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Sect-related organization breaks up

By GEORGE WAYNE SHELOR
Sun staff writer

An organization affiliated with the Church of Scientology has filed papers of dissolution in Pinellas Circuit Court, breaking up that arm of the Clearwater-based sect.

Sect spokesman Richard Harworth said Monday he was unaware of the Church of Scientology of Clearwater Inc. and that its dissolution would have no effect on the operations of the Church of Scientology.

The Church of Scientology of Clearwater Inc., incorporated as a non-profit religious organization in December 1962, filed papers of corporate dissolution in April stating that it was "active until Jan. 20, 1983."

"The corporation became inactive in order to conform to the church expansion policy and to conform to ecclesiastical law," the papers state. The group began running legal notices of corporate dissolution in a south-county weekly newspaper this week.

The Church of Scientology of Clearwater Inc. is not the corporation that owns and operates the former Fort Harrison Hotel and other downtown Clearwater properties, according to Pinellas County Property Appraiser Ron Schultz.

Those buildings and enterprises are the properties of The Church of Scientology Flag Service Organization, The Church of Scientology International and the World Institute for Scientology Enterprises, according to county property records.

Schultz said he was unfamiliar with the Church of Scientology of Clearwater Inc. and that the group owns no property in this county.

Although the organization's incorporation papers list officers living in Clearwater, the *Clearwater Sun* was unable to contact any (Please see * GROUP, next page)

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of them Monday to determine the nature of the group.

Largo Lawyer Charles Perry, who filed the dissolution papers, said the group's "business was long ago taken over by the Church of Scientology of Tampa.

"The corporation (Church of Scientology of Clearwater) was hanging around and had to be dissolved in order to bring the current status of that church into the present time."

Peggy Pulliam, spokeswoman for the Church of Scientology of Tampa, said she was aware of the Clearwater group and since its dissolution, its handful of members have joined the Tampa organization.

"This church (Tampa) is now administering to the needs of the parishioners," Ms. Pulliam said. "They no longer had that organization or a minister, so they came over here."