

Hubbard's body identity confirmed

By Mark Brown
Telegram-Tribune

It has been proven positively that the man who died at a Creston ranch Friday was L. Ron Hubbard, the 74-year-old leader of the Church of Scientology, the Sheriff's Department said.

"Yes, we have verified fingerprints taken from the body," Sheriff George Whiting said Wednesday afternoon.

"We confirmed them with three sources, the FBI in Washington, the Department of Justice in Sacramento and from cards supplied to us from another source," he said.

Whiting said fingerprints were verified to allay any doubts, but Hubbard's death occurred in the presence of a physician and, as far as Whiting is concerned, "the case is closed."

Hubbard's attorneys brought detectives a certified copy of Hubbard's fingerprints, said Lt. John Hastie.

Those positively matched fingerprints taken from the body by Chief Deputy Coroner Don Hines, Hastie said. The prints were then verified with the Department of Justice and FBI.

"The man that was cremated was Mr. Hubbard," Hastie said.

Coroners first got involved because of a delay of nearly 12 hours between the time of Hubbard's death and the time it was reported to the Sheriff's Department.

That delay was necessary because aides were waiting for the arrival of Earle Cooley, Hubbard's attorney from Los Angeles, said Kathy Blecha, a Hubbard representative who works for the late author's literary agency.

Hubbard died in a \$250,000 motor-home parked on his ranch property, Blecha said. He was living in the bus-sized vehicle temporarily while his house was being remodeled, she said.

Hubbard made specific requests

about how his death was to be handled, Blecha said, and Cooley was to see that those requests were carried out.

"It's not exactly a stone's throw from L.A.," she said.

Questions were also raised about the fact that Hubbard's will was signed only two days before he died and the certificate barring an autopsy was signed only four days before.

According to Blecha and Hubbard's death certificate, Hubbard was dying for a week before he actually succumbed. The Certificate of Religious Belief was executed so that no autopsy would be performed.

"It was no secret. He made this decision long ago" so there would not be an autopsy, Blecha said.

The will underwent minor changes, giving family members a more generous share of Hubbard's estate, Blecha said.

In Hubbard's will, which was expected to be filed by the end of the week, he reportedly left tens of millions of dollars to the church after making provisions for his wife, Mary Sue Hubbard, and four of his five children.

The fifth, Ronald DeWolf, was disinherited after denouncing his father and the church, said Scientology attorney John Peterson.

No petition for probate of Hubbard's will has been filed at the County Clerk's Office.

County Clerk Francis "Mitch" Cooney said the petition can be filed in the county where a person died or in the county where he has most of his property.

Scientology officials said longtime Scientology foe Michael Flynn had created a controversy over Hubbard's death by suggesting that it might be a hoax designed to end an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service.

"I am chagrined, I am angered, I am incensed, that an individual, and those backing him, would attempt in any way to denigrate the founder of

this church," said Heber Jentzsch, president of Church of Scientology International.

Jentzsch said that Flynn has changed his stance on whether Hubbard was alive to suit his own purposes.

"In November of 1982, Mr. Flynn attempted to seize the entire estate

of L. Ron Hubbard through a probate petition that he brought out here in Riverside," Jentzsch said. "He brought it on behalf of the estranged and disinherited son, one Ron DeWolf."

"At that time, Flynn alleged that Mr. Hubbard — who at that time was alive and well — was dead."

Now, of course, he alleges it's the opposite," Jentzsch said. "Now he says it's a hoax. So whatever serves his purpose, he'll go for it."

But Flynn said Wednesday evening, "The church has brought 14 suits against me, of which 13 have been dismissed. It's them that are after me. It's ridiculous."

SLO Scientologist plans SLO center as Hubbard tribute

San Luis Obispo will get a Scientology center this year if businessman Ron Bearce gets his way. Bearce, a Scientologist for seven years and candidate for mayor and City Council, said that the center will be a tribute to L. Ron Hubbard, creator of Scientology, who died at his Creston ranch last Friday.

"With this occurrence of him being in the area and finishing his work here, we're planning on opening some kind of book store or Scientology center during the next 12 months," Bearce said.

He said he is spearheading the project, working with the Santa Barbara Scientology center.

Local Scientologists, which number about 200, were surprised to find that Hubbard was living here,

Bearce said. Bearce attended the meeting Monday night in Los Angeles when church leaders announced Hubbard's death. Bearce had gotten a phone call Sunday night telling him to go to the Hollywood Palladium.

