# COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

## SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

## CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

<table>
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<th>STATE FILE NUMBER</th>
<th>LOCAL REGISTRATION DISTRICT AND CERTIFICATE NUMBER</th>
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<td>3-86-40-000073</td>
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**NAME OF DECEDENT**

- **First Name:** LAFAYETTE
- **Last Name:** HUBBARD

**Date of Birth:** March 13, 1911

**Sex:** M

**Race/Ethnicity:** White American

**Place of Birth:** Star Route, Creston, San Luis Obispo, CA

**Residence:** Star Route (Donovan Road), Creston, San Luis Obispo, CA

**Date of Death:** January 25, 1986

**Cause of Death:** cerebrovascular accident

**Physician:** Gene Denk, MD

**Coroner:** Arroyo Valley Crematory, Arroyo Grande, not embalmed

**State Registrar:** 949

**Date of Certificate:** FEB 27 2003

**Certified Copy of Vital Records:**

This is a true and exact reproduction of the document officially registered and filed in the office of the SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER or this is to certify this document is a true abstract of the official record filed with the County Clerk-Recorder.

This copy not valid unless prepared on engraved border displaying seal and signature of County Registrar.
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The body of a tall white male said to have been in his 70's. The body shows abundant reddish-white facial hair and eyebrows of reddish-white color. Scalp hair is long, thinning, receding at the forehead and of greyish-white color. Reddish-white body hair is present on the surface. Fingernails are long, unkempt. Nail beds are of bluish-red discoloration. Toenails are long, unkempt and there is bluish-red cyanosis present. The back is covered by livores. There is a bandaide affixed to the right gluteal area where 10 recent needle marks are recognized of 5-8 cm. There are no abnormalities upon inspection of the back. The body is without bruises or injuries or palpable masses.

Post mortem examination was refused because of religious reasons. The case was brought to the attention of the District Attorney's office, Dan Hilford, who advised immediate toxicology be performed on body fluids.

KEK: sk 1-28-86

KARL E. KIRSCHNER, M.D.
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT
CORONER CASE INFORMATION SHEET

CROSS REFERENCE TO CORONER FILE #8936

DETAILS

DECEDENT:
Lafayette Ronald HUBBARD, Sr., 74 yrs., DOB March 13, 1911; Star Route (O'Donovan Road), rural Creston, CA.

DATE OF DEATH:
January 24, 1986. Time found - 2000 hours.

LOCATION:
Residence, inside a motorhome described as a 1982 Blue Bird, California license 1D5P131.

ATTENDING PHYSICIAN:
Dr. Eugene Denk, M.D., G-33017, 5336 Fountain Ave., Los Angeles, CA. 90069; phone: 213 654-5681.

CLINICAL HISTORY:
Long standing history of chronic pancreatitis. Recent history of Dysphasia as of, on or about January 16, 1986.

ATTORNEYS PRESENT AT THE REIS CHAPEL:
Mr. Earl C. Cooley
9369 Nightengale Drive
Los Angeles, CA. 90069
(213) 654-5681

Mr. John G. Peterson
8530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 407
Beverly Hills, CA. 90211
(213) 659-9965

Mr. Sherman D. Lenske
Woodland West Bldg., Suite #315
6400 Canoga Ave.,
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
(818) 716-1444

/s/ Jon Hines, Chief Deputy Coroner
Coroners Division

Jn/0377f

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INVESTIGATION

1-25-86/0730 Hrs., Saturday
Writer received a phone call at home from Mrs. Irene Reis, representative of the Reis Funeral Chapel, San Luis Obispo. Mrs. Reis reported that she had just received information of a death that had occurred in rural Creston the preceding night, January 24, 1986. Mrs. Reis reported that the decedent's physician and attorney were at the residence. Mrs. Reis thought it was somewhat out of the ordinary because the death reportedly had occurred Friday evening and no one was contacted until Saturday morning. For this reason, Mrs. Reis reported the death to the Coroner's Office. Mrs. Reis provided writer with the names and addresses of the decedent, the physician and the attorney. A phone number of the residence where the decedent was located was also provided, (805) 239-1715.

