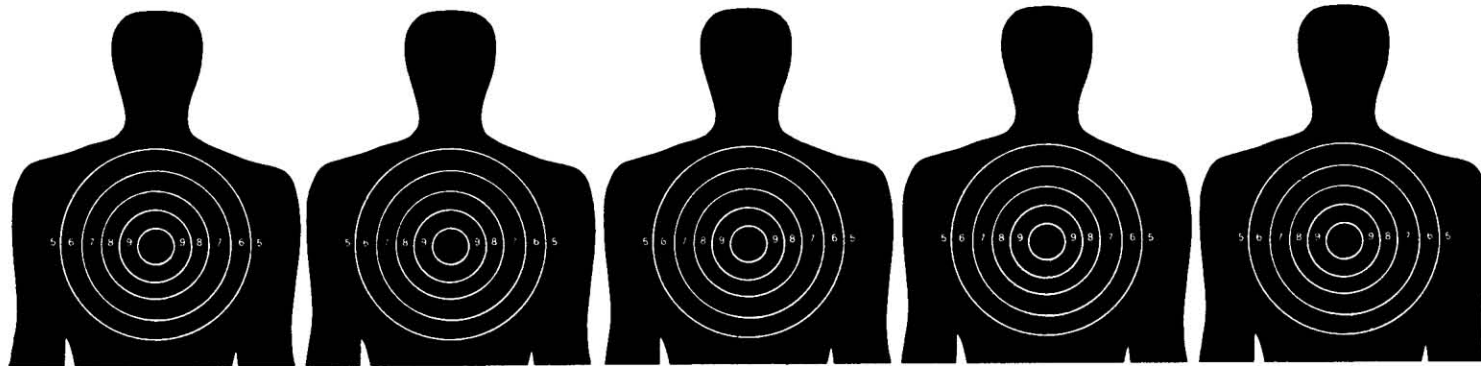
"Scientists are people who don't drink or violate laws," he said. "They are friendly and want to contribute. We'd like you to give us the right to have our viewpoint."

Peace? Good will?

The day after Maren had come to Clearwater, an official of the church circulated copies of his "weekly report" to other church executives. Among the problems he listed in typical Scientology report fashion was this one:

"**SITUATION:** Set of entheta (translation: unfavorable) articles connection UCF (translation: United Churches) and Scientology and LRH (translation: Hubbard) breaking now in the Flag area papers.

"**WHY:** Unhandled enemies (reporters



Bette Orsini:
reporter,
St. Petersburg Times

Mark Sableman:
reporter,
Clearwater Sun

Robert Snyder:
radio broadcaster,
WDCL, Dunedin

Gabriel Cazares:
mayor,
Clearwater

Nelson Poynter:
chairman of the board,
St. Petersburg Times



Eugene Patterson:
editor and president,
St. Petersburg Times

Steve Advokat:
reporter,
Clearwater Sun

Mike Pride:
city editor,
Clearwater Sun

Ron Stuart:
managing editor,
Clearwater Sun

Andrew Barnes:
managing editor,
St. Petersburg Times

Targets of Scientology operations on the Suncoast in 1976

and media terminals); possible plant and definite out security.

"**HANDLED:** Collections and Ops (translation: operations) underway on reporters Orsini, Sableman, and Snyder (radio broadcaster). Results of Ops not in yet . . ."

Flag was the church headquarters at the Fort Harrison. Bette Orsini of the *St. Petersburg Times*, Mark Sableman of the *Clearwater Sun*, and Bob Snyder of Radio Station WDCL, Dunedin, had been reporting on Scientology. They were already marked for church operations to discredit them.

THIS REPORT was among thousands of church documents — its own and documents that it had stolen — that were released recently by a federal court in Washington.

The day before Maren told the crowd at the hotel how Scientology wanted to contribute, Joe Lisa, assistant guardian for information at Flag, sent his weekly report to other church offices. Among the dozen situations cited was this one:

"**SITUATION:** Chamber of Commerce has enemies on it that PR (public relations) is not aware of.

"**WHY:** We did not liaise with PR to inform them.

"**HANDLED:** We compiled a list of enemies that we knew of at the Chamber of Commerce and turned it over to DG PR US (deputy guardian for public relations U.S.) for his and Flag PR Bureau's use in their planned handling of the terminals at the Chamber of Commerce. Report sent."

On Feb. 17, Lisa wrote Jimmy Mulligan, an aide to Mrs. Hubbard on the commodore's staff, that "a letter is going out to the *Sun*

(one of those 5 day warning letters). Basically they are going to be warned not to print anymore . . . or else we will sue."

He also said, "Yesterday we turned over to PR scandal material for a Br I PR (branch one) attack on the medicos in these here parts. I am also having some follow up on this and am drawing up a project to get a large scale attack going on nursing homes, medical centers, mental health and psychiatric clinics. I'll be sending a copy up lines as soon as I get that completed."

The next day, M.S. — Mary Sue Hubbard, wife of the founder — wrote her assessment of the Clearwater scene to Dick Weigand, deputy guardian for information, U.S. Of Mayor Cazares, she said: "He thought he had an excellent handle on us politically and was using it to gain PR for himself politically. He has nowhere to go except in the political arena. We were the football that blew up on him when we did not prove out to be tied to some gambling or other interests."

SHE GAVE her assessments of reporters Snyder and Sableman and of *The St. Petersburg Times*.

"Of all," she said, "I consider the SPT (*Times*) to be the most dangerous. Poynter (?) obviously feels he owns this neck of the woods morally, spiritually, politically and otherwise."

She was referring to Nelson Poynter, the *Times'* chairman of the board.

That March 19, the open face of Scientology announced that it was selling the church's seagoing flagship, the 3,287-ton *Apollo*, because it had established a new "land base" in Clearwater.

But the secret face was plotting. Eleven

days later Mitchell Hermann (who was also known as Mike Cooper), southeast U.S. secretary, wrote Lisa: "Attached is a list of ops customers in order of priority. Please begin (actually please continue) sending up ops on these folk. Robert Snyder, Mayor Cazares, Poynter/Patterson, Steve Advokat (unless he shifts off the heavy entheta)/Mike Pride/Stuart, Orsini/Andy Barnes, Nan McLean . . ."

Eugene C. Patterson was editor and president, Bette Orsini a reporter and Andrew Barnes the managing editor of *The St. Petersburg Times*. Ron Stuart was the managing editor, Mike Pride the city editor and Steve Advokat a reporter for the *Clearwater Sun*; Nan McLean was a disaffected church member.

APRIL CAME. The church announced it was doubling its professional staff in Clearwater to handle an expansion of its program. About the same time, Rev. Ulan, the newly-named director of United Churches, was accepted as a member of the Clearwater Ministerial Association.

The church did not reveal the letter national operations officer Randy Windment (also known as Bruce Raymond) had written to Weigand.

"Dear Dick,
"Sitn: The "Bank" of CW is following the anti-C of S line of attack.

"Data: The Mayor of CW and the local press and others are attacking the C of S.

"LRH's policy on (PR) Black Propaganda states something to the effect of 'Black Propaganda if overused turns on its user.' (Actual quote: ' . . . Black Propaganda is not something one lightly instigates. For it recoils on the person who uses it.')



Church played dirty tricks on Cazares

In Clearwater in January 1976, Gabriel blew his horn.

No walls tumbled. But Mayor Gabriel Cazares' persistent questioning of the motives of a new religious group that had tiptoed into town helped put a crimp in plans of the Church of Scientology to quietly take control of the city.

His whistle-blowing moved him to a high place on the hit list maintained in the church's Guardian Office where officials spent their days operating an espionage system and concocting dirty tricks to discredit "enemies" of Scientology.

SCHEMES DEVISED to handle Cazares were among the most vicious described in church documents recently released by a federal court in Washington.

Scientology's spy operation was operating smoothly in the winter of '76, and Cazares was destined to become enmeshed in wheels turning in Washington.

L. Ron Hubbard, church founder and commodore, had come ashore in Clearwater. The church had recently purchased the Fort Harrison Hotel for a new base for Flag — its program and theology center. The commodore, it appears, was operating out of the King Arthur Courts condominium in Dunedin where the church had rented one building of the five-building complex. Mary Sue Hubbard, his wife and the commodore staff guardian, was on the scene.

The spy operation was focused on Washington where Mike Meisner, assistant guardian for information D.C., was running agents (how to run agents had been set forth in detail in a policy letter written some years before by Hubbard). Gerald Bennett Wolfe, whose code name was "Silver," had been employed as a clerk-typist at the Internal Revenue Service since November 1974. Sharon Thomas had been working for the Coast Guard since January 1975, but Meisner had given her orders to get a job at the Justice Department. She went to work there on Jan. 29, 1976.

At the beginning of February, Meisner was ordered to Los Angeles for briefings. While he was there, a Telex message came in from Jimmy Mulligan, commodore staff guardian assistant for information, in Clearwater. He wanted to know the situation regarding access to current information about Scientology in the office of Lewis Hubbard, an IRS official.

MEISNER PREPARED a reply. He said that he and Silver had broken into Lewis Hubbard's office three weeks earlier with the help of Don Alverzo, a church agent who had been sent to Washington from Los Angeles to help because he knew how to pick locks. They found only old data on Scientology, he said.

"I found a note on Hubbard's desk that said something like 'See Friedberg re Scn,'" Meisner said. "From that note I assumed that Friedberg (Stephen) was handling the PT (translation: recent) Scn material. . . Last week we obtained access to Friedberg's area by leaving one of the doors unlocked during the day. . . Friedberg had material on the Calif. scene dated as late as 26 Jan. 76. . . The PT material was sent upline last week." (Keep Meisner in mind. In the summer of 1977, he turned himself in to the FBI. Information that he provided led to raids on church offices and confiscation of 48,149 documents that were the basis for the indictment and convictions in Washington of nine Scientologists — including Mary Sue Hubbard, Wolfe and Ms. Thomas.)

BACK IN Clearwater, Guardian office officials were weighing how they could silence Gabriel's horn.

A six-page list of LRH (Hubbard) orders from about this time has several references to Cazares:

"5/2/76 (Feb. 2) Cazares — Possibly Jimmy Fischer could get his school records.

"15/3/76 (March 3) Cazares — Is there some possibility the Cubans in Miami might get the idea that he is pro-Castro?"

On Feb. 7, the church filed a \$1-million lawsuit in U.S. District Court charging that the mayor had libeled and slandered the church and violated its civil rights. On Feb. 28, Cazares replied to the church's libel suit with an \$8-million libel suit of his own.

He would have been surprised to know that two days earlier church agents were in Alpine, Texas digging through records in the county clerk's office, the police department, the office of the Border Patrol, the Catholic Church, talking with local doctors, the midwife, long-time residents, looking for information on him. They even visited the graveyard looking for headstones bearing the Cazares name.

IN A "Mission Report," Mike C. (Mitchell Hermann) stated: "The mission went to Alpine and succeeded in getting a good amount of legally useable affidavits and letters to support the fact that Cazares was not born in Alpine, Tex. The mission also located a newspaper article announcing the birth of a baby named 'Alpine Bill' Cazares on Jan. 30, 1920, to a father with the same initials (J. O. Cazares) as that of Gabriel's father."

A few days later, Hermann wrote Duke Snider, deputy deputy guardian for the U.S., that Cazares would be in Washington for a national mayor's conference March 13-17. "I am now working on a set of Ops (operations) type actions which could be done to welcome the mayor to the nation's capital," he said.

WHAT HAPPENED then was described by government attorneys in a "Sentencing Memorandum" to U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey in Washington earlier this month as he prepared to sentence the nine Scientologists.

"Shortly thereafter," the memorandum said, "defendant Hermann ordered Mr. Meisner to carry out an operation on Mayor Cazares during his Washington trip — that operation was to involve a fake hit-and-run accident. Defendant Sharon Thomas was to be the main participant in that operation. She was to meet Mayor Cazares, drive him around town, and at a predetermined location stage a hit-and-run accident with Mr. Meisner as the 'victim.'"

"At the same time that defendant Hermann was directing Mr. Meisner to carry out the 'accident,' defendant (Dick) Weigand responded to defendant Snider's earlier orders by sending him a list of Clearwater, Fla., 'enemies' and their priority for 'handling' purposes. Mayor Cazares ranked second on the defendants Weigand's and Snider's list, right behind the *St. Petersburg Times*.

"On March 14, 1976, District of Columbia Collections Officer Joseph Alesi, posing as a reporter, interviewed Mayor Cazares. During that interview, he met defendant Sharon Thomas. Thomas then offered to show Mayor Cazares the town. During that drive, defendant Thomas, who was driving, staged her fake hit-and-run accident in Rock Creek Park, hitting Michael Meisner. She drove on without reporting the accident to the police.

Of course, defendant Thomas knew that no harm had been caused to the 'victim.' In a letter dated March 15, 1976, to CSG Assistant for Information Jimmy Mulligan and fugitive defendant Morris (Mo) Budlong, defendant Weigand discussed how Scientology could use that 'fake' accident against Mayor Cazares and concluded that 'I should think that the Mayor's political days are at an end.'"

THE CHURCH did not use the hit-and-run incident against Cazares immediately. That would come later.