"We kind of thought that's what it was about," Bearce said. "They'd never done that before. It was one of the most unusual, energetic events I've ever been to. It was more a celebration of his life rather than any kind of grief or sadness."

The message was that Hubbard had finished his work here.

"Essentially he decided he has done as much as he can," Bearce said. "I guess he's moved on to the next step, whatever that might be."

The speakers said "there should

be no grief over it. He has accomplished everything that he wanted to and has left a remarkable technology on how to better yourself, your community, your business, just about anything you need help on," Bearce said.

"Any success I've had is because of the information and knowledge I've gained from L. Ron Hubbard's work," Bearce said. "It has helped my family and made our business a real success."

Later, he said, courses will be taught and Scientology counseling, called auditing.

The center will be a tribute to Hubbard, but "it's not a holiness kind of thing. It's a very down-to-earth respect for what he has achieved."

"I think whatever we open here is going to be very successful, because Scientology worldwide has been growing at an astounding rate," Bearce said.

Older phone books list a local Scientology center, but it is no longer in business.

Hubbard's book "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health," upon which Scientology is based, is a steady seller, said Zack Braun, who is affiliated with book stores in the North and South County.

Braun's parents own Magic Carpet Books in Arroyo Grande and Atascadero, and their son works at both stores.

"We probably sell from one to two dozen a month, Braun said.

Braun said he has also sold sever-

al copies of Hubbard's last two science fiction books: "Battlefield Earth" and the recently published "The Invaders' Plan." He said they have both done very well.

Hubbard's science fiction books outsell "Dianetics" at Gabby Bookstore in San Luis Obispo, said clerk Dawn Vernon.

"I'm sure we'll be getting a big order for it now that his name has been in all the papers," she said. But Hubbard's death hadn't increased sales this week.

Dianetics was copyrighted in 1950 and, according to the book jacket, has sold 7.5 million copies since then.

— Mark Brown

Mystery followed L. Ron Hubbard throughout life and into death

NY Times News Service

L. Ron Hubbard, the multimillionaire founder of the Church of Scientology, died Friday, and mystery surrounds his death just as it cloaked the final years of his life.

His death was announced Monday night by officials of the organization, which he called a religion but which was often attacked as a lucrative business.

San Luis Obispo County officials said Tuesday that Hubbard, a 74-year-old science fiction writer, was cremated Sunday without an autopsy.

Hubbard had not been seen in ...

... apparently lived for several years in a house on 80 fenced acres in Creston.

According to his death certificate, which was signed by Dr. Eugene Denk, a Scientist who had been Hubbard's personal physician for many years, he died there Friday of a stroke. His death was reported to county authorities Saturday.

Sheriff George S. Whiting, also the county coroner, said he had no reason to suspect that Hubbard's death was a result of anything but natural causes. But he said he regretted that he was forbidden to order an autopsy by a certificate of religious preference, purportedly signed by Hubbard, declaring his

objection to an autopsy. Under a year-old California law, such declarations are binding, Whiting said.

Hubbard's ashes were "scattered at sea," a spokesman for the Scientology organization said in Los Angeles.

Hubbard's death, which is expected to accelerate an already bitter battle for power within the wealthy organization, occurred at a time of mounting legal problems for the group he founded in 1954.

A federal grand jury is looking into allegations that Hubbard and his aides violated federal tax laws and other statutes.

The grand jury investigate ...

by the Justice Department and the Internal Revenue Service, was initiated after the New York Times reported in July 1984 that several former church officials alleged that Hubbard had directed them to secretly divert more than \$100 million from church coffers into foreign bank accounts.

Organization officials have repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

The Church of Scientology calls itself a "new religion," one not based on the worship of a god. Its adherents say it helps them lead more rewarding lives.

Church publicists say the organization now has six million followers, but some dissident former members

estimate the number at fewer than 700,000.

Hubbard, a native of Tilden, Neb., who was reared in Helena, Mont., and Bremerton, Wash., had been a moderately successful author of pulp magazine science fiction articles when he wrote a book in 1950 called, "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health."

Although many psychiatrists and other critics called the book "pseudoscience" and "quackery," it became a best seller, and Hubbard, portraying himself as a World War II hero and nuclear physicist, began to attract a following.

Please see Mystery, 5/A

Mystery

Continued from 4/A

In time the organization had hundreds of counseling centers worldwide. According to testimony in a Los Angeles suit involving the organization, it was taking in more than \$2 million a week by the 1970s.