Writer telephoned the residence and spoke with Dr. Denk regarding the decedent's medical history. Dr. Denk reported that he had been residing at the ranch and treating the decedent for the past two years. He described the decedent as having displayed signs of Dysphasiasia for about eight days and indicated that there was little doubt in his mind that the terminal event was a CVA. Writer told Dr. Denk that his clinical diagnosis seemed proper, however a Deputy Sheriff would be responding to view the death scene. This was quite agreeable with Dr. Denk and he would be standing by awaiting the Deputy's arrival.

Writer asked Dr. Denk if there were any family members present. He asked me to hold on and he would put the decedent's attorney on. That he would be able to supply that information. Mr. Cooley answered the phone and introduced himself as the decedent's attorney. Mr. Cooley told writer that there were no family members present. That the decedent's wife was residing in Los Angeles. Mr. Cooley further reported that the decedent and his wife had been separated for a long time, however their marriage status was married. Writer asked Mr. Cooley if the decedent had executed a Last Will and Testament. Mr. Cooley stated that he had the decedent's Will in his possession. That a Mr. Norman F. Starke, 1404 N. Catalina St., Hollywood, CA. was named as the Executor. Mr. Cooley was advised that a Deputy Sheriff would be responding to the residence and if possible, writer needed a copy of decedent's Will for the records. Mr. Cooley said that this would be done and the phone call was terminated.

Writer then telephoned the Sheriff's Department and spoke to Deputy Donn Hugh. He was given directions to the ranch and requested to send a Deputy to view the death scene. An additional request was made for the Deputy to telephone the Executor named in the Will and obtain his permission to release custody of the ranch to Mr. Cooley. Deputy Charles Gassett was assigned to respond to the death scene and investigate.

Upon completion of this assignment, Deputy Gassett telephoned writer to report his observations. Deputy Gassett reported that there was nothing suspicious about the scene, but that the copy of the Last Will and Testament revealed that the Will was dated January 23, 1986, one day prior to decedent's death. My immediate reaction to this information was whether decedent was in sound mind at the time he signed the Will as Dr. Denk had told me of decedent's clinical history which supported a possible neurological problem.

At this point writer decided to reconsider the matter and instead of permitting the doctor to certify the cause of death, writer ordered an autopsy be performed. This decision was not based on whether or not Dr. Denk had properly diagnosed the immediate cause of death,
but to avoid possible questions pertaining to the cause of death and whether or not the
decedent was of sound mind when he signed his Last Will and Testament, should this Will be
challenged in a civil court. If this should occur, the immediate cause of death would
perhaps be another question at issue, if no autopsy was performed. Writer requested
Deputy Gassett to bring a copy of the Will to Reis Chapel and writer would meet him
there.

Writer then contacted the Reis Chapel and requested to be contacted when decedent's body
arrived at their facility. Later that morning writer received word that the body had
arrived at the mortuary. Writer responded to the mortuary to continue the investigation.
Present at the mortuary were Attorney Sherman D. Lenske and Attorney Earl C. Cooley.
Writer explained the concern over the recent signing of the Will and that writer's
intentions were to schedule an autopsy as a measure of prevention against any questions
regarding the immediate cause of death, in the event the Will was challenged.

At this time Mr. Lenske presented writer with a Certificate of Religious Belief as set
forth in Government Code Section 27491.43, reading in part:

"I, LaFayette Ronald Hubbard, declare: (1) I am a resident of the State of California and
over eighteen (18) years of age. (2) Based upon my religious beliefs, I object to any
and all post mortem anatomical dissections or other autopsy procedures being conducted on
my body. Such autopsy procedures would violate my religious convictions.

In witness whereof, I have executed this Certificate of Religious Belief this 20th day of
January, 1986."

The document bore the signature L. Ron Hubbard, Sr. The document also contained the
following witness signatures:

1. Patrick D. Broeker, Star Route Creston, Creston, CA. 93432.
2. Anne M. Broeker, Star Route Creston, Creston, CA. 93432.

Writer posed the question in request form for permission to conduct a toxicology study to
rule out the question whether or not the decedent died as a result of a lethal dosage of
medicated drugs or any other substance. Both attorneys had no problem with this process
being performed. The attorneys stated that they did not want any problem with the
Coroner's Office dealing with the cause or manner of death, but they had an obligation to
the decedent's bequest that his religious convictions not be violated. They asked if it
would be of any assistance if Dr. Denk responded to the mortuary to answer any medical
questions writer may have. Writer requested that he respond for that purpose.