Meanwhile, the Guardian Office was working on "Operation Italian Fog." It was a simple Op, said Randy (National Operations Officer Bruce Raymond, also known as Randy Windment) in a March 23 letter to Dick and Greg. "The purpose of this Op," he said, "is to actually get real documentation into the files of Mexican license bureau or bureaus stating that the Mayor got married in Mexico to some Mexican gal 25 years ago who is not his wife so puts the mayor in a position of bigamy. This can be accomplished either by a bribe or a covert action. Once the docs are planted, it is cleverly exposed that the Mayor is promiscuous and a bigamist."

The detailed plan for the operation was written April 9. It was accompanied by a handwritten note that said: "As part of the security, if a bribe is used data should be given to the person accepting the bribe to pinpoint a false Who in his mind, ideally one of the Mayor's known enemies so that if the Op gets blown up to the person who was bribed that person would give data on the planted Who and S. (Scientology) would never come up."

Cazares, a Democrat, was by then a candidate for the congressional seat held by Republican Rep. C. W. Bill Young. The church worked hard to hurt his campaign. The congressman said recently that Steven Heard, a church public relations official, offered over lunch with Douglas Gregory, Young's administrative assistant, to supply the congressman with information that could damage Cazares' campaign. Gregory — and a day later Young, by letter — refused the offer.

ON JULY 12, Operation Keller was given a green light. Its stated purpose was "to create havoc and possible political decay for Cazares."

Within a few days, fake letters from "Sharon T" were mailed by church agents to political leaders and reporters in Pinellas County. The letters said Cazares had been involved in a hit-and-run accident in Washington.

Cazares asked the FBI to investigate. Young received a letter saying the "Sharon T" letter was really authored by the Cazares campaign to make it look like Young was involved in dirty tricks. He turned it over to the FBI.

In an Oct. 7 weekly report, Dick Weigand told Mo Budlong that the handling of the mayor was continuing. "A recent poll conducted by the CW Sun received phoney responses from the public generated covertly which showed that his opponent had a crushing lead on him," Weigand said.

And on Nov. 3, 1976, Joe Lisa informed Duke Snider that Mayor Cazares had been defeated in the congressional race as a result of Guardian Program Order 398 — an operation to create strife between Cazares and the city commission, and to place a church agent in his campaign organization to cause problems — and other Scientology actions which included "spreading rumors inside his camp, contributing to disorganization in his campaign."

The church's libel suit against Cazares was dismissed by U.S. District Judge Ben Krentzman in Tampa in the spring of '77. The church later dropped two other suits against Cazares, and he withdrew his suit against the church.

Critics from Page 8

"The attached OP is designed to get Base 'overattacked' but at the same time to do no harm to Base.

"The idea is to 3P (attack) ourselves in such a manner that the persons who continue to attack us seem to be Facists, commie haters, and bigots. This OP should make "Black" and Jewish allies if PR carries the ball.

"The OP is very simple to do. I've talked to SE SEC (southeast directorate secretary) about this and he thinks that no harm could come out of it but that the letter should be more pronounced in its bigotry.

"Love,
"Randy."

THE ATTACHED senario for the operation was labeled "OP Yellow." It said that an anonymous letter should be mailed to all downtown Clearwater businesses, particularly "ALL the Jewish ones." In fact, it said, to mail it to businesses as far away as Tampa.

The suggested letter said:

"Fellow Clearwaterians (check spell)

"God bless the Mayor. He is a true Christian and the entire town should be proud of him. He has stood up against un-Christian Scientology and God is obviously with him.

"On the Scientology issues, the Mayor is right. We back him all the way. But what we should also do is make sure no more undesireables move into Clearwater.

"We kept the Miami Jews from moving in and turning beautiful Clearwater into Miami Beach. The blacks in Clearwater are decent and know their place. . ."

Peace? Good will?

WHILE THE church was publicly wooing citizens of Clearwater, behind the scenes its agents were investigating public officials and civic leaders and compiling dossiers on them.

On Feb. 21, a two-page report from Molly Harlow, collections officer for Flag to Lisa provided biographical background on Clearwater City Atty. Thomas Bustin. A May report furnished Lisa with pertinent data on The Upper Pinellas County Association for Retarded Children. An information bureau daily report said the investigation of county commissioners was almost done.

A remarkable amount of time was spent by church officials in dealing with people they perceived to be enemies or potential enemies. Remarkable also was the complexity of the schemes they wove to discredit people and organizations.

St. Petersburg Times topped 'enemies' list

"Poynter is a millionaire: Does he have a butler, maid, cook, shofer (sic), gardener, etc. Put an FSM onto one of these things and get the low down on he and his wife."

That cryptic note, with no addressee or signature, was among the thousands of Church of Scientology documents recently released in connection with the trial of nine Scientologists in a federal court in Washington.

Poynter? Nelson Poynter, late chairman of the board of *The St. Petersburg Times*. FSM? Church lingo for a secret agent, a spy.

Obviously that note was just one small paragraph in a huge ongoing program of the Guardian Office of the Church of Scientology to "handle" *The St. Petersburg Times*, the organization it placed at the top of its enemies list in the Clearwater area in the early days of 1976.

Times reporter Bette Orsini discovered that January that the new owner of the Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater was the Church of Scientology of California, and that United Churches of Florida, which had moved into the hotel in December, was a Scientology front. *The Times* was preparing to print her story when, on Jan. 28, Scientology announced it was the new owner.

The Times came quickly to the attention of the guardians of the publicity-shy church because of Mrs. Orsini's stories on Scientology's background and the stories of reporters Susan Denley and Ardith Hilliard on the developing controversy between the church and the citizenry of Clearwater.

BUT THE church already knew a great deal about *The Times*.

Two months earlier, on Nov. 18, 1975, a "missionaire" named Sandy provided church officials with a six-page rundown on the history of *The Times* and the backgrounds of its owner, Nelson Poynter, and executives.

The Guardian Office struck quickly with its standard plan for silencing — or attempting to silence — newspapers that write about it. On Feb. 4, Clearwater attorney Jack F. White Jr., representing the Church of Scientology of California, sent a letter to *The Times* and Mrs. Orsini.

"Gentlemen," it began. "This is your notice under Chapter 770.01, Florida Statutes, that our clients intend to institute action against you for libel, including disparagement of title to real property and possibly for invasion of privacy, for the following publication, which we consider libelous." It cited two paragraphs of a story by Mrs. Orsini in which she described the workings of an E-meter, a device used by the church in auditing.

The letter was a threat of suit; no suit was filed.

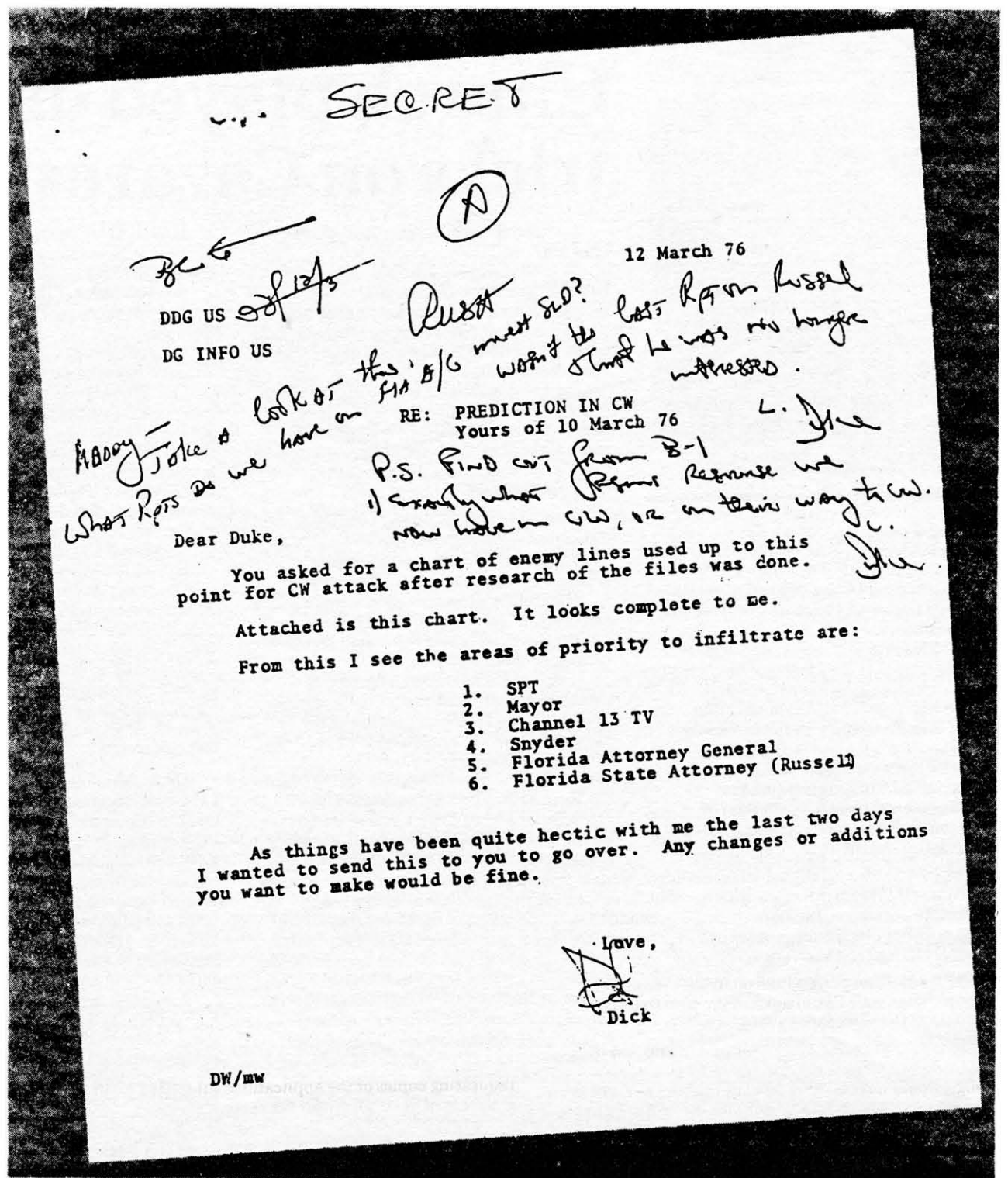
Documents released by the federal court in Washington show that on Feb. 11 — one week after that threat was made — Duke Snider, deputy deputy guardian U.S., wrote Henning Heldt, deputy guardian U.S., that he had come up with an excellent defense should anyone accuse the church of trying to silence *The Times*.

"**THERE ARE 3 papers here, the CW Sun, St. Pete Times, Tampa Tribune,**" he said. "The CW Sun and St. Pete Times printed the most stuff. Tampa ran a lesser amount but still some entheta (translation: unfavorable publicity).

"When we sent out the letters threatening libel we did not have time to get around to the *Tribune*, they had printed less, but still some entheta and we wanted to go over their articles more carefully."

Just that day, he said, his office was preparing to send a letter to the *Tribune* threatening a suit, but then his plan came to mind.

"So with the *Tribune* (Tampa)," Snider said, "we do not threaten any action but just let PR (public relations) handle. As a defense we then point to them and say 'We didn't threaten them or try to shut them up, it's just those who are completely unreasonable or unfair and despite all our best efforts will not stop printing falsehoods that require us to take recourse to legal action.'"



Scientology letter shows targets for infiltration with SPT (St. Petersburg Times) at the top.

On Feb. 12, *The St. Petersburg Times* and reporters Orsini, Denley and Hilliard filed a lawsuit in Pinellas County Circuit Court charging that the Church of Scientology of California, United Churches of Florida, L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, and Sorel Allen, United Churches' membership director, "have conspired . . . to harass, intimidate, frighten, prosecute, slander, defame" *Times* employees. It asked the court to enjoin them from further harassment.

THE SUIT did not faze the Guardian Office. It accelerated its plans for *The Times*.

In his weekly report of Feb. 19, Joe, the acting guardian for information at Flag — the church headquarters in the Fort Harrison — said an agent of the church had applied for employment at *The Times*. (A month later, a letter to Snider from Dick Weigand showed the priority the church was placing in its operations against *The Times*. Weigand's letter said that Snider "asked for a chart of enemy lines used up to this point for CW attack after research of the files was done . . . from this I see the areas of priority to infiltrate are 1. SPT (translation: *St. Petersburg Times*, 2. Mayor, 3. Channel 13 TV, 4. Snyder (meaning radio broadcaster Robert Snyder), 5. Florida Attorney General and 6. Florida State Attorney (Russell).")

Joe also said he was trying to get information from the law firm representing *The Times*.

"We have located a potential FSM (covert agent) who meets the qualifications to be a legal secretary and we will be checking her out for possible placement," he said.

There was fear that Hubbard would be served with a subpoena in *The Times*' suit, but that had been handled, Joe said. "The defendant of the suit is no longer in the area to get served along with Sorel Allen, who left as well."

THE GUARDIANS were successful in getting confidential information from the files of Baynard, McLeod, Lang and Ballard, the law firm representing *The Times*. It was never established whether the information was obtained by a Scientologist employed by the firm or by burglary.

On March 7, Tom Ritchie, the collections officer for Flag, circulated to other church offices a 13-page "raw data report" on the contents of *The Times*' file at the law firm.

The report began: "William Ballard of Baynard, McLeod, Lang & Ballard, the attorneys for the St. Pete *Times*, is working off the following data in their case against us." The report cited articles about Scientology that *The Times* had collected, memoranda of *Times*' reporters and editors, memoranda on reporters' interviews, letters from Ballard to John M. Bray of the Washington law firm representing *The Times*, and so on.