Clients paid Scientology up to \$300 an hour for a one-on-one counseling process, known as auditing.

The goal of "auditing," which can go on for years and cost clients hundreds of thousands of dollars, is to increase control over thought processes in a portion of the mind where, Scientologists assert, emotional problems and psychosomatic

illnesses are born.

As the organization's popularity grew, so did Hubbard's problems with law enforcement officials in this country, Australia, Britain, West Germany and elsewhere who accused him of fraud and other crimes.

In this period, according to court documents, the Church of Scientology began a project in which members of an elite group were assigned to infiltrate government agencies in more than 30 countries and suppress investigations of the organization.

In 1979, Mary Sue Hubbard, Hubbard's wife, and 10 other Scientolo-

gists were convicted of burglarizing and wire-tapping government agencies that church leaders said had harassed the church for decades.

In 1984, Judge Paul G. Breckenridge Jr. of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, who presided over trial of the Los Angeles suit, said of Hubbard: "The evidence portrays a man who has been virtually a pathological liar when it comes to his history, background and achievements," and who seemed gripped by "egoism, greed, avarice, lust for power, and vindictiveness and aggressiveness against persons perceived by him to be disloyal or hostile."

Cash flowed from Hubbard's ranch

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By RONNIE D. SMITH
The Press-Enterprise

CRESTON — Actor Robert Mitchum once quartered horses at the Whispering Winds ranch, four miles south of Creston. Until last week, it was the closest this town of 270 people had come to celebrity. Last week Church of Scientology founder Lafayette Ronald Hubbard died here.

Hubbard, a science fiction writer who turned a book he wrote called "Dianetics" into a church making \$100 million a year, was both worshipped by Scientologists who embraced his teachings and condemned by those who fled the church, claiming to be defrauded and abused.

In life, Hubbard was a controversial, elusive recluse who vanished from the church's compound at Gilman Hot Springs in Riverside County in March 1980, the last time he was seen publicly. A Los Angeles judge once described the church and Hubbard thusly: "The organization clearly is schizophrenic and paranoid, and this bizarre combination seems to be a reflection of its founder."

A church spokesman said Hubbard lived on the ranch for

the past 2½ years and wrote and researched topics of the spirit and cross-breeding of animals as well as dabbling in photography. Hubbard lived in a motor home while his home was under renovation, a process just finished when he died. The Rev. Ken Hoden said Hubbard lived with long-time friends Pat and Anne Broeker.

A glimpse of the last 2½ years of Hubbard's secret life on the Whispering Winds ranch, secluded in rolling hills and dreamy green meadows 25 miles from Morro Bay, has been pieced together from interviews and public records.

In death, Hubbard was no less controversial than in life. A stroke ended Hubbard's secret existence at 8 p.m. Jan. 24, inside his \$250,000 Bluebird motor home parked near a pen of llamas. His doctor said he suffered a brain hemorrhage several days before his death.

Little is known about what happened from the time of his death and 12 hours later when church officials asked a funeral director to pick up the body. A neighbor, Robert Whaley, a retired advertising executive, re-

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Hubbard . . .

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county permits be taken out for building. "They said they didn't want any permits. If they got caught, they'd take responsibility for it," he said. A check of permits showed one in 1983 for a water tank.

Mitchell once offered a neighbor \$750,000 cash for her 132-acre ranch — \$250,000 above the appraised value. The real estate agent involved in the proposed sale said Mitchell said he wanted the woman out because she complained that one of his dogs had killed her sheep.

The owner of the property said Mitchell told her to take her house with her if she liked, but sell. After the woman said she wanted \$1 million, the real estate agent said Mitchell rejected it.

The agent said Mitchell, about 30 years old with brown hair and a New York accent, gave

the impression he was spending his money, which he had inherited. "When I was dealing with Mike," the agent said, "I got the impression he was doing his own thing. If a decision had to be made, he made it right then."

Scientology spokesman Hoden said he did not know whether Hubbard spent his money as described by the residents of Creston. "I wasn't there," he said, adding, "There is no doubt in anyone's mind that L. Ron Hubbard was a wealthy man." Hubbard's wealth has been estimated to be as much as \$200 million.

While contractors grabbed Hubbard's money and worked continually for 2½ years on the ranch, Hubbard practiced an obsession for privacy. None of his neighbors knew who he was. He didn't even receive mail at the ranch, and visitors often arrived in the middle of the night.