Writer was also presented with the original Will and permitted to read the 13 page
document. After reading this document, writer telephoned the Commander of the Detective
Bureau, Lt. John Hastie, and briefed him on the circumstances of how writer became
involved in this case, the recent signature and date on the Will, the decedent's clinical
history reported by his regular physician and the Certificate of Religious Belief. Lt.
Hastie was further informed that the body showed no signs of violence or abuse and that
permission was granted by both attorneys to conduct a toxicology study in lieu of an
autopsy. Lt. Hastie suggested that the on-call Deputy District Attorney be notified and
informed of the circumstances.

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Writer placed a phone call to the on-call Deputy District Attorney which was Assistant District Attorney Dan Hilford. Mr. Hilford was apprised of the circumstances. Mr. Hilford advised that on the basis that there were no signs of violence on the body, and that the medical history was consistent with what the doctor diagnosed for a cause of death, to complete the toxicology process. If the toxicology was clear, writer should release the body.

County Pathologist Dr. Karl E. Kirschner was called to the mortuary to perform an external medical inspection of the decedent's body and draw blood and urine for the purpose of performing a toxicology study. Blood was drawn from the body, but urine was unable to be obtained due to the bladder being evacuated. Refer to the attached medical inspection report and attached toxicology report for additional information.

A total of 13 photographs were taken of the decedent by writer during this medical inspection process. Fingerprints were also obtained from the decedent as well. By the time the medical inspection was completed, Dr. Denk and Mr. David Miscavige, representative of the Author Services in Los Angeles, arrived at the mortuary. Mr. Miscavige had brought with him a copy of a 1982 Last Will and Testament and a Codicil to Last Will and Testament dated 1983. Both documents contained the signature L. Ron Hubbard, Sr. The contents of the 1982 Will were basically the same as the most recent Will. The 1983 Codicil appears to be an amendment to the 1982 Will, setting forth his religious belief against an autopsy being performed on his body after death.

Writer explained to Dr. Denk what was transpiring in this investigation and why. Dr. Denk stated that he had no objection to the performing of toxicology studies. He reported that the only medication he had given the decedent was Vistaril and vitamin B-12. The aforementioned attorneys requested that these tests be performed immediately because they chose to cease further action toward proceeding with the cremation process until the Coroner's Office was satisfied that the decedent died of natural causes and not by some lethal drug overdose. Dr. Denk requested to accompany writer to the Sierra Vista Hospital Laboratory and witness the tests performed. Writer, accompanied by Dr. Denk, took the specimen to the Sierra Vista Hospital where the toxicology studies were performed. The results of the toxicology studies revealed no presence of any substance that would be contributory of the decedent's death. Dr. Denk accompanied writer back to the mortuary and writer thanked the attorneys for their understanding and cooperation. The body was released to their custody.

1-27-86/Monday Night
A news release was made by the Church of Scientology in Los Angeles. Following this news release, news media generated news releases to the effect that there was some question as to whether or not the person who expired in Creston on January 24, 1986, was really LaFayette Ronald Hubbard, Sr. Because of this, the investigation included the process of fingerprint comparison.

1-29-86/Wednesday Morning
Writer received a phone call from Attorney John Peterson inquiring if what he heard in a news release, that the death was still under investigation, was true. Mr. Peterson was advised that because of the news media saying there was some question if LaFayette Ronald Hubbard, Sr. was really the person who died in Creston, the Coroner's Office decided to establish positive identification through fingerprint comparison. Mr. Peterson offered to assist in expediting this process by bringing to San Luis Obispo, a certified copy of L. on Hubbard's, Sr. latent fingerprints that he had access to. His offer was accepted.
At 1300 hours, Mr. Peterson, Attorney Lawrence E. Heller, Mr. Norman Starkey, the Executor, and Mr. David Miscavige arrived at the Sheriff's Department with the documents. Received from Mr. Peterson were documents described as:

1. A certified copy of a latent fingerprint card from the F.B.I.

2. A United States Navy Certificate of Satisfactory Service card depicting the decedent's name and right index print.

3. A Special Officer identification card depicting a photo and right index fingerprint, issued by the Office of the Chief of Police, Los Angeles.