One citation was prophetic. It concerned an Orsini memorandum on an interview with Paulette Cooper who wrote a book about Scientology and was given full enemy treatment by the church. Among the portions of the Orsini memorandum quoted in the "raw data report" was this: "She warned me that the Scientologists send anonymous smear letters."

ONE DAY later, Ritchie was reporting on "Bette Orsini

Notes to Bill Ballard," a lengthy distillation of a series of memoranda from the reporter to the attorney for use in connection with *The Times* lawsuit.

In Washington, Scientology agents ransacked *The Times*' file in the law firm of Arent Fox Kinter Plotkin & Kahn. According to a government document, "At least three burglaries were committed during the early months of 1976" at the law office. "These burglaries and thefts of documents were carried out pursuant to the orders of defendant Mitchell Hermann. In February 1976 two entries were made into the office of Jack Bray and his secretary at the above-mentioned law firm, the first one by Richard Kimmel, the acting assistant guardian for information in the District of Columbia, and the second one by Kimmel and Michael Meisner." On each occasion, according to the document, papers relating to *The Times* lawsuit against the Scientologists were taken.

The March 11 weekly report of the D.C. information office stated: "Information was obtained from the DC law firm representing the Times Publishing Company. This information included a 60-page timetrack of activities by Bette Orsini, the entheta (translation: giving the church bad publicity) writer with *The Times*; data indicating that the suit was quickly filed at the behest of Nelson Poynter to 'gain the initiative'; information about Orsini's sources including Paulette Cooper, the Liebermans (connected with the psychological kidnapping scene), AMA, FDA, etc. . . ."

The same report said that additional data collection on Nelson Poynter had been carried out in D.C.

FROM THEIR research, the guardians knew that *Times* President Gene Patterson was second in command and would likely succeed Poynter as chief executive officer of the firm. Guardian Randy Windment proposed to cause a split in the top management of *The Times* by discrediting Patterson with Poynter. He called his proposal Operation Fickle.

The complex plan called for a woman, posing as a relative gathering information for a political science student, to call Mrs. Patterson and tape an interview with her. The questions would be cleverly phrased so the answers could be made to appear critical of Poynter's management of *The Times*. The interview would be leaked to "an enemy paper."

"If the OP went down perfectly as planned," Windment said, "it would cause both Patterson and Poynter to be the laughing stocks of the newspaper world."

But Windment's superior, G. W., refused to approve it. "I'm not at all certain this OP, even if done all the way through without bugs, would have enough of an affect (sic) to make it worth the resources expended," he said. ". . . Would anyone really be interested in such a story — and if so I think that media person would check directly with Mrs. Patterson to discuss the 'controversy' at which point Mrs. Patterson would deny that she meant such and such. . . ."

IN THE APRIL edition of *FREEDOM*, the newspaper of Scientology, "A Freedom Special Report" stated that Poynter "was allegedly an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency." There were accompanying photographs of security equipment at *The Times* and a caption said "extensive security measures suggest something more high-powered than routine newspaper functions."

The August/September edition of *FREEDOM* said *The Times* was included on a list of organizations connected with the CIA by "a West Coast publication, the *News Novel*."

Patterson sent a copy of the *FREEDOM* article to George Bush, then director of the CIA. Bush replied that the charge that Poynter worked for his agency was false.

"I would be remiss if I didn't make one additional comment, which is totally unrelated to Mr. Poynter," Bush said. "I think it is a sorry state of affairs when a person can be 'smeared' by an allegation that he worked for the CIA. I recognize the sensitivity between journalists and CIA, and indeed we have taken steps here to make things better; but I still come back to the fact that it is a shame when the climate is such that cooperating with CIA in some way leaves one open to a 'smear' attack."

DURING World War II Poynter served as a deputy to Gen. William "Wild Bill" Donovan, head of the Office of Strategic Services. In this capacity he helped to activate the U.S. information agency that founded the Voice of America.

Early in 1977, *The Times* dropped its suit against the church. The company announced it was doing so rather than present evidence that could have harmed an innocent third party.

Paulette Cooper had been right in her warning to Bette Orsini. The church had used an anonymous smear letter to hit reporter Orsini from the blind side.



Operation Bunny Bust

. . . or how the Church of Scientology attacked the Easter Seal Society in an attempt to 'restrain' Times reporter Bette Orsini, left

The Guardians of Scientology called their scheme to "restrain Orsini" Operation Bunny Bust.

It is worthy of full description, now that its dimensions have been laid out in Scientology documents made public by a federal court in Washington. For it demonstrates the callous disregard of the Church of Scientology's Guardian Office for the innocent when it embarks on an operation against someone it has decided is an enemy.

St. Petersburg Times reporter Bette Orsini had dug deeply into the background of Scientology and its founder, science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, in the early weeks of 1976. She was writing a great deal about them. In their new offices in the old Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater, the Guardians placed her near the top of their enemies list.

They were aware of the scope of her investigations. "Silver," their secret agent in the headquarters of the Internal Revenue Service in Washington who spent his weekends copying IRS documents and passing them along to the Guardian Office, came across the tracks of Mrs. Orsini's investigation.

HE SUPPLIED them, for example, with a copy of a February 1976 letter from reporter Orsini to Richard Arter, public affairs officer of the Philadelphia Service Center, requesting copies of the applications submitted by 14 churches of Scientology for tax exempt status.

On Jan. 26, 1976, two days before the Church of Scientology acknowledged that it was the new owner of the Fort Harrison Hotel, the assistant guardian for information at Flag — the church headquarters occupying the hotel — outlined in a letter to the deputy guardian for information U.S. a program "to get Bette Orsini removed from a position of power and attack at *The St. Petersburg Times*."

Scientologist Joe Lisa suggested to Dick Weigand that an agent posing as an aide to some local Mafia figure go to the *Times* office and leave \$100 for Mrs. Orsini with an editor, hinting that it was a payoff to her for supplying the Mafia with information from *Times* files. There is no indication that "Operation Information" was ever attempted.

On Feb. 4, the church did threaten Mrs. Orsini and *The Times* with a libel suit. *The Times* retaliated eight days later by filing suit to enjoin the church from harassing Mrs. Orsini and other *Times*' reporters.

The suit never came to trial. Early in 1977, Editor and President Eugene Patterson announced *The Times* was withdrawing the lawsuit.

"**WE MADE NO DEALS** with the Scientologists whatsoever," Patterson said. "There was no settlement. We simply instructed our attorneys to file a notice of voluntary dismissal without prejudice, rather than risk bringing harm to a completely innocent organization that might have lacked the means to defend itself against the Scientologists."

It can now be told that the organization was the Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults of Pinellas County Inc.

On July 15, 1976, Dick Weigand informed Morris (Mo) Budlong, deputy guardian for information worldwide, that information had been collected on Mrs. Orsini.

"Preliminary investigation into her husband Andrew Orsini who is the head of Easter Seal of Pinellas County uncovered that the group had their corporation dissolved by the Florida Secretary of State in 1972-1973 for not filing an annual report. A project has been drawn up and is now being implemented to show Easter Seal Society that Orsini (the

executive secretary) has been operating as a fraud and has broken laws. This data is intended for a PR (public relations) attack."

THE OPERATION BEGAN that November when an anonymous letter was mailed to various newspapers in Florida and to the St. Petersburg Consumer Affairs Department, the St. Petersburg Charitable Solicitations Board and the state attorney's office. The letter purported to be from a wealthy businessman.

It began: "I have, for many years, supported worthwhile charitable causes which benefit the handicapped, mentally retarded and the needy. Not just for personal reasons guaranteed me under law for tax purposes but because I always cared about the less fortunate than myself, both financially and physically. I have in the past donated large amounts of money to one such organization which, until recently, I thought was a worthwhile group."

Recently, this "businessman" said, he had been informed by his attorney that his contributions to the Easter Seal Society might not be tax deductible. He said he had begun "an exhaustive independent probe" that found criminal misconduct in the financial and administrative affairs of the Easter Seal Society. The letter called for the issuance of an arrest warrant for Executive Director Orsini and his prosecution. It was accompanied by copies of documents from the Florida secretary of state's office.

The Times assigned reporter Chris Cubbison to investigate the allegations. He found them false. The charges were constructed around an administrative mistake. The state had sent the Easter Seal Society's franchise tax form to the wrong address, the tax was not paid, the corporate charter was revoked as forfeited, and the society was dissolved by proclamation. The error had been remedied by payment of the fee long before the Scientologists moved into Clearwater.

BETTE ORSINI WAS assigned to trace the source of the letter. She found that someone had purchased copies of the secretary of state's complete file on the Easter Seal Society on July 12-13, 1976. She traced the money order used for payment to Ben A. Shaw, and found that he had represented himself to the Division of Licensing in Miami as a reporter for a University of Florida newspaper. Shaw was, in fact, administrative assistant to the president of the Church of Scientology of Florida.

He was subpoenaed and a deposition was taken. Shaw denied he had written the anonymous letter and claimed he knew nothing about it. He gave as his reason for spending \$52 of Scientology funds to copy the entire Easter Seal Society file that it somehow pertained to an investigation of Pinellas County State Attorney James Russell's connection with the society. However, he could not explain anything he had done or planned to do with the information. He said he had given copies to one other person who he refused to name.

In a file memorandum, John M. Bray, a Washington attorney representing *The Times*, related the attack on the Easter Seal Society to Scientology policies of founder L. Ron Hubbard. He said:

"The technique of using anonymous or covert methods to destroy an enemy's reputation is a Hubbard tactic called 'Black Propaganda.' Instruction in the use of this technique is contained in a set of books used by all Scientology organizations. . . . This policy directive states that 'the most

Operation from Page 11

involved employment of PR (public relations) is its covert use in destroying the reputations of individuals and groups. More correctly, this is technically called BLACK PROPAGANDA. Basically, it is an intelligence technique. He cautions that 'it can be a serious error to cross intelligence and PR.' 'Noisy Investigations' are described as follows . . . "When we investigate we do so noisily always. And usually mere investigation damps out the trouble even when we discover no really pertinent facts . . . Remember, intelligence we get with a whisper. Investigation we do with a yell. Always . . ."

"Finally, there is the following blunt description of the technique: 'The technique is: A hidden source injects lies and derogatory data into public view.'"

REPORTER ORSINI traced other documents obtained in Tallahassee to R. Wanda Martin who lived in an apartment at 704½ Oak Avenue in Clearwater. A divorcee, she was a former Navy Department employee who had moved to Clearwater in late '75 or early '76 and taken a job with the Clearwater Chamber of Commerce. She gave as a reference Hubbert Alan of Hollywood, Calif., who was found to be a minister of Scientology.

Her roommate in Clearwater was June Phillips (also known as June Byrne) from England, who was employed by the *Clearwater Sun*.

In April 1977, Mary Sue Hubbard, wife of Scientology's founder and commodore staff guardian, wrote Weigand: "Please explain what the scene is — was the same person used in the Easter Seal scene used at the CW Sun and also used in the AMA (American Medical Association)? What are the liabilities here?"

On May 12, Weigand replied: "Basically the scene is that we had two agents one in the CW Sun and one in the CW Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce agent was used in the Easter Seals operation, not the CW Sun agent but the clincher is that both of these agents were in the AMA and had previously been blown." He said the liabilities of the situation were that agents Martin and Phillips could be traced back to Mike Meisner in Washington.

Meisner, the supervisor of "Silver" and other church agents who had infiltrated government agencies in Washington, was then being sought by the FBI on a fugitive warrant.

WEIGAND EXPLAINED to Mrs. Hubbard that June Phillips had been placed at the American Medical Association offices in Washington in 1974, where she stole AMA documents relating to Scientology, but was pulled out in 1975 when her connection with the church became known. She was sent to Clearwater where she worked as a church agent at the Sun. Wanda Martin, or Jodie, was also placed at AMA but transferred to Clearwater after her connection with the church became known.

Weigand said the situation was alarming. "The chain does lead to Orsini uncovering a Church operative network that could be used as a handle for a Grand Jury investigation of the Church activities which would include the Meisner/Silver scene."

Before Bette Orsini could connect the Bunny Bust operatives to a church espionage network, however, Meisner surrendered to the FBI. Information he supplied led to raids on church offices in which documents were seized that led to indictment of 11 Scientologists, including Mary Sue Hubbard.

Church infiltrated the Clearwater Sun

When the Church of Scientology came silently and secretly into Clearwater near the end of 1975, June came with it.

She took a job at the *Clearwater Sun* and when, on Jan. 28, 1976 a Scientology spokesman announced that the church was the new owner of the Fort Harrison Hotel, she was already bustin' out all over.

But a church document — one of several recently released by a federal court in Washington that detail her activities — show that the Guardians were worried about her future.

Jimmy Mulligan, the commodore staff guardian assistant for information, wrote Dick Weigand, deputy guardian for information U.S., that a private investigator "gave info to the DEA last November implicating June Byrne (one of our AMA plants) in drug dealing; and causing her to be wanted for questioning by the DEA."

DEA: Drug Enforcement Administration. AMA: American Medical Association.

"MEANWHILE, BACK at the ranch, we have J. B. working here, using her own Social Security number . . . but a false name. Further, although she is a permanent resident, she is not an American citizen . . . It should be no great task for the DEA to locate her should they avail themselves of social security records . . ."

"So, Dick, I would like for you to put your thinking cap on and work out the best way to handle the current local scene concerning her. Her placement (CW Sun) is very valuable and I would not like to have the data source completely lost to us at this time."