When he did come out of his motor home during the day, it was

only to putter around the estate, feeding horses, llamas and buffaloes.

Whaley said he invited Hubbard and the Mitchells to dinner shortly after they moved in, but, "They turned us down."

The neighbor recalled a chance eye-to-eye encounter with Hubbard.

One day Whaley went to a stable at the ranch to borrow a tool and surprised Hubbard, who was filing a piece of metal. "This older man gave me a very dirty look and ran into the workshop and closed the door," Whaley said.

"He looked at me very suspiciously. I thought this was odd. Here I am a neighbor, stopping over for a neighborly visit."

Hubbard . . .

(From Page A-1)

membered "tremendous traffic" at the ranch that Friday night.

The next morning, Scientologist attorney Earle Cooley telephoned Reis Chapel in San Luis Obispo, 20 miles southwest of the ranch. "He asked if we did cremation," said Irene Reis, an owner of the chapel. She said special arrangements for the cremation were made at a crematory, usually closed on weekends. Her husband, Gene, picked up the body of the 74-year-old Hubbard at the 160-acre ranch.

Cooley accompanied the body to the chapel and stayed near it while other church officials went to lunch. "Mr. Cooley insisted that he never leave the body (alone)," said June Rodrigues, a chapel receptionist.

Church officials said they "wanted everything, private — they wanted nothing released to the press," Reis said. After chapel officials learned who Hubbard was, they called the San Luis Obispo County sheriff-coroner. Rodrigues said the chapel was concerned that church officials made a "request for immediate cremation."

San Luis Obispo County Deputy Coroner Don Hines arrived at the chapel and stopped any cremation until an independent pathologist could examine the body and tests could be performed on blood samples.

Cooley presented Hines with a written certificate signed by Hubbard giving religious reasons for not wanting an autopsy at his death. Hines also was given at least one will, dated just before Hubbard's death. Rodrigues said Cooley may have shown Hines two wills, one outdated.

"He (Cooley) said something (that) in the later will, the wife (Mary Sue Hubbard) was provided for more than she was in the former will," Rodrigues said. Hubbard's will left tens of millions of dollars to the church, his wife and four of his five children. Son Ronald DeWolf was disinherited after he denounced the church several years ago.

Rodrigues said Hines and chapel employees discussed the validity of the will, and Reis said the district attorney was consulted. "They wanted to make sure this wasn't a scam," Rodrigues said. "The whole thing was just different. No autopsy or anything."

While Hines checked the documents, pathologist Karl Kirschner examined Hubbard's body for marks, found none, and accompanied Hubbard's personal physician Eugene Denk to a laboratory to test the blood. Although Kirschner declined to discuss his findings, coroner officials said acceptable levels of anti-stroke medication were in the blood. After Hines saw test results, he cleared the body for cremation, about 3:30 p.m.

Hubbard had suffered a stroke in 1978, but was apparently in fairly good condition in the months before he died. "He looked like a person who was active," Reis said. "His muscles were well developed."

Errol Rohrberg, who built a horse racing track on the estate, said Hubbard "was in real good health . . ." But he said once in a while "The old man wasn't feeling very good (and) a few days would go by without seeing him."

Neighbors and people who were hired to work on various construction projects at the ranch over the past two years described Hubbard as a "Colonel Sanders" lookalike because he sported a white beard and was overweight. They said the man who they knew only as "Jack" rarely emerged from the motor home and was driven around the ranch in a truck by a petite blonde woman who lived on the ranch.

The word of Hubbard's death hit the news wires two days after it happened, and reaction was quick. Scientologists mourned the passing while Scientology critic, Boston attorney Michael Flynn, sought an investigation of the death. By Wednesday, the San Luis Obispo County coroner said the case was closed.

For Hubbard, life opened on the ranch in the summer of 1983, when a man who has identified himself as "Mike Mitchell"

Rifts reported growing within Scientology

By DON LATTIN
San Francisco Examiner

SAN FRANCISCO — Followers of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard already are battling over the fundamental truths — and lucrative proceeds — of his "applied religious philosophy."

Even before Hubbard's death Friday, the leaders of two Scientology "missions" had split off from the mother church and formed rival organizations.

Frank Gerbode, who headed the Church of Scientology chapter in Palo Alto, Calif., from 1978 to 1984, said he left because the church was taking on "cultic" tendencies as it became increasingly antagonistic toward government agencies and the rest of the outside world.

"Now that Hubbard isn't around, there's going to be a vacuum of authority," said Gerbode, the director of a Scientology splinter group known as the Advanced Ability Center of Palo Alto.

"It's going to cause some confusion. The problem with an autocracy is when the autocrat is gone, you have chaos."

Gerbode, a psychiatrist, predicted that the Church of Scientology "will either fall apart or reorganize itself on some other basis ... hopefully with a more democratic structure."

But the Rev. August Murphy, president of the Church of Scientology of San Francisco, brushed aside speculation that Hubbard's death will cause more schisms in the church.

"There will be only one Church of Scientology," said Murphy. "It's a very close-knit brotherhood."

Scientology traces its origins to Hubbard's 1949 best-selling self-help book, "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health."

Hubbard, a reclusive and prolific author of science fiction, wrote that humanity's path to freedom was blocked by negative experiences. Using a process called auditing, Scientologists retrace their lives to free themselves of those negative experiences.

'Now that Hubbard isn't around, there's going to be a vacuum of authority.'

— Frank Gerbode,
head of splinter group

Church members enroll in counseling sessions. Part of the program involves being hooked up to a polygraphlike device called an "E-Meter."

Former top-ranking Scientologists have estimated that Hubbard's church is worth more than \$300 million.

Estimates of worldwide membership range from the 6 million claimed by church officials to the 100,000 cited by some defectors.

The best-known freelancer of "scientological services" is David Mayo, the director of the original Advanced Ability Center in Santa Barbara, Calif. There are now a dozen independently operated Advanced Ability Centers across the country, including Gerbode's Palo Alto branch.

In December, the church sued Mayo in federal court, charging that his Advanced Ability Center had infringed on the copyright for Scientology and Dianetics.

Gerbode sees that court challenge — one of numerous lawsuits pending between the church and its critics — as an infringement on former members' constitutional rights to practice their religion freely.

"It's unprecedented in this country for a church to have trade secrets and attempt to stop others from practicing their religion," he said.

Church officials have responded with a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign to promote the church's brand of Scientology.

Hubbard, 74, died in his sleep Friday night at his home near the San Luis Obispo County community of Creston, about 175 miles north of Los Angeles.

Hubbard Son's Bid for an Inquest Is Rejected

By ROBERT WELKOS and JOEL SAPPELL, *Times Staff Writers*

Refusing a request from the disinherited son of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, the San Luis Obispo County coroner said Tuesday he will not conduct an inquest into the death of the reclusive science fiction writer.

Sheriff-Coroner George S. Whiting said Hubbard's death by stroke Jan. 24 "isn't a coroner's case," because he was attended by a licensed physician, Dr. Eugene Denk of Los Angeles, who signed the death certificate.

"It is our belief that the physician of record has sufficient knowledge to reasonably state the cause of death," Whiting said. "There is no information obtained during the inquiry to suggest death resulted from other than the cause stated by the physician."

Two days after Hubbard's death was announced publicly on Jan. 27 by the Church of Scientology, Boston attorney Michael Flynn sent a letter to Whiting saying an inquest was needed to determine whether Hubbard's vast wealth "would provide a motive for individuals close to Hubbard to engage in potential wrongdoing."

Flynn made his request on behalf of Hubbard's eldest son, Ronald DeWolf, who had been estranged from his father for years. Flynn later said he was also representing a woman he identified as Hubbard's illegitimate daughter.

The attorney said he plans to contest Hubbard's will, signed one day before his death at age 74.

Flynn, who has been locked in bitter litigation with the church for years, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Hubbard, who had not been seen publicly since 1980, died on a 160-acre ranch in a rugged area about 30 miles northeast of San Luis Obispo.

Four days before his death, Hubbard signed a document requesting that no autopsy be conducted because of his religious beliefs. His body was cremated.

Friday Forum

Friday, Feb. 14, 1986

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

In God's name

Legal umbrella shields money-making religious groups from authorities

By Robert Lindsey
N.Y. Times News Service

SAN LUIS OBISPO — To many of his neighbors, the 74-year-old man who died at an isolated ranch near here recently was something of an enigma. He rarely spoke to anyone and seemed far more intent on enlarging his already opulent house. Only after his death did they learn that he was Lafayette Ronald Hubbard, a Nebraska-born science fiction writer who in the 1950s established a network of mental health clinics that he would later rename the Church of Scientology.

With his death, Hubbard, a target of government fraud investigations here and abroad, appeared to have achieved the ultimate victory over his enemies. He had lived out his final years in remote hills, evading scores of lawsuits and myriad inquiries, including one nearing completion by the Internal Revenue Service of allegations that he had secretly diverted more than \$100 million of Scientology's assets to foreign bank accounts.

To legal authorities, Hubbard's success in sidestepping efforts to prosecute him illustrated the problems they have in dealing with profit-making entities that call themselves

religions or that are suspected of using the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of religion to shield questionable activities.

Investigators have had some success in this church-state battle. Senior officials of Synanon, the drug-rehabilitation group believed to have conducted businesses under the umbrella of a tax-exempt religious group, were prosecuted for placing a rattlesnake in the mailbox of a lawyer representing dissident members. Recently, the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, leader of a sect that took over a small town in Oregon, left the country after being charged with violations of immigration law.

But these are exceptions. Most efforts have been unsuccessful, largely because of stiff resistance from mainline religious leaders.

In 1980, California tried to place in receivership the Pasadena-based Worldwide Church of God because members had contended its leaders were stealing millions of dollars a year in contributions.

After leaders of other faiths protested, legislators passed a law repealing the right of state law-enforcement agencies to examine the books of religious groups except under rare circumstances under a criminal investi-

gation.

Perhaps Hubbard did not anticipate how large and profitable his business would become after he turned it into a church. As his counseling programs attracted customers, he began selling franchises to entrepreneurs who established local Scientology "churches. Sales soon soared to over \$100 million a year.

According to evidence introduced in recent lawsuits brought by disaffected Scientologists, he established a secret group of members, the "Guardian's Office," to break into government offices and harass and intimidate reporters and others who tried to examine the organization. In 1979, 11 Scientologists, including his wife, were convicted of burglary, wiretapping and other crimes in connection with these operations.

But that was the only significant legal setback for the organization. Several years ago, he wrote that he wanted his survivors to spend \$50 million of his fortune on a huge tomb for his body; however, after he died he was cremated and his ashes disposed of at sea. Last week a Scientology spokesman said 99 percent of his personal estate had been left to the group.

Clearwater Sun

Northern Pinellas County's Local Daily

A Hearst newspaper

FRIDAY, February 7, 1986

Sect yacht to be local 'memorial'

By SCOTT MARSHALL
Sun staff writer

CLEARWATER — Perhaps L. Ron Hubbard will be remembered first as the founder of Scientology.

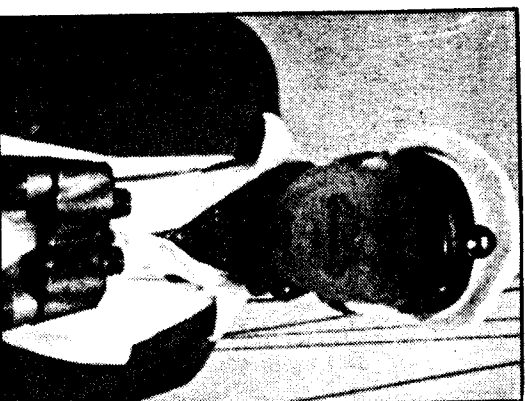
But in Clearwater, where the sect has a world headquarters, another facet of Hubbard's life will be remembered — Hubbard the "master mariner".

Hubbard's yacht, the Diana, will be renovated into a "pristine" memorial and will be displayed at a proposed Scientology museum — probably at the old Clearwater Bank building, Scientologist spokesman Ludwig Alpers said.

The yacht, which weighs 35 tons and is 55 feet long, will be refurbished from stem to stern to become Clearwater's newest "memorial," Alpers said.

"It give something more to look at in Clearwater," Alpers said. "St. Petersburg has the Bounty."

The Diana was to be pulled from the water Thursday at the Clearwater Bay Marine Ways marina near downtown Clearwater, and moved to the Sandcastle Motel, a local retreat for Scientologists. But Nemo and Associates, a marine construction company hired to move the vessel, could not find a truck



L. RON HUBBARD

... 'master mariner'

large enough for the job Thursday.

The vessel had been moored in Tarpon Springs for about three years, Alpers said, and was moved to the Clearwater marina about a week ago when the contractor was prepared to begin renovations. Scientology officials decided to renovate the vessel after Hubbard's death last week.

Frank Mcall, Scientology member and former captain of the vessel, said the boat will be moved to the Sandcastle Motel today where work will begin to restore the vessel as a memorial to Hubbard.

Mcall, who was aboard the ship with Hubbard during expe-

ditions to the Canary Islands and the Mediterranean, said the total cost of moving and refurbishing the ship will be in the neighborhood of \$30,000.

"We'll refurbish it as though it was going back to sea," Mcall said.

Alpers said any necessary city permits for work on the vessel will be secured by the contractor, and that the city engineer had contacted the city engineering department.

The steel-hulled craft was built in Holland in 1962 and purchased by Hubbard in 1966. It was used for two expeditions in '67 and '68 during

which Hubbard sought, and claims to have found, evidence of his past lives. The results of these expeditions are chronicled in a Scientology book, "Mission Into Time," published in 1968.

"This boat is too valuable to go back to sea... because it was his ship," Mcall said, referring to Hubbard. "It is a thousand times more valuable to us than the U.S. Constitution is to Americans," he said.

The boat has also been to Antarctica on expeditions to chart the coastline and terrain of that continent, Alpers said. The church plans to display the vessel in a proposed mu-

seum at Cleveland and Fort Harrison in downtown Clearwater once renovations to both the ship and the building are complete.

Alpers said the museum probably will be in the old Clearwater Bank building.

But for now, Diana rests in the waters off Clearwater, her cabins stripped bare and her decks bleached white from countless days of glaring sun and saltwater showers, waiting to become Clearwater's newest "memorial."

Sun correspondent James Machan contributed to this report.

Clearwater Sun

Northern Pinellas County's Local Daily

SATURDAY, February 8, 1986

Sect's boat set to 'sail'

By LESLEY COLLINS
Sun staff writer

CLEARWATER — The Church of Scientology will be remaking the final scene of the movie "Romancing the Stone" in Clearwater Monday.

It means swapping actor Michael Douglas for a seafarer named Frank Mcall, a bustling New York City backdrop for North Fort Harrison Avenue, and a gleaming white sailboat for a rusting, flesh-painted hulk of a vessel.

"Have your cameras ready about 2:45 p.m. Monday," said

Steve Cummings of The Wood-en Boat Shop, contractors hired by local Scientology officials.

That's when a neglected boat named Diana is set to sail down North Fort Harrison via tractor trailer.

The Jan. 24 death of the ship's former owner and captain, Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, launched the idea by local Scientology officials to refurbish and memorialize the wood-decked vessel.

Cummings displayed a state

(Please see * SECT, next page)

From its current ship at Clearwater Bay Marine Ways marina, 900 N. Osceola Ave., the 50-foot-long craft will make the short trek to the Sandcastle Motel, a local retreat for Scientologists at 200 N. Osceola Ave. There, two cranes will place the steel-hulled ketch in the back parking lot.

Mcall, a Scientologist who served on several seafaring ventures with Hubbard, is overseeing the restoration project, said Scientology spokesman Ludwig Alpers.

"It's an older boat," Alpers said. "It needs a lot of work."

A museum honoring the Scientologist's reclusive mentor is

being considered for the old Bank of Clearwater building, he said. Contrary to earlier reports, there are no plans to display the Diana at that site, he said.

Where the boat will be showcased hasn't been determined, Alpers said Friday.

Scientology spokesman Steve Harlan indicated later Friday afternoon that "a prominent place" at the Sandcastle Motel is under consideration.

Scientology officials don't anticipate any regulatory problems from city officials, he said.

Chief City Planner John Richter noted Friday that "any use of land would have to be consistent with the provisions in the code."

Without knowing the boat's ultimate display site, Richter said he could not say whether it might violate any city regulations.

Church will get millions

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (AP) — L. Ron Hubbard, founder of the Church of Scientology — which has a world headquarters in Clearwater — signed his will the day before he died, leaving 99 percent of "tens of millions of dollars" to the church, a Scientology leader said.

Hubbard's will, signed with a scrawling signature and accompanied by his thumbprint, was filed Wednesday in San Luis Obispo Superior Court. Hubbard, 74, died of a stroke Jan. 24.

The exact amount of Hubbard's estate was not disclosed, but church leaders said the will provides a trust for his wife and four of his five children. A fifth child, Ronald DeWolf, had been disinherited for denouncing his father and the group, called a cult by some critics.

The rest of Hubbard's estate was left in a trust for the organization he founded.

"After substantially taking care of family members, Mr. Hubbard has given his life's work to the church," Heber Jentsch, head of the group for the past four years, said Thursday at a Boston news conference.

DeWolf, represented by lawyer Michael J. Flynn, has said he will contest the will.

Hubbard founded the Church of Scientology in 1954.

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(from page 1A)
Department of Transportation permit Friday that allows his business to channel Diana's bulky frame down North Fort Harrison (Alternate U.S. 19), a state roadway. The boat repair/restoration outfit, at 1140 Eldridge St., has a blanket permit from the city to transport oversized loads.

"And I've already talked to Planning and Zoning, the Building Department and the Police Department," Cummings added.

THE BOOK REVIEW

The Invaders Plan

MISSION EARTH VOLUME I by L. Ron Hubbard (Bridge: \$18.95; 559 pp.)

In the '30s and '40s, before founding the Church of Scientology, the late Lafayette Ron Hubbard was a popular and prolific science-fiction writer. His 1948 novel "Final Blackout" among other

Reviewed by Victor W. Milan

works is considered by many a classic of the genre. Recently, Hubbard returned to the field with "Battlefield Earth: A Saga of the Year 3000," a lengthy epic of heroic Earthmen's resistance to alien invaders.

Alien invasion is once again on the agenda in "The Invaders Plan," Volume 1 of a proposed "Mission Earth" *decology* (which means, a footnote on the dust jacket too thoughtfully informs us, "a group of ten volumes"). This time we're treated to the viewpoint of the

would-be invaders, very human humanoids of the intergalactic Vol-tar Confederacy. Earth's impending self-destruction through pollution and nuclear war threatens to throw off their age-old "Invasion Timetable," which causes great consternation until the head of the Gestapo-like Apparatus offers to mount a secret mission to save "Blito-P3"—Earth—from its inhabitants.

The narrative's first person, Apparatus functionary Soltan Gris, is assigned to guide combat engineer Jettero Heller, the real hero of the piece, through "Mission Earth." The problem is that his superior has ordered him to make sure the rescue scheme fails.

Though Heller starts out a prisoner, he escapes Gris' control the instant he's released from his cell



L. Ron Hubbard

to begin preparing for the mission, and Gris never catches up. But that's not surprising, since "Jet" Heller is a combination of Tom Brown, Albert Einstein, and the

cartoon character He-Man, who throws a tournament to make a fellow officer look good to his sweetie, absorbs one-hour instruction tapes in 30 seconds, and twirls 100-pound exercise bags on one robust finger. Gris, on the other hand, is a boob, who hasn't even mastered elementary graft, and is oblivious to the ominous fact that Heller and his paramour fortuitously hail from the same world, which has a tradition of resistance to Voltar and whose legends claim that one of its rebellious noblemen long ago established a colony on—wait for it—Earth.

Eventually we learn that the Apparatus boss plans to use Earthly heroism and speed to undermine the Confederacy's ruling aristocracy and enable him to become Emperor. Why he should want to derail salvation of the planet that supplies those drugs is as mysterious as why such a technologically advanced civilization can't synthesize them.

Parts of "The Invaders Plan"

read as if poorly translated from the Japanese. "The blastgun barrel was into my stomach with violence!" goes one entire paragraph, characteristically substituting typographical stridence for the crisp prose and well-visualized action so conspicuously absent from the book.

Satiric intent cannot make up for weakness of prose, pace, characterization or lack of a credible plot—the more so since it's unclear what this book and the rest of the *decology* are intended to satirize. Bloated bureaucracy, perhaps—certainly an original target. The initials of Gris' employer, the Coordinated Information Apparatus, may provide a clue.

Satire can work as scalpel or as ax. Whoever its intended victims are, "The Invaders Plan" proves a fluffy feather pillow, wielded blindly.

Milan is the author of "The Cybernetic Samurai" (Arbor House).

The will of Church of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard does not disclose the value of his estate, but a church leader said it was worth "tens of millions of dollars" and that 99% of it had been left to the church. Hubbard, 74, died Jan. 24 at a ranch near San Luis Obispo. His will was signed the day before in a scrawl that was accompanied by his thumbprint. It provides a trust for his wife and four of his five children. Ronald DeWolf was disinherited for denouncing his father and the church, which critics call a cult. "After substantially taking care of family members, Mr. Hubbard has given his life's work to the church," said Heber Jentzsch, head of the group for the last four years. DeWolf has said he will contest the will, which requested that an autopsy not be performed because of Hubbard's religious beliefs.