

1-4-90

Editorial Opinion

## HAROLD'S JOURNAL

Hot Off The Blotter

God, it appears, didn't do it right.

It took the omnipotent and very late Operating Thetan L. Ron Hubbub to get the 10 Commandments written up proper for us aberrated humans.

Only there are 19 of 'em instead of 10.

That's something God would have known if He'd only consulted with L-Boy a bit sooner and not been in such a hurry to get them written in stone.

But you know better, now.

If you subscribe to the esteemed journal from our south, you now know that "The Way To Happiness" has been plotted out for you by his eminence, LRH, and delivered to you in booklet form, courtesy of Narconon-Chilocco.

Forget God.

Forget your upbringing and your traditional values.

They are all figments of your aberrated human condition. Only L. Ron Hubbub knows the way to your salvation.

In its simplistic manner, "The Way To Happiness" looks suspiciously like it has been crudely translated from stone tablets found near Mount Sinai, without giving credit to the Original Author. Hubbard, instead, wants all the credit for guiding the world's morality.

"The Way To Happiness" is produced by The Way To Happiness Foundation, a substructure of the cult of Scientology. It is distributed by The Concerned Businessmen's Association Of America, another substructure of the cult of Scientology. (which incidentally, is the outfit that first seduced our Indian tribes to Clearwater, Florida, where they were sold the bill of bads known as Narconon, which is yet another substructure of the cult of Scientology) It is published by a Scientology controlled firm called Bridge Publications, Inc., whose sole purpose is the promulgation of the works of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology and self-proclaimed Source of all true wisdom and knowledge in the universe.

And all of it is designed to get you to go "up the Bridge to Total Freedom."

"The Way To Happiness" is an innocuous piece of prose. Had there not been a much earlier version, written on Greater Authority and in a more consolidated form - there might have even been a need for such a document.

We refer Mr. Hubbard to section 13 of his little booklet. "Do not Steal." He tells us that stealing is an admission that one can not come by something honestly. Or that one is suffering from a flash of insanity. It's one or the other, he tells us.

From which was he suffering when he hit upon the unscrupulous idea of taking credit for a paraphrased version of the Ten Commandments?

From which was he suffering when he hit upon the idea of taking credit for Abreaction Therapy (a part of Dianetics that works), when that type of treatment was fully described years earlier (1923) in the book "Mneme" by Richard Simon?

From which was he suffering when he hit upon the idea of taking credit for the science of General Semantics (the study of differentiation, another part that works) which was formulated in 1933 by noted Polish mathematician Count Alfred Korzybski and expounded upon in his book "Science and Sanity"?

From which was he suffering when he hit upon the idea of rehashing and incorporating into his "technology" some of the strange and occult works of Aleister Crowley (who signed himself "The Beast 666), and other practitioners of "Black Magick"?

Plagiarism, according to an old journalistic wit, is stealing from one source. Research, on the other hand, is stealing from many sources.

In this regard, and this regard alone, Elron appears to have been a true "researcher."

# Family of Woman Locked in Cell-Like Room Will Be Questioned

By CAROL MCGRAW  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The father and stepmother of a mentally ill woman found locked in a cell-like room in the Phillips Ranch area of Pomona lived in the rented house with her and will be questioned as to why she was being kept a virtual prisoner, police said.

No charges have been filed against the couple or their two grown children, who also lived at the house, police said. A spokesman for the Pomona Police Department said investigators expect to interview all four, whom he refused to identify by name, as to why the frail-looking woman was locked away.

The couple's son-in-law, Edwin Clemens Coenan, 41, was arrested Friday for alleg-

edly imprisoning his wife, Marianne Coenan, 31, at the four-bedroom, one-story home.

Edwin Coenan, who told police he is a truck driver and lives in Hendersonville, Tenn., is now free on \$5,000 bail. He has refused to talk to police until he has an attorney present, Lt. Larry Todd said.

"We don't know what to assume happened yet