She was using the name June Phillips. According to the Sun she was given a job in the advertising department but later became a clerk in the newsroom.

On Feb. 7, she passed along information that Sun reporter Mark Sableman spent six hours the previous night writing his story on a \$1-million suit being filed against Mayor Gabriel Cazares by the Church of Scientology. The suit, she said, caused a great deal of tension in the newsroom.

SHE WAS NOT the only weapon the church employed in its effort to stop the newspaper from writing articles about Scientology. The church also threatened the Sun with a libel suit.

On Feb. 9, Duke Snider, deputy deputy guardian U.S., reported to Henning Heldt, his immediate superior, that Mary Sue Hubbard, wife of church founder L. Ron Hubbard, had approved a plan to have a church attorney tell Sun officials the newspaper "could get off the hook" by printing an apology.

A church attorney met with Editor Al Hutchinson and the Sun's attorney, Snider said.

"The conversation took place for over an hour and rapport was established by our attorney," he said. "They spent a lot of time trying to convince him that they hadn't printed any libel. He listened to this and told them that he had advised us the articles were libelous."

"IN THE END they said that all they would print would be an article of clarification . . . To apply further pressure our attorney said that he would review several articles which he had not read and that they had pointed out corrected things they said earlier that we requested be corrected and that he would then call them back. He is also preparing a new letter to

them outlining each and every item which we wish corrected from every article."

June was doing well by Feb. 19, reporting that Sableman had contacted a reporter for a newspaper in the Bahamas about movements of the *Apollo*, flagship of Scientology before Flag moved into a land base at the Fort Harrison. She said Sableman had a copy of Paulette Cooper's book, *The Scandal of Scientology*. She filed almost daily reports.

Her prospects looked even better. In a church document dated Feb. 21, it was reported that "she is being grooved in to be a reporter."

But late in February, Don Alverso, director of Branch I information for Flag, reported that June had a problem. A Sun reporter "has been putting some pressure on our girl in the area of 2-D," he said.

IN THE JARGON of Scientology, 2-D is the Second Dynamic: Sex.

"Apparently he would like to get something started with her in this area," said Alverso. "I told her to stay in comm (communication) with him and not to ARC-X the guy but to gently discourage him while letting him know that it was her fault, not his as she is pretty screwed up after her last 2-D experience, and is not ready to get involved again."

"I told her that she could go out with him occasionally for dinner, but nothing more serious, and to make this known from the beginning. She understood completely and has absolutely no intention of getting involved with this guy who, incidentally, she has a hard time of bearing at all. She does get good data from him on Scn."

June's reports were passed along to other Guardians by Tom Ritchie, collections officer for Flag.

March 8: "There will be an article in tomorrow's Clearwater Sun by Mark Sableman on C of S tax exemption. The article will state that the church stands to save \$50,000 by claiming tax exempt status . . ."

MARCH 9: "Sableman, CW Sun reporter, had a tape of last night's Jim Dick show, 'This Thing Called Scientology.' While reviewing the tape Sableman stated that he didn't know what his next plan of action would be and that he would have to get in comm with Ron Stuart, the managing editor on it . . ."

March 10: A seven-page "raw data report" on Sableman's "Fort Harrison Hotel" file.

March 11: "As you know, CW Sun reporter Stephen Advokat went to Canada to interview the McLeans for a story on us. It was previously reported that he would be staying in a ski resort outside Toronto, which he well may have, but as of this evening he is staying with the McLeans themselves. They are reportedly very 'chummy.' Last night CW Sun reporter Mark Sableman spoke with a disaffected Scientologist in this area. We as yet do not have the name of this person . . ."

On March 17, June struck paydirt. She reported that Assistant City Editor Tom Coat, posing as a freelance photographer, was taking a Scientology communications course at the Tampa mission. "Coat says that he hates doing the comm course and that it is sheer drudgery," the report stated. "Coat states that he was doing the course so that he could do a story on Scientology. Coat is scheduled to graduate from the comm course tomorrow night."

AT HIS FINAL session, Coat was exposed by church officials. In a press release, the church accused Coat of infiltrating their Tampa mission, located in a storefront center across the street from the University of Tampa. A few days later the church filed a \$250,000 damage suit in Tampa against Coat and the *Clearwater Sun* accusing them of violating the privacy and confidentiality of the church by having Coat join it under false pretenses and then take part in an advanced training course.

In her report on the law suit, June said Coat learned about it while driving along the beach. "He went into shock," the report said. "Today he was shaking like a leaf wondering just what we could do to him."

If a word was said in the Sun newsroom about Scientology, June reported it. She peaked at reporter's notes, at editor's appointment pads. She passed along information about John and Nan McLean, two disaffected Scientologists from Canada, coming to Clearwater. On the basis of her information, public relations officials of the church walked in on a private meeting between the McLeans and Mayor Cazares.

She reported that the Sun planned to compile its articles on Scientology into a book and the joke around the newsroom was that it would be entitled "All Hubbard's Men."

MANAGING EDITOR Stuart had been given a dart board by Sableman and Advokat that had Scientology across the top of it and a picture of founder Hubbard as the bullseye, she reported. "He kept hitting the bullseye," she added.

On April 29, Weigand received a report from Sunrise Mission on Operation China Shop, an investigation of the financial status of the *Clearwater Sun*. "Our target on this, very confidentially, is ownership or control of the paper," the report said.

Apparently no effort was ever made by the church to buy the Sun. But on May 11, 1976, church officials visited the Greensboro, N.C. offices of the Jefferson Pilot Corp., owner of the Sun.

The purpose of the visit, a church document states, was "to halt the CW Sun publication by bypassing up the Org (organization) board to the very top . . . meeting with officials there and obtaining their aid in stopping the CW Sun, which they own, from printing a booklet on Scientology."

The church team met first with Howard Holderness, chairman of the corporation, and he referred them to the associate general counsel, Robert H. Koonts.

STEVE HEARD, director of Branch I public relations for Flag, wrote Fred Rock, assistant guardian for public relations for Flag, that the team gave Koonts a copy of what the Sun had written and told him the church was not anxious to sue.

"He then stressed how his organization had better things to do than fight court battles and that we probably did too," Heard said. Koonts asked what could be done about the suit against the Sun and Coat, he said, and "we told him that we could only talk to the Board of Directors" but that the church always tried to resolve things through constructive communications.

"He then said that the fact that we came up to North Carolina surely indicated something about us (i.e. our good faith) and suggested that we talk to our board and then get back to him and that he would then come down here and see us and hopefully work things out," Heard said. "He again brought up such things as handling the 'direction of the Sun's Scientology and added for us not to worry about the booklet."

Heard concluded: "It appears that he will stop the Sun from putting out the booklet."

And soon after came this report from inside the Sun: "Latest feedback indicates the book is stopped — negatives for the book are gone, Stuart's Scn dart board has disappeared."

'The idea here is to get the police and other agencies involved in the illegal evasion to lie and thus box themselves in, then expose the lie (possibly through State Ethics Committee action) with maximum PR (public relations) and legal exposure of government overts re FOI evasion. A Watergate set up.'

— Scientologist Henning Heldt

Church tried to infiltrate Pinellas police agencies

Now note this date: Dec. 17, 1975.

That was a full month before the Church of Scientology announced it had purchased that old Clearwater landmark, the Fort Harrison Hotel. Citizens of the city were still being fed nonsense about some ecumenical group called United Churches of Florida occupying the building.

But the Guardians of Scientology had already moved into Clearwater and were looking for places where they could insinuate themselves into the community fabric to establish listening posts for gathering information.

ON THAT DEC. 17, Jimmy Mulligan, an assistant to Commodore Staff Guardian Mary Sue Hubbard, wrote Dick Weigand, deputy guardian for information U.S., about a visit he had made to the Clearwater Police Department.

In the letter — one of the thousands of church documents recently made public by a federal court in Washington — Mulligan said he had learned the Clearwater department planned to combine its communications with those of police departments in Dunedin and Largo.

"The way this will work," he said, "is that all calls to the police of any of these towns will come into the Clearwater Police communications center, and the various police cars of the various police departments will be dispatched from there.

"The main point is that at that time — April 1976 — the communications center is going 'all civilian.' In other words they are going to relieve the uniformed policemen of those clerical duties so that they can get onto production posts, and staff the communications center with all civilians. At present, it's about half and half. The civilians by my observation are all lovely young ladies — 100 percent foxes.

"I THINK this is an excellent opportunity for us and I would like to see us represented in that communications center."

Information was the lifeblood of the Guardians' covert operations against those whom they perceived to be enemies of Scientology, information they could use to defame and discredit the enemies.

The St. Petersburg Police Department became an enemy about mid-February of 1976.

Church officials in Clearwater had filed requests with virtually every state, county and local agency in the Tampa Bay area for copies of everything in their files about Scientology. They made the requests to federal agencies under the Freedom of Information Act and to state and local agencies under Florida's public documents disclosure law.

The St. Petersburg Police Department reported it had no files on the church. But the Guardians learned from an informant that the department's intelligence division had two Scientology files, Numbers 251 and 164.

Henning Heldt, deputy guardian for the United States, decided that an example should be made of the St. Petersburg police. He ordered an operation against them.

"THE IDEA HERE is to get the police and other agencies involved in the illegal evasion to lie and thus box themselves in, then expose the lie (possibly through State Ethics Committee action) with maximum PR (public relations) and legal exposure of government overts re FOI evasion," he said. "A Watergate set up."

Having made a national splash, he said, the church could then target other police departments, such as that in the District of Columbia, for similar operations.

For some reason, the operation wasn't carried out. But the Guardians learned from one of their agents what the police files contained. This was reported in an analysis dated July 13.

State Atty. James Russell became a nonfriend of Scientology as a result of the guns case, which began in early August and stretched on into 1977.

For a time in '76, the church occupied one building of the King Arthur's Court Condominiums in Dunedin. It appears from the court-released documents that founder L. Ron Hubbard lived there for a time.

THE PROBLEM was reported by Joe Lisa, assistant guardian for information for Flag, in his daily report of Aug. 5:

"Situation: The missing guns belonging to the Boss have shown up in the custody of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), and ATF knows that some of these guns belong to the boss.

"Why: The investigation to find the guns



omitted a thorough search of King Arthur's Court . . .

"Handled: Got the story of what occurred from two ATF agents from the Tampa ATF office: Several days ago the guns were discovered in Apt. No. 1 at King Arthur's Court by cleaners; the cleaners informed the owners of KAC, a local bank; the bank reported the guns to the Dunedin Police Department, who in turn reported it to ATF Tampa. Due to an inventory list packed with the guns, and an engraving on one of the guns, they know the Boss owns some of the guns.

"Legal got a description of the guns from ATF as well as what is needed by ATF in order to claim the guns. A fast handling will be done."

BUT IT WASN'T fast. One of the guns was a German-manufactured Mauser machine pistol. The law requires registration of this type of weapon. The church attorneys argued however, that it was an antique rather than a serviceable weapon. Not until late in the year did ATF drop its investigation, and even then the case wasn't closed.

In April 1977, a report on a Guardian investigation to find out why it was continuing said: "On the local level the State US Atty., James Russell, has been investigating the base (church headquarters in Clearwater) since it started, and has connections to almost all the major SPs (suppressive persons) in the area. It was found that Russell had been in on the investigation re the guns scene from the beginning. He started taking an active role at the point the BAT&F investigation failed. This looks like BAT&F were ready to drop the cycle, but Russell with his vested interest stepped in and kept the area hot. Documentation of this is needed, as our data does not contain this . . .

"It looks like Russell is going for a big win like he had on the Dare-To-Be-Great group prosecution he did a few years back, and considers Scientology just such a group; so I don't think he will fade into the woodwork without some planning on our part."

DOCUMENTS do not indicate whether the Guardians ever took any action against Russell.

But, in another case, the Guardians

managed to take a microphone away from Bob Snyder, a talk show host for radio station WDCL, with their standard strategy for handling media people who make their enemies' list. But he kept on talking.

In early February 1976, Snyder was fired by WDCL. He said the station was threatened with a \$5-million suit if it did not stop him from criticizing the church.

WDCL's general manager, Ross Charles, said the station attorney advised that Snyder be fired because of litigation expenses that "a little station in Dunedin" could not survive.

Snyder was rehired a month later with the understanding that he would not discuss Scientology on his program.

HOWEVER, HE began writing a newsletter and organized several public forums in which he criticized the church. In June, Fred Ulan, an assistant public relations official for the church, reported to public relations director Artie Maren that not enough was being done to silence Snyder. To make up for this shortcoming, he said, *FREEDOM*, a Scientology publication, was preparing an article "tying Snyder in with Interpol as he has stated he supports them, and using the one-world rule button which Snyder hits us with saying Snyder now supports Interpol which supports one world rule by its very nature."

Joe Lisa reported to Duke Snider in a March 31 daily report that Snyder had been in communication "with Paulette Cooper and that Cooper plans to be in this area in two weeks for the next Snyder event."

It so happened that the very next day the Guardians drew up a new operation to handle their old nemesis Paulette Cooper, author of *The Scandal of Scientology*, a book highly critical of the religion. They called it "Freakout."

Its goal was "to get P.C. incarcerated in a mental institution or jail, or at least hit her so hard that she drops her attacks."

Recently, the U.S. attorney's office for the District of Columbia described this plan in the "Sentencing Memorandum" drawn up following conviction of nine Scientologists in a case involving the theft of government documents and efforts to cover it up. The government said six of the defendants were involved in the scheme against Miss Cooper: Henning Heldt, Duke Snider, Dick Weigand, Greg Willardson, Mitchell Hermann and Cindy Raymond.

THE MEMORANDUM said: "In its initial form Operation Freakout had three different plans. The first required a woman to imitate Paulette Cooper's voice and make telephone threats to Arab Consulates in New York. The second scheme involved mailing a threatening letter to an Arab Consulate in such a fashion that it would appear to have been done by Paulette Cooper. Finally, a Scientology field staff member was to impersonate Paulette Cooper at a laundry and threaten the President and then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. A second Scientologist would thereafter advise the FBI of the threat . . .

"Two additional plans to Operation Freakout were added on April 13, 1976 . . . The fourth plan called for Scientology field staff members who had ingratiated themselves with Cooper to gather information from Cooper so Scientology could assess the success of the first three plans. The fifth plan was for a Scientologist to warn an Arab Consulate by telephone that Paulette Cooper had been talking about bombing them.

"The sixth and final part of Operation Freakout . . . (was) to obtain Paulette Cooper's fingerprints on a blank piece of paper, type a threatening letter to Kissinger on that paper, and mail it."

Once before the Guardians had gotten Ms. Cooper indicted — the charge was later dropped — with a fabricated threat to bomb a Church of Scientology office. But this time the plan was not carried out.

Time ran out for the Guardians.



For at least two years, Guardians of the Church of Scientology operated an espionage system that spanned America. They were heavily involved on the Florida Suncoast in 1976 and early '77: Defaming the mayor of Clearwater, seeking to gag *The St. Petersburg Times*, the *Clearwater Sun*, and a stubborn radio talk show host, infiltrating an attorney's office and stealing files, framing schemes to embarrass St. Petersburg police.

Scientologists' downfall began with phony IDs

The scope of it was astonishing.

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They were heavily involved on the Florida Suncoast in 1976 and early '77: Defaming the mayor of Clearwater, seeking to gag *The St. Petersburg Times*, the *Clearwater Sun*, and a stubborn radio talk show host, infiltrating an attorney's office and stealing files, framing schemes to embarrass St. Petersburg police.

But that was just one scene in a panorama.

Church documents released by a federal court in Washington show that the Guardian network linked Clearwater with Washington, New York, Los Angeles, and it was as busy as a beehive in honeysuckle season.

But the end was coming . . .

THERE WAS NO hint of it on Feb. 17, 1976, a routine day for the Guardians. That day they passed the word to the church's legal department to prepare a formal letter to the *Clearwater Sun* demanding a retraction and threatening a libel suit. That day, too, the deputy guardian for information U.S., Dick Weigand, sent a letter to the deputy guardian U.S., Henning Heldt, "Re: Yorty and Wayne."

It began:

"Dear Henning,

"I believe that you had asked that a check be done for Sam Yorty and John Wayne in the 1361 agency's (Internal Revenue Service) files.

"Sam Yorty's file is attached . . ."

However, Weigand said, the church's agent hadn't been able to locate the file for actor John Wayne. He said he would keep trying.

The letter was signed "Love, Dick."

GUARDIANS ALWAYS signed their letters "love."

The letter from Weigand to Heldt was giving the latest developments on Guardian Order 1361-3, which Weigand drafted and Heldt approved on Jan. 4, 1976. It directed a church agent to steal Los Angeles Internal Revenue Service (IRS) intelligence files on "celebrities, politicians and big names" so they could be leaked to the press.

Files on former California Gov. Edmund Brown, Gov. Edmund Brown Jr., Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and his wife, and singer Frank Sinatra were stolen and forwarded to Heldt and Weigand.

Heldt didn't want them around his office, however. He returned them to Weigand, telling him "I don't need such hot stuff in my files."

The documents do not reveal why the Scientologists wanted the IRS documents dealing with the "celebrities, politicians and big names." There also was no indication that the church had anything personal against these people.

IN WASHINGTON'S Rock Creek Park the night of March 14, Mike Meisner was the "victim" in a fake hit-and-run accident staged in an attempt to ruin Clearwater Mayor Gabriel Cazares. A night or two later, Meisner and Gerald Bennett Wolfe — the agent "Silver" — entered the IRS building at 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, flashing Wolfe's IRS identification card at the security guard.

Using a small piece of sheet metal, Wolfe forced the latch on the IRS identification room. Inside, Meisner found a booklet giving instructions on the use of the photographing machine. Wolfe took blank identification cards and typed in fictitious names — two for

himself and two for Meisner. They took the necessary photographs and made fake IRS ID cards.

In early April, the Clearwater edition of the church publication *FREEDOM* accused *St. Petersburg Times* owner Nelson Poynter of being an agent of the CIA. About that same time, the highest officials of the Guardian Office ordered the implementation of "Operation Devil's Wop." It was directed at Arizona Sen. Dennis DeConcini, who had supported various anti-cult groups. The goal of the operation was to leak to the press a false report linking the senator with organized crime.

And in Washington one evening in mid-April, Wolfe and Meisner showed their false ID cards as they entered the building housing offices of the International Operations Office of IRS. They went to the office of Thomas Crate, an auditor who had tax records of L. Ron and Mary Sue Hubbard, Scientology's founder and his wife. The door was locked. A cleaning woman thought they looked suspicious. She called a security guard.

MEISNER AND WOLFE showed the guard their fake ID cards, and he was satisfied. The cleaning woman then unlocked the office door for them. They found several thick files on the Hubbards and Scientology, but they couldn't find a photocopying machine.

No sweat.

They took the files to the main IRS building where they copied them, and then returned the originals to Crate's office.

Twice more before the end of May, Meisner and Wolfe returned to Crate's office, and both times the obliging cleaning woman let them in.

April 26, 1976: Sharon Thomas — the driver of the car in the fake hit-and-run accident set up to discredit Cazares — entered the office of Justice Department Attorney Paul Figley, who was supervising all Freedom of Information (FOI) cases. She copied all documents relating to a pending FOI lawsuit brought by Scientology against the Energy Research and Development Administration and gave the copies to Meisner. Two months later she managed to get assigned as Figley's secretary.

THE GUARDIAN'S Office ground out one operation after another. In Washington, Wolfe and Miss Thomas carted off stacks of copies of IRS and Justice Department documents that they passed to Meisner who forwarded them to Guardian executives.

Feb. 3, 1977: Heldt wrote Weigand that the Guardians, in order to "ensure a win on the New York case against Hare Krishna leaders for Mind Control," must have the minutes of the grand jury because they were "vital to Legal's handling in the case and PR's actions." He told Weigand to obtain them "through legal or other means." A reply came the next day that legal means were out, "however, we have had some success (limited) in the past in getting this type of data thru the steno service which transcribes the testimony."

March 25, 1977: An order went out to all Guardians introducing the "red box system." All red box material was to be centrally located in a moveable container, ideally a briefcase, locked and marked and persons deputized to remove it from the premises in case of a raid. "This procedure will be drilled," the directive said. Red box material was defined as:

"(a) Proof that a Scnist is involved in criminal activities.

"(b) Anything illegal that implicates MSH, LRH (the Hubbards).

"(c) Large amounts of non FOI docs.

"(d) Operations against any government group or persons.

"(e) All operations that contain illegal activities.

"(f) Evidence of incriminating activities.

"(g) Names and details of confidential financial accts."

June 24, 1977: A Guardian passed the word to other Guardian officials that he had recruited and placed an FSM — covert agent — as a reporter-researcher for *Forbes* magazine. "My FSM's name will appear on the masthead, starting with the issue of 15 July 1977," he said.

THE END actually began — if an end has a beginning — on the evening of June 11, 1976.

The story is told in the uncontested evidence offered by the government at the Washington trial of nine Scientologists on conspiracy charges.

Meisner and Wolfe were sitting in the library of the U.S. Courthouse on John Marshall Place — at the foot of Capitol Hill where Constitution Avenue intersects with Pennsylvania. They were waiting for a cleaning crew to get out of the office of Nathan Dodell — an old foe of Scientology — so they could steal Dodell's personal files in order to devise a covert operation to remove him as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia.

TWO FBI AGENTS, summoned by a suspicious night librarian, approached them and asked for identification. Meisner showed his IRS identification card. While agent Dan Hodges went to a telephone to call an assistant U.S. attorney, agent Christine Hansen questioned the two men. Meisner said he and Wolfe had been in the courthouse to do legal research and that they had used the photocopying machine in the U.S. attorney's office to copy legal books and cases.

After 15 minutes, Meisner inquired if they were under arrest. When agent Hansen said they were not, Meisner said they were leaving and he and Wolfe walked out.

The next day, Meisner flew to Los Angeles where he gave a full report of the incident to Guardian officials. "All parties recognized," in the words of U.S. attorneys who later described the moment in a Stipulation of Evidence, "that the highest priority lay in stopping the FBI investigation before it could connect the defendant Wolfe and Mr. Meisner to the Church of Scientology and thereby expose other officials of the Guardian's Office who had been involved in the burglaries, thefts, and buggings . . ."

A cover story was devised and Wolfe was briefed. He was arrested in Washington on June 30 and charged with use and possession of a forged official pass of the United States. He later pleaded guilty.

He was called before a grand jury on July 28, where he stuck to his cover story, a story that did not mention Scientology. A few days later a warrant was issued for Meisner.

FOR THE NEXT 11 months, church officials harbored a fugitive. Meisner was moved from one location to another in the Los Angeles area. His appearance was changed. He grew restive and upset with his superiors. When he threatened to return to Washington, they held him prisoner.

On June 20, 1977, while his guards were away, Meisner left his apartment in Glendale, Calif., called the FBI, and surrendered to agents at a bowling alley. At 6 a.m., July 8, 134 FBI agents armed with search warrants and sledgehammers broke into church offices in Los Angeles, Hollywood and Washington. They carted off 48,149 documents — thousands of them "red box material."

On Aug. 15, 1976, a grand jury in Washington indicted 11 Guardians — from Mary Sue Hubbard at the top to Sharon Thomas at the lowest, agent level. They were accused of 28 counts of conspiracy, theft and burglary. Eventually, nine of them — two are still fugitives — were found guilty of one count each.

With their convictions, much of the documentary evidence seized in the 1977 FBI raids was made public.

That was the end.



'The Information Bureau was actually formed to isolate dealings with harassive government agencies and individuals from the main body of church activity . . .'

— Rev. Kenneth Whitman

Book spells out rationale for church's 'spy system'

The book, researched, edited and published by the U.S. Ministerial Conference of Scientology Ministers, is entitled: *The American Inquisition — U.S. Government Agency Harassment, Religious Persecution and Abuse of Power.*

And this is the introduction:

"Since the inception of the Scientology religious movement more than a quarter of a century ago, government agencies together with vested interest pressure groups have attempted through both overt and covert means to suppress the Church's spiritual practice and expansion.

"The Church's extensive efforts in the areas of governmental and social reform have met with government retaliation and attempts to cover up political corruption and dirty tricks. In 1940, the government was excited by the possibility of monopolizing L. Ron Hubbard's work and sought to force him into classified government service to work on projects which would pervert the positive goals and purposes of his work. When Mr. Hubbard declined, the government threatened him — and the war between Scientology and the government was on. Since that time, various factions within the government have attempted to commit genocide and eliminate the religious technology over which they sought to gain a monopoly.

"DURING THESE past three decades, government agencies have spied, harassed, taped phones, falsely arrested, intercepted mail, denied religious and civil rights and conducted themselves with utter disregard of the Constitution. As history tells us, new religions have always engendered opposition from government and vested interests. From the origins of Christianity to Mormonism and Christian Science, freedom of worship has been a right hard won by diligence and faith. In this tradition, Scientology has continued to win all major battles against the repression and harassment of U.S. government agencies."

The book was published by the Church of Scientology before nine of its members, including some of its highest ranking officials, were convicted and sentenced for actions that included the bugging of government offices and the theft of

government documents.

But the introduction is a concise summary of Scientology's rationalization for the formation of the Guardian Office, which the nine members served and which operated a widespread, intercontinental espionage system.

It might be summarized even more concisely: an eye for an eye.

The day the nine Scientologists were found guilty, Rev. Kenneth Whitman, president of the Church of Scientology of California — the central church — issued this statement:

"THERE ARE FOUR key issues which I wish to address:

"1. It has always been official Church policy to uphold the laws of the land. The Church did not and does not condone violations of this policy.

"2. Neither does the Church condone the flagrant lawlessness of corrupt government officials whose unprosecuted crimes range from chemical murder in the form of CIA and Army human experiments to the millions of tax dollars wasted by federal agents who launch disruption campaigns against ordinary citizens, religious leaders such as Martin Luther King, writers and movie stars like Jean Seberg who express views which some J. Edgar Hoover type dislikes.

"3. For three decades, the Church has worked to obtain honesty in government by exposing such crimes as a planned assassination of a foreign leader by the Drug Enforcement Administration, IRS dirty tricks against taxpayers and the CIA's bizarre mind control programs. Our successful reward campaign for government whistle-blowers, our stand against discrimination and our international efforts to close the doors on deplorable biological and chemical warfare experiments have gained us a reputation as leaders in social reform. We are continuing vigorously to fight on behalf of the constitutional rights of all Americans.

"4. The Church cannot speak for the defendants. We assume that they will comment at the appropriate time on advice of their attorneys. This case involves nine individuals who have all been part of the arm of the Church dealing with government

affairs. It is one of the 21 departments within the overall structure of the Church of Scientology. The main body of Church activity deals with ministerial training and counselling. While we strengthen our social activism, the bulk of our efforts continue to go toward meeting the needs of our rapidly-increasing numbers of new parishioners and ministers. In the last two years, we have experienced the most intensive growth period in our three-decade history and today our worldwide membership is estimated at five million with 298 churches and missions on five continents."

When documents which formed the foundation for indictment of the Scientologists, documents which were seized in FBI raids on church offices, were made public, Rev. Whitman again stressed that the espionage was isolated from most of the church.

"THE RELEASE OF further documents from the defendants or members of the Information Bureau of the Guardian Office will tell nothing about the actual workings of the Church of Scientology or of the crimes of government agencies which the Church has been fighting for over 25 years," he said.

"The Information Bureau was actually formed to isolate dealings with harassive government agencies and individuals from the main body of Church activity . . ."

Denis McKenna, a public relations spokesman, told a *Times* reporter that while the church does not condone law breaking, it should be understood that the nine defendants were frustrated because of the long-standing vendetta against the church by the government.

McKenna offered another Scientology booklet, *The Dossier Disease*, to explain this frustration.

The booklet states that during the 1960s, the church "initated a program to trace the difficulties it had had with various agencies not only in the United States but in other countries as well." It used the Freedom of Information Act, enacted in 1967, to obtain copies of thousands of pages of documents about Scientology from government agencies.

"TO LOCATE AND handle the source of false reports on the Church of Scientology that had spread in the preceding two decades, the Guardian's Office initiated a False Report Correction program," the booklet said.

The goal of the program, it said, was to locate false reports about Scientology in government files and get them corrected.

Rev. Hugh Wilhere, another church spokesman, said that in the course of carrying out this program, the Guardian's Office found that false reports about Scientology were being spread by intelligence agencies, particularly Interpol.

As a result, he said, it undertook a massive investigation of Interpol which revealed that the international crime exchange agency "had lied to Congress about its Nazi past and, in fact, up until 1972, Interpol's president was a former Nazi SS official (Paul Dickopf, SS 337259); Interpol is a private organization under no government control yet has access to U.S. law enforcement files; that Interpol exchanges data with Communist countries thus jeopardizing the security of U.S. law enforcement information."

Wilhere also said that much of the information obtained by illegal means clearly showed wrongdoing by government officials and harassment of Scientology and other groups and individuals. He cited a half-dozen cases.

THAT IS substantially the church's explanation for the actions of the Guardian's Office that led to the convictions of nine Scientologists.

There are problems with it. To cite a few:

✓ The explanation changed substantially as more and more was revealed. In May 1978, church spokesman Arthur J. Maren said the church had been engaged in "reform action . . . a legitimate and traditional function of the church." Published reports that seized documents would show that, for example, a fake hit-and-run accident was staged in Washington in an effort to compromise the mayor of Clearwater, were denied. Maren also denied that the church regards anyone as enemies. "As a church which believes that man is basically good and devotes itself to helping others, we have no enemies," he said. Church documents released as a result of the court case have shown otherwise.

✓ The explanation is that the illegal actions were carried out by a small group of individuals in one isolated division of the church. However, the illegality goes right to the top of the church organization. One of those indicted and convicted was Mary Sue Hubbard, wife of founder L. Ron Hubbard. The church documents show a close working relationship between the Guardian's Office and the church's legal department. And most damning of all is the fact that the Guardian's Office operated on the basis of precepts and policies written by founder Hubbard and set forth in church publications. Hubbard, in fact, was listed by the grand jury as an unindicted co-conspirator.

✓ The church's interpretation of the meaning of some government documents illegally obtained by the Guardians is also open to question. Consider the Defeo Report, "in which," according to the church, "members of the Drug Enforcement Administration plotted the assassination of foreign leaders in Panama." Actually the report was issued on an investigation of allegations of fraud and misconduct in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The document alleged by the church to be the Defeo Report does not state that an assassination plot was made, but only that "it was alleged that a discussion concerning assassination" of a Panamanian official took place and that DEA officials were involved in the discussion.

In the end, the problem with church's explanation is L. Ron Hubbard's definition of truth: "Truth is what is true for you."

Court tangle gave Scientology its first 'martyrs'

At 29 years of age, the Church of Scientology has its first martyrs.

Mary Sue Hubbard . . . Henning Heldt . . . Duke Snider . . . Gregory Willardson . . . Richard Weigand . . . Cindy Raymond . . . Mitchell Hermann . . . Gerald Bennett Wolfe . . . Sharon Thomas.

The church considers them modern martyrs, political prisoners of a vengeful government. The government of the United States considers them criminals.

The nine Scientologists have been sentenced to jail.

In the government's sentencing memorandum to U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey, the prosecutors summed up the government's views:

"THE UNITED STATES initiated the investigation which resulted in the instant indictment in view of the brazen, systematic and persistent burglaries of the United States Government offices in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, Calif. over an extended period of at least some two years. Additionally, the United States was confronted with the pervasive conduct of the defendants in this case in thwarting a federal grand jury investigation by harboring a fugitive, in effect forcefully kidnapping a witness who had decided to surrender to the federal authorities, submitting false evidence to the grand jury, destroying other evidence which might have been of valuable aid to its investigation, preparing a coverup story, and encouraging and drilling a crucial witness to give false testimony under oath to that grand jury.

"Such outrageous conduct, it was felt, struck at the very heart of our judicial system — a system which has often been, at crucial times in our history, the savior of our institutions. We consider that in view of the widespread and long drawn out nature of these offenses, as well as their heinousness, we would have been derelict in our duty to enforce the laws if we had failed to bring the charges in the instant indictment.

"Moreover a review of the documents seized in the two Los Angeles, Calif. searches, which have been unsealed by this court, show the incredible and sweeping nature of the criminal conduct of the defendants and of the organization which they led. These crimes include the infiltration and theft of documents from a number of prominent private national and world organizations, law firms and newspapers; the execution of smear campaigns and baseless law suits to destroy private individuals who had attempted to exercise their First Amendment rights to freedom of expression; the framing of private citizens who had been critical of Scientology, including the forging of documents which led to the indictment of at least one innocent person; violation of the civil rights of prominent private figures and public officials . . .

"IT IS THE POSITION of the United

States that each and every one of the defendants herein fulfilled his duties as expected by the Church of Scientology, that all of their criminal activities, as well as those of all unindicted co-conspirators, were carried out in furtherance of the very goals of their church. The very policies of the church, as reflected by its Guardian Orders, called for the execution of massive criminal conspiracies and rewarded the participants for their success in carrying out these criminal policies."

Scientology is in trouble.

Judge Richey, obviously agreeing with the prosecutors, imposed heavy sentences: From six months in jail, five years probation, and a \$1,000 fine for Sharon Thomas, up to a maximum five years in jail and \$10,000 fine for Raymond and Wolfe.

He also imposed the maximum sentence on Mary Lou Hubbard, wife of church founder L. Ron Hubbard and the second most powerful figure in Scientology. But he agreed to reconsider the sentence after she has spent three months in prison.

Judge Richey said initially that the nine must go to jail immediately. But after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia granted the release of three of the defendants pending the outcome of their appeals, Judge Richey relented. He released them all pending appeal, provided they had paid their fines. The appeals, based on a claim that the FBI raids on church offices were illegal, will take time and could end up before the Supreme Court. But activity at the trial court level isn't necessarily over.

There could be more to come. Two persons named in the 28-count indictment, Jane Kember and Morris "Mo" Budlong, are in England. The British courts have ordered them returned to the United States to face trial, but they have appealed to the House of Lords.

FOUNDER L. Ron Hubbard was not indicted by the grand jury which charged his wife and the other 10 Scientologists, but he was named a co-conspirator. The grand jury listed 22 other unindicted co-conspirators.

The Guardian Office has been decimated. Mary Lou Hubbard held the highest position as commodore staff guardian. Kember, Budlong, Heldt, Snider, Willardson, Weigand and Raymond were senior Guardians, and Hermann a senior official until he was fired in the summer of '77. Wolfe and Thomas were two of the Guardian Office's most effective FSM's — covert agents who infiltrated government agencies.

As a result of the documents released in connection with the Washington trial, federal grand juries in Tampa and New York are investigating Scientology.

The evidence has also been made available to state law enforcement authorities in several locations, including Pinellas County.



BUT MOST injurious to a church that shuns publicity — a church that prefers to achieve growth through word of mouth rather than the printed word — has been the story woven in the public press of the espionage system operated by the Guardians and its misdeeds.

At the request of Rep. C. W. Bill Young, St. Petersburg Republican, the House Select Committee on Intelligence will hold a hearing — a closed hearing — on the infiltration of government intelligence agencies by agents of Scientology. The date has not been set.

In Boston, Lavenda Van Schaick, 29, has filed a \$200-million lawsuit against the church, accusing it of cheating thousands of converts by subjecting them to "mind control." She contends that the church misled her into divorcing her husband, paying about \$13,000 for auditing, and working for the church without pay for nine years in Las Vegas and Clearwater.

In Oregon, a former Scientologist recently was awarded \$2-million in damages against the church. In Riverside, Calif. an indictment has linked church members to an alleged bank fraud scheme.

SCIENTOLOGY IS down. But it would be a mistake to count it out.

It remains wealthy and feisty.

Since moving into Clearwater late in 1975, when it purchased the Fort Harrison Hotel and the old Bank of Clearwater building for approximately \$3-million in cash, the church has steadily increased its property holdings in Pinellas County.

It paid \$2.5-million for the 100-room Sandcastle Inn, on Clearwater's downtown bayfront. It purchased the West Coast Building and the building occupied by Clearwater Plasma Products, both in downtown Clearwater. It purchased the Quality Inn on U.S. 19 for \$1.8-million.

The church has agreed to buy the Heart of Clearwater Motel, which it has been operating through a lease purchased from two couples, for \$950,000 by next March 1.

A LONG LEGAL fight over the church's Pinellas County property tax bill for 1976 and 1977 came to an end Dec. 14 when the church paid \$126,753 in back taxes. But Scientology President Kenneth Whitman said the church will continue its court fight for exemption from its 1978 and 1979 tax bills. They total \$151,157.

The church remains vocal. It has accused Clearwater City Commissioner Richard Tenney of violating its civil rights by his criticism of the actions of the Guardian Office and by his organizing of public demonstrations against the church.

On the national scene, Church of Scientology officials called a news conference in Washington Dec. 3 to report that their four-month analysis of CIA records suggests that the federal intelligence agency conducted biological warfare tests in New

York City streets and tunnels in 1955 and 1956.

Thirteen days later, they held another news conference to state that, according to their analysis, the CIA might have conducted open-air tests of whooping cough bacteria in the Tampa Bay area in 1955. CIA financial records that have been made public over the last 30 months indicate such a test might have taken place, said officials of American Citizens for Honesty in Government, a Scientology organization. In addition, they said, state medical records show an outbreak of whooping cough about that time that killed 12 persons.

Clearly Scientology still carries a chip on its shoulder.

ONE WONDERS whether the actions of the Guardians that got them sentenced to jail could ever be repeated.

Just before Mary Lou Hubbard was sentenced, she told Judge Richey, "I publicly want to say I accept full responsibility for the charge of which I have been convicted. I sincerely regret my wrongdoing. I have done everything within my power to see that nothing like this ever occurs in the future."

What has she done? What has the church done to see that "nothing like this ever occurs in the future?"

On Dec. 20, President Whitman met for an hour with Eugene Patterson, editor and president of *The St. Petersburg Times*, and three other *Times* employees.

"On behalf of the Church of Scientology and its members," Rev. Whitman said, "I want to offer a sincere apology for the conduct of some within the church toward yourself and some of your reporters."

He said he was holding a series of meetings with political, business, religious and news people in Pinellas County in an effort to calm the confrontation atmosphere that had developed between the church and the community.

He said that founder Hubbard was not involved in day-to-day activities of the church, and that the criminal activities were carried out by a few isolated individuals who violated church policies and misinterpreted Hubbard policies.

HE SAID there was "no justification for what occurred," and that "the burden of proof is on us."

Some days later, following a meeting with the board of directors of the "Mother Church" in Los Angeles, Rev. Whitman told *The Times* that specific actions have been taken to prohibit illegal or harassing actions by church members.

A new Guardian Order entitled "Scientology and the Law" has been circulated to all Guardian offices and staff members, he said. Whitman said the order draws heavily on a 1961 Hubbard policy statement entitled "Clean Hands Make a Happy Life."

The new order begins: "In the past some individuals have apparently sought to assist the Church of Scientology by committing harassing or illegal acts. Such actions are NOT help and in fact make our work more difficult in that such acts misrepresent basic tenants of the church."

The order states: "If it is felt that the laws of the land are not just, then the proper remedies are to be sought through the appropriate legislative body or through the courts . . . Orders calling for harassing or illegal acts are clearly destructive as are representations that such acts would further the aims of the church."

It contains penalties: "Henceforth anyone proposing or carrying out a harassing or illegal act in the name of, or for the purpose of 'assisting,' the Church of Scientology will be immediately subject to a committee of evidence which will consider the facts of the case and recommend upon penalties not excluding expulsion."

Court from Page 16

WHITMAN SAID the order makes it the duty of any Scientologist who learns of an illegal action by another church member to make the information available to the nearest church ethics office.

"Scientologists," the order states, "obey the law and violations of the law are expected to be dealt with according to the existing law enforcement and judicial system within our society."

Whitman said the church has also organized a Controller's Committee to oversee activities of the Guardian Office.

Was Mrs. Hubbard involved?

"I believe so," Whitman said. "I don't know the intricacies of the formation of the committee, but it actually was formed under her. I am sure it was her intention that the committee exist."

The committee is headed by Rev. Fred Hare of Los Angeles.

THERE HAS BEEN no cancellation of existing church policies or Hubbard policy statements, Whitman said, because none is necessary.

"Whether or not anybody issued any kind of Guardian Order in the past," he said, "this Guardian Order is quite specific and there are no exceptions to this policy. This is the church policy and this is what happens if someone carries out an illegal or harassing activity in the name of the church."

Meanwhile, the nine defendants in the Washington case remain members of the church, Whitman said, although some have been removed from their staff positions.

"All have performed individual acts of contrition," he said.

He declined to describe these acts because they "might appear odd to someone else." He said they involved "a great deal of spiritual self-examination" and making "amends in terms of working and contributing to some positive situation regarding the church."

The church has not paid their legal bills, Whitman said. Instead a defense committee has been formed to raise funds for them.

"I don't think any of these individuals could afford to pay them," Whitman said. "I understand they have, or will, run over a million dollars."

WHITMAN SAID HE is trying to arrest the notion that the illegal actions of a few church members represent "the policy of the church and of millions of Scientologists."

"It's totally bizarre and completely out of keeping with what we believe," he said, "yet it is being interpreted as what we believe."

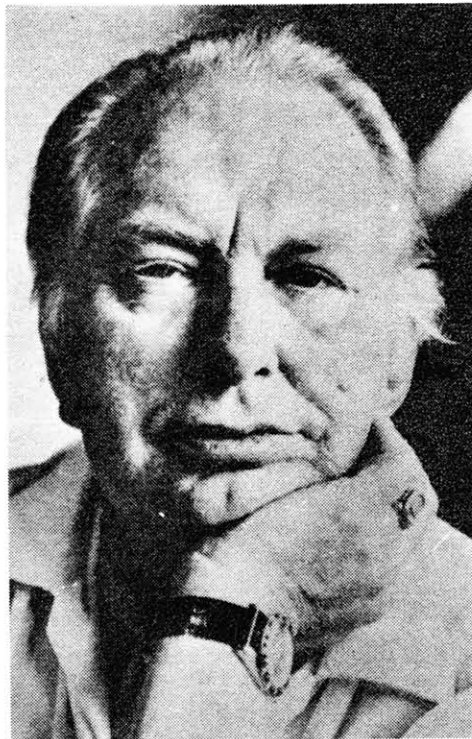
Whitman said Scientology seeks a "civilization without criminality" and has worked toward this goal through programs to reduce crime and drug abuse and to re-educate former criminal offenders.

Whitman said he also hopes to achieve "the right of Scientologists to practice their faith in Clearwater."

The new Guardian Order was offered as reassurance to the community that past criminal acts will not occur again. "I think the Guardian Order makes clear what will be done if there are any illegal acts," Whitman said.

He said there was no "direct consultation" with founder Hubbard in drawing up the order. But Hubbard, he said, "does continue to write doctrine and policy letters."

That is the same founder Hubbard, Commodore Hubbard, who counseled his followers in the past that "truth is what is true for you."



By **BILL CORNWELL**
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

The place: A makeshift movie sound stage in the California desert near Palm Springs.

*The scene: Actors, cameramen and other members of the crew wait impatiently for the director to arrive so that filming of the movie *The Unfathomable Man* can begin.*

The time: Early summer, 1978.

Lafayette Ronald Hubbard, self-styled writer, philosopher, scientist, interplanetary traveler, psychologist, film maker and — above all — founder and guiding light of the Church of Scientology, enters the sound stage surrounded by his retinue of 20 to 30 people.

Hubbard and his group move quickly, and those who are slow to make room are plowed aside. There is silence as Hubbard positions himself in a canvas-backed chair marked "Director."

A man of medium height and stocky build, the 67-year-old Hubbard is wearing a work shirt and oversized work pants held up by a single suspender slung across his chest and back. A bandana is tied at his throat, and his long red hair is streaked with gray and crowned by a cowboy hat.

The Unfathomable Man, a movie to be shown to church members around the globe, is Hubbard's baby all the way. He wrote the script, produced it and is trying to direct it. It is obvious, though, that something is wrong as he stares balefully at his crew.

FINALLY, THE tense silence is broken.

"You g-d--- s---s of a b----," booms the spiritual leader of some 3-million Scientologists worldwide. "Can't any of you put up a f-k--- light right?"

In short order the lights are adjusted to Hubbard's specifications.

Dell Hartwell, a new crew member and recent convert to the church, expresses shock to a workmate about Hubbard's language.

"Oh, the boss (Hubbard) doesn't believe in holding a thing back," the more experienced crew member confides.

Indeed he doesn't.

Whether he is dealing with those he believes to be enemies of the church or making movies to illustrate the tenets of Scientology, the record suggests that L. Ron Hubbard runs at full steam forward most of the time.

But the record of Hubbard's life is cloudy, and that is precisely the way he wants it. Reclusive and mysterious, he grants no interviews and goes to extraordinary lengths to keep the outside world at bay. He travels quietly and secretly, and many high-ranking

The mystery man behind Scientology

L. Ron Hubbard, left, is reclusive and mysterious. He grants no interviews and goes to extraordinary lengths to keep the outside world at bay. He travels quietly and secretly, and many high-ranking church officials have never laid eyes on the man.



The writer

Bill Cornwell joined the staff of *The St. Petersburg Times* in 1978. Cornwell, 30, came to St. Petersburg from the *Birmingham (Ala.) Post-Herald*. He is a graduate of Birmingham Southern College.

officials of the church have never laid eyes on the man. The only contact that these church officials have had with Hubbard is through his writings, which set forth the church's dogma.

CHURCH PRESIDENT Kenneth J. Whitman, for example, says he has neither seen nor talked to Hubbard.

David Gaiman, director of public relations at the church's international headquarters in East Grinstead, Sussex, England, says Hubbard has not consented to an interview in more than a decade.

Attempts by *The St. Petersburg Times* to arrange an interview with Hubbard through the mother church in England were unsuccessful. Gaiman declined to forward *The Times'* interview request to Hubbard because "I'm not even willing to put Ron under the obligation of saying no."

Yet enough of Hubbard's life can be pieced together through interviews with people who have observed him, court records, documents released recently by a federal judge in Washington, D.C., and other sources to give some measure of the founder of Scientology.

The portrait that emerges is one of an ambitious man beset and bedeviled by personal problems. But because of his standing in the church, Hubbard is a man of influence and, by all appearances, considerable wealth.

"**WHEN YOU** think of L. Ron Hubbard today just think of what Howard Hughes was like," explains a California police investigator who has attempted to track Hubbard's movements over the past few months.

What follows is an attempt to present a coherent picture of the man who, in 1949, advised a group of fellow science fiction writers that "Writing for a penny a word is ridiculous. If a man really wanted to make a

million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion."

An official church biography is the source of most of the information concerning Hubbard's early years. The accuracy of the biography is questionable, since portions of it dealing with Hubbard's later life are clearly erroneous.

He was born on March 13, 1911 in Tilden, Neb., to Harry Ross Hubbard, a commander in the U.S. Navy, and his wife Dora May.

The church's biographical material states that Hubbard spent most of his early youth on his grandfather's cattle ranch in Montana. From the ages of 14 to 18, Hubbard traveled with his father across Asia, where he became a student of Eastern religions and crossed paths with mystics and magicians, the church biography asserts.

THESE ASSERTIONS are questionable, however. Documents seized by the FBI in 1977 during raids on Scientology offices show that Hubbard attended three different high schools during the years that he supposedly was traveling in Asia.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) — with which Hubbard has been feuding for years — conducted an investigation of Hubbard's background and found that he attended Union High School in Bremerton, Wash., Helena High School in Helena, Mont. and Woodward Preparatory School in Washington, D.C., according to IRS documents in Washington.

In 1930, at the age of 19, Hubbard entered George Washington University, where he experienced a lackluster academic career.

Placed on probation because of poor grades after his freshman year, Hubbard dropped out of college at the end of his second year. He earned no degree.

He did receive a degree of sorts in 1950 when he was awarded an honorary Ph.D. from Sequoia University, an unaccredited institution in Los Angeles. The university was closed in 1958 after the California Legislature enacted measures designed to shut down "diploma mills," says Roy Steeves of the California Department of Education.

THE FOUNDER of Scientology also claims a D.D. (doctorate of divinity), but there is no record that he actually holds such a degree.

Despite his anemic credentials, Hubbard — who flunked his college physics course — has boasted of being "a scientist in the field of atomic and molecular phenomena. At least, that was my course in college."



Dell and Ernest Hartwell spent time with Hubbard before they became disenchanted. Mrs. Hartwell described Hubbard as a "big man, with a big stomach. His hair was long and shabby — gray, with reddish spots. And he always wore pants that were too big with one suspender, and he always had a bandana and a cowboy hat."

Riverside (Calif.) Press Enterprise

Hubbard from Page 17

The 1930s saw Hubbard blaze a trail as something of an adventurer and explorer, his biographers say. He is reputed to have led expeditions to Alaska and the Caribbean before World War II.

It was during this period that he also began to make a name as a science fiction writer. One of his principal markets was a magazine called *Astounding Science Fiction*.

"Hubbard wasn't in the same league as Robert Heinlein or A. E. van Vogt, but I would say he was one of about a dozen of our most popular authors," said Ben Bova, editor of *Analog*, the later version of *Astounding*, in 1976.

BY MOST ACCOUNTS, Hubbard was a prolific writer. Dr. Christopher Evans, author of *Cults of Unreason*, has said that Hubbard could type 90 words a minute with two fingers.

According to Evans, Hubbard would lock himself in a room with a typewriter for a day or so and then appear with a completed, marketable manuscript.

Hubbard's literary career was interrupted by the war. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1941 to 1946, attaining the rank of lieutenant.

He seems to have emerged from the Navy as a deeply troubled man, and a letter he wrote in 1947 to the Veterans Administration (VA) in Los Angeles, where he was living, indicated the depth of his despair.

"After trying and failing for two years to gain my equilibrium in civil life, I am utterly

unable to approach anything like my own competence," he wrote.

"I cannot account for nor rise above long periods of moroseness and suicidal inclinations and have newly come to realize that I must first triumph above this before I can hope to rehabilitate myself at all."

HE WENT ON to explain that he desired psychiatric help but could not afford it.

Moreover, he added that during the last part of his service in the Navy he had avoided mental examinations "out of pride . . . hoping that time would balance a mind which I had every reason to suppose was seriously affected."

The letter to the VA was contained in documents seized by the FBI in 1977 during raids on Scientology offices. The documents were released recently in Washington by a federal judge, but they do not reflect if Hubbard received psychiatric treatment from the VA.

Hubbard's mental state has been a subject that intrigues critics of Scientology, for the church is strongly opposed to psychiatry.

Strangely, Hubbard seems to have formulated this anti-psychiatry stance at about the time he was pleading with the VA to provide such help for him.

"Missing from Hubbard's biographies is a clear explanation for the deep antipathy he developed, and began expressing in the late 1940s, for the mental health professions, particularly psychiatry," the *Los Angeles Times* noted last year.

HUBBARD WAS publicly accused of

mental instability in 1951 during divorce proceedings brought by his wife, Sara Northrup Hubbard.

In a complaint filed on April 23, 1951 in Los Angeles County Superior Court, Mrs. Hubbard charged her husband with bigamy and torture.

(Mrs. Hubbard's divorce complaint is inexplicably missing from the microfilmed records of the Los Angeles County Courthouse. The original 28-year-old complaint was located — after much searching — by a *St. Petersburg Times* reporter in a cardboard box in the basement of the mammoth courthouse complex.)

Among the allegations in Mrs. Hubbard's sworn petition:

✓ That Hubbard was married to Margaret Grubb Hubbard of Bremerton, Wash., at the time he married Sara Northrup Hubbard on Aug. 10, 1946 in Chestertown, Md. Sara Hubbard also alleged that Hubbard had presented himself as a bachelor when they married. The petition stated that Hubbard did not divorce his first wife until after he and Sara had been married for more than a year.

✓ That Hubbard conducted experiments on Sara Hubbard. "Hubbard systematically prevented (Mrs. Hubbard) from sleeping continuously for a period of over four days and then, in her agony, furnished her with a supply of sleeping pills, all resulting in nearness . . . of death." Such experiments, Sara Hubbard said, occurred frequently during the marriage.

✓ That Hubbard several times physically abused Sara, and once strangled her so violently that the eustachian tube of

her left ear ruptured, leaving her with impaired hearing.

✓ That Hubbard counseled his wife to commit suicide "if she really loved him," adding that he wished to end the marriage but feared a divorce "would hurt his reputation."

In another court document, Mrs. Hubbard said that her husband "falsely accused (her) of having injected a hypnotic solution of sodium pentathol into his eyes with a hypodermic needle during his sleep for the purpose of subjecting him to her supposed hypnotic powers . . ."

THE DOCUMENT, on file in Los Angeles County Superior Court, charged that Hubbard believed his wife was "in league with the American Medical Association, the Communists and the American Psychiatric Association, who Hubbard said were out to destroy him, and hence, he was going to kill" her.

Sara Hubbard's divorce complaint stated that she had discussed Hubbard's behavior with "her medical advisers," who recommended that Hubbard be admitted to a "private sanatorium for psychiatric observation and treatment of a mental ailment known as paranoid schizophrenia."

In an abrupt turnabout, however, Mrs. Hubbard later recanted her allegations against her former husband.

She signed a statement saying "that the things I have said about L. Ron Hubbard in courts and the public prints have been grossly exaggerated or entirely false."

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Hubbard from Page 18

A COPY OF this statement was given to *The Times* recently by representatives of the Church of Scientology.

In her statement, dated June 11, 1951, Mrs. Hubbard said:

"I have not at any time believed otherwise than that L. Ron Hubbard was a fine and brilliant man.

"I make this statement of my own free will, for I have begun to realize that what I have done may have injured the science of Dianetics, which in my studied opinion, may be the only hope of sanity in future generations.

"I was under enormous stress and my advisers insisted it was necessary for me to carry through as I have done."

The statement bears the subtle marks of L. Ron Hubbard's handiwork. The stilted language is similar to his writing style, and the recantation includes a sentence with the word "enturbulating," which is not to be found in a dictionary but sometimes appears in Hubbard's writings.

CARYL WARNER, the attorney who represented Mrs. Hubbard in the 1951 divorce proceedings, believes the allegations of brutality and psychotic behavior that his client outlined in her original complaint.

"She was fearful of L. Ron Hubbard," says Warner, who still practices law in Los Angeles. "I have no doubt that what she said in her complaint was valid. If she changed her story, and I didn't know she had, she did it because she was fearful."

Attempts by *The Times* to locate Mrs. Hubbard were unsuccessful. According to Warner, she has remarried, although he says he does not know where she is living.

The early 1950s often found Hubbard writing to the FBI to complain about bizarre plots and schemes that he believed to be unfolding around him.

This is an excerpt from one of the letters the FBI received from Hubbard:

"ABOUT TWO OR three o'clock in the morning, (my) apartment was entered, I was knocked out, had a needle thrust into my heart to give it a jet of air to produce a coronary thrombosis and was given an electric shock with a 110-volt current. All this is all very blurred to me. I had no witnesses."

In other letters, Hubbard talked of

communist-inspired attempts to weaken Scientology by slipping LSD to church members.

By 1955, the FBI had tired of acknowledging the rambling, disjointed letters and the notation "appears mental" was made on one of them.

But troubled or not, Scientology was beginning to flourish, and Hubbard was amassing the wealth and the power necessary for him to lead his reclusive existence.

The people around San Jacinto, Calif. are perplexed by the strangers who have moved into the Massacre Canyon Inn.

Located about 85 miles east of Los Angeles, the inn was once a popular resort, and the nearby Gilman Hot Springs lured those who thought its waters possessed curative powers.

In recent years, the 520-acre resort has been steadily losing its appeal. It was purchased not long ago by a Los Angeles lawyer who insists that he will use the property for private real estate development. But not everyone is sure that is the case.

Residents of San Jacinto are wondering why security is so tight around the complex. There is a guardhouse blocking the entrance to the resort, and armed men with snarling German shepherds have been seen patrolling the grounds.

The *Riverside Press-Enterprise* thought all of this quite strange and began to check out some of the people who are living and working at the resort. After a bit of investigation, the newspaper learned that a number of the workers seen at the resort are members of the Church of Scientology.

AND AT LEAST one law enforcement source in the San Jacinto area says he believes the church is using the resort as a one of its havens for L. Ron Hubbard.

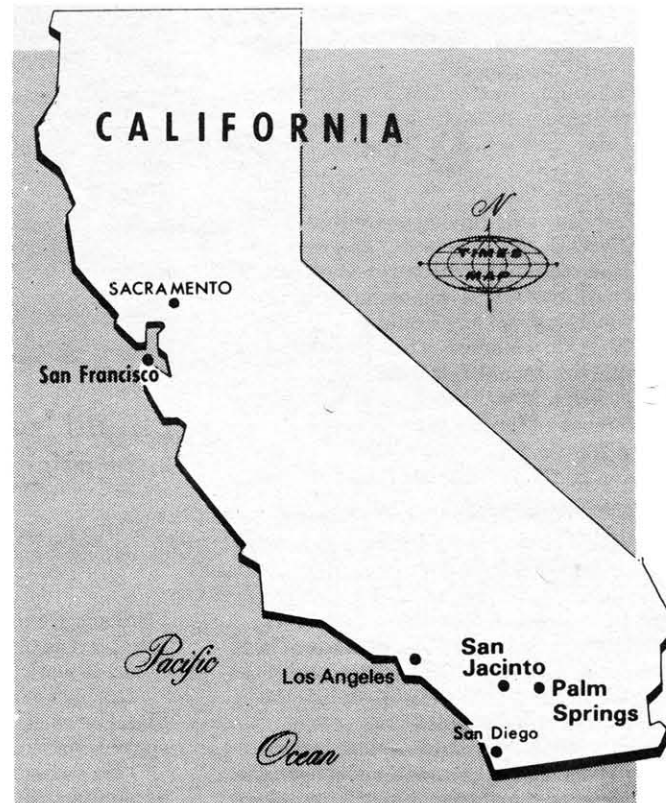
When a reporter from *The St. Petersburg Times* approached the guardhouse earlier this month to inquire about any links to the Church of Scientology, the response was unexpectedly intense.

"It's none o' your f--k--- business what's going on here," snapped a tall young man with a clipped British accent. "Who sent you here from Florida to ask these questions?"

When the reporter presented his press pass, the young man, who refused to give his name, was not mollified.

"Now let me tell you something," he shouted, shaking his fist in the reporter's face, "we've come here to do a job, and we

The buildings in the photo above are part of the Massacre Canyon Inn complex, once a popular resort at San Jacinto, Calif. (map).



St. Petersburg Times

won't f--k--- be stopped by some reporter from Florida."

ASSURED BY THE reporter that his only interest was in determining if the Church of Scientology is using the resort as a temporary home for Hubbard, the young man — who had now been joined by several other young men — turned red in the face.

"Listen," he said, "we're going to build condominiums here, and if you don't f--k--- like it that's too bad. We won't be stopped because there's big bucks involved here. You got that? BIG BUCKS."

It also takes big bucks to keep L. Ron Hubbard traveling about the world in style.

For a while he sailed the seas on the *Apollo*, the church's 3,280-ton yacht that was sold several years ago.

In 1968, Britain banned foreign nationals from entering the country for the purpose of studying Scientology. That ban meant that Hubbard and his third wife, Mary Sue, could not visit Saint Hill Manor, the church's 20-room mansion at East Grinstead, Sussex,

England, that was once owned by the maharajah of Jaipur.

TEN PERCENT of the church's gross income is sent to the world headquarters at Saint Hill Manor. The *Los Angeles Times* reports that former church officials have estimated the church's annual gross income worldwide at \$100-million or more.

Church officials deny that the 10 percent sent to Saint Hill Manor actually ends up in Hubbard's pocket. Hubbard, the church says, gets by on the royalties from his writings.

The IRS has other ideas. In a 1976 memorandum based on "investigative information," the IRS speculated that, since the early 1950s, a "sizable amount of untaxed income has been going to Hubbard generally via one of the (his) controlled organizations, through English or Swiss banks."

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Wherever the money comes from, Hubbard has enough of it to support his unusual lifestyle.

The last time he is known to have been seen in public was in Clearwater in 1976. He had come to Clearwater for the opening of a church facility.

Time magazine said he appeared "portly, in apparent good health and decked out in a khaki jump suit and tam-o'-shanter. Flamboyant and authoritative, Hubbard barked out orders to a crew of young people, opened a five-figure checking account and paid a tailor \$2,800 for some new clothes."

A MORE REVEALING look at Hubbard is supplied by Dell and Ernie Hartwell, a Las Vegas, Nev. couple who spent time with Hubbard in 1978 making movies for the church in the California desert near Palm Springs.

The Hartwells became disenchanted with the church, and, as a result, have decided to tell of their experiences.

The couple became interested in the church through their children. A daughter, Ver-Dawn, quit school at the age of 15 in 1978 to become one of Hubbard's personal "messengers."

"Ver-Dawn was giving us trouble at the time," recalls Mrs. Hartwell, "and we figured that if she took a (Scientology) course at night and then was in school during the day she wouldn't get in any trouble.

"Well, they (church officials) talked her into quitting school. She called me on a Friday and told me that she was flying to California on Monday to become one of Ron's 'special messengers.'"

Mrs. Hartwell, 56, tells of the duties of these special messengers.

"RON HAS THREE young girls with him around the clock; they work in eight-hour shifts," she says. "They wait on him all day. One of them takes down every word he says so a record can be made of it. If Ron flicks the ash on his cigarette, one of the girls has to catch the ash before it hits the ground. It's unbelievable."

After Ver-Dawn (she has since left the church) decided to become a messenger, the Hartwells, who had been taking Scientology courses in their hometown of Las Vegas, agreed to go to work for the church.

They were told they would be sent to Clearwater but instead they were taken to a ranch in the desert near Palm Springs, Calif. The Hartwells say their mail from the outside was routed through Clearwater to Palm Springs in what they believe was a move to keep Hubbard's whereabouts a secret.

The ranch, located near the plush La Quinta resort, was being used by Hubbard as a movie-making facility, and an old barn had been converted into a sound stage. Mrs. Hartwell was involved with makeup and wardrobes, while Hartwell, 59, was assigned to do film editing.

Hartwell, a salty-tongued Navy veteran, became disenchanted with the church after just five weeks and left the ranch. Mrs. Hartwell stayed five months.

"YOU JUST can't believe the language that Ron and his people use," says Mrs. Hartwell, "and after living with Ernie I didn't think rough language could bother me. But the things they said. I remember one time I heard Ron just 'yellin' and



St. Petersburg Times

Fifield Manor in Hollywood, Calif. houses the Guardian's Office U.S., which supervises all local Guardian Offices throughout the United States.

a'screamin' and a'swearin' and I thought, 'Oh, Lord, is that who we've come out in the desert to work for.'"

During her five months in the desert, Mrs. Hartwell said she never saw Hubbard vary his wardrobe.

"He's a big man, with a big stomach," she remembers. "His hair was long and shabby — gray, with reddish spots. And he always wore pants that were way too big with one suspender, and he always had a bandana and a cowboy hat."

Asked to give her overall impression of Hubbard's physical appearance, Mrs. Hartwell smiles and says, "I think he is about the homeliest man I've ever seen."

Mrs. Hartwell vividly recalls the filming of a movie called *The Unfathomable Man*, which chronicled Hubbard's view of mankind from its beginning to the present.

BEFORE HUBBARD would visit the set, women with white gloves came to inspect the area for cleanliness. When it was determined that it needed a thorough cleaning to meet Hubbard's standards, the women with gloves produced a special soap and list of instructions for cleaning the set.

The walls had to be cleaned with only the special soap, the women insisted, and then rinsed with four clean waters, meaning that each time a sponge was dipped into a bucket, the bucket had to be emptied and refilled with fresh water. As a result, the cleaning of the set took hours to complete.

"Ron would always get on the set at about

8 p.m., and we'd work straight through to 7 a.m. with nothing to eat or drink," Mrs. Hartwell says. "We'd take a half-hour break at 1 a.m., but nobody was allowed to eat, except for Ron, of course. He always had about 20 or 30 people around him and they would clear the way for him when he came on the set.

"He'd always head straight for his director's chair, which nobody else was allowed to touch. He'd get in that chair, cross his legs and start swingin' 'em and then he'd start screaming."

As a makeup assistant, Mrs. Hartwell soon learned that one of Hubbard's favorite film devices was the use of "blood," which consisted of Karo Syrup and red food coloring. To accommodate Hubbard's sanguineous impulses, the makeup assistants would prepare the fake blood by the gallons.

"Did he ever like those films to be bloody — I mean it was enough to make you sick," she explains.

"WE'D BE shooting a scene and all of sudden he'd yell 'Stop! Make it more gory, make it more gory.' We'd go running out on the set with all this Karo Syrup and food coloring and we'd just dump it all over the actors. Then we'd film some more and he'd stop it again and say 'it's not gory enough.' And we'd throw some more blood on them."

Hubbard once ordered so much blood dumped on two actors that their clothes literally became glued to their bodies by the sticky syrup, and wardrobe technicians had

to cut the clothing off of them.

"Funny thing about these movies," adds Mr. Hartwell, "is that they never get shown to anyone. Hubbard would always blame somebody for screwing it up and order the movie shelved."

The shelving of the movies is but one example of the contradictory and unreasonable orders the Hartwells say Hubbard often gave.

They say Hubbard once complained that too much money was being spent at the ranch and ordered a ban on all purchases.

Unfortunately, Hubbard's ban coincided with a shortage of toilet paper at the ranch, but even then the Father of Scientology would not relent.

FOR 10 DAYS, says Mrs. Hartwell, Hubbard's charges ripped pages from telephone books to use as toilet tissue. After 10 days, the ban on spending was lifted.

Despite the tales of erratic behavior, Mrs. Hartwell says that anyone who dismisses Hubbard as a fool or a lunatic is underestimating the man and the hold he has on his followers.

Even Mrs. Hartwell, who certainly is no admirer of Hubbard, once felt the strange allure and power that he exudes.

"Ron put his hand on my shoulder once and he asked something like 'How are you doing?' Well, I don't know how to explain it, but it was like vibrations going all over my body, right down to my feet. I've never experienced anything like it."