4. A United States passport dated April 12, 1984, issued by the passport agency in Los Angeles.

These items were presented to the I.D. Technician, Detective C. Feierabend, for comparison. Det. Feierabend examined these documents and found them to compare to the prints obtained from the decedent. Det. Feierabend further reported that he had confirmed all 10 fingerprints in a telephone conversation with the office of the F.B.I. Refer to Det. Feierabend's supplement report for additional details of this process.

CONCLUSIONS

Investigation into this death revealed no signs or evidence supporting that the decedent, L. Ron Hubbard, died as a result of suicide or foul play. This office is satisfied that the true identity of the decedent is LaFayette Ronald Hubbard, Sr. Writer concludes that this case is deemed not a coroner's case, therefore jurisdiction was waived and the Certificate of Death was certified by the attending physician, Dr. Eugene Denk G-33017.

/s/ Don Hines, Chief Deputy Coroner
Coroners Division

jn/0377f
TOXICOLOGY REPORT

DRUGS CHECKED QUALITATIVELY

ANALGESICS
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
Oxycodone (Nor Flex)
Penalazine (Talwin)
Phencyclidine (PCP) &
Propoxyphene (Darvon)
Salsalate (Saletine)
Salicylate

ANTIETICS
Dimenhydrinate (Dramamine)
Triethenobenzamide (Tigan)

ANTIHISTAMINES
Chlorpheniramine (Chlor Trimeton)
Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
Doxylamine (Bendectin)
Meclizine
Pyrilamine (Sleep Eze)
Tripelennamine (Pyrphenylamine)

ANTIDEPRESSANTS
Tricyclics
Amitriptyline (Elavil)
Desipramine (Norpramin)
Doxepin (Sinequan)
Imipramine (Tofranil)
Nortriptyline (Aventil)

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Tricyclics
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DRUG SCREEN RESULT: Trace of Hydxyzine (Vistaril) detected on blood specimen submitted.

CANNABINOIDS (MARIJUANA) SCREEN: (it requires urine) NORMAL: Negative
BLOOD ALCOHOL: Negative % NORMAL: None detected
SPECIMEN IDENTIFICATION: HUBBARD, L. HUBBARD
DATE SPECIMEN RECEIVED: 1/25/86
TYPE OF SPECIMEN: Blood: 2 gray vac.
DATE TEST PERFORMED: 1/25 and 1/27/87
DOCTOR: Sheriff's Coroner (Dr. Kirschner)
TECHNOLOGIST: Date: 1/27/86

An American Medical International, Inc. Health Care Center
Revised: 12/12/84 ERS
SLO COUNTY FACILITY INDEX

31. Air Pollution Control District Office: 781-5912
6. Animal Services: 781-4400
16. City/County Library & Library Administration: 781-5784
22. Cooperative Extension (Farm & Home Advisor & 4H): 781-5940
33. County Airport and Airport Administration: 781-5205
14. County Clerk-Recorder: 781-5080
7. County Fire/CDF: 543-4244
15. County Government Center: 781-5000 (See Reverse Side Map)
8. Cuesta Park: 781-5219
1. Dairy Creek Golf Course: 782-8050
32. Department of Social Services (DSS): 781-1600
30. Department of Social Services Adult Services: 781-1790
29. Drug & Alcohol Services: 781-4275
2. El Chorro Regional Park: 781-5219
23. Environmental Health: 781-5544
28. Family Care Center: 781-4230
26. General Hospital: 781-4800
17. General Services Department: 781-5200
24. Health Department: 781-5500
10. Information Services Division (ISD): 781-5090
4. Juvenile Service Center: 781-5352
20. Long Range Planning Division: 781-5600
25. Mental Health Services: 781-4700
18. Office of Emergency Services: 781-5011
12. Pension Trust: 781-5465
27. Probation Department: 781-5300
19. Risk Management: 781-4300
3. Sheriffs Administration, Coroner and Jail: 781-4550
5. Sheriffs Honor Farm: 781-4643
11. Veterans Building/Veterans Service Office: 781-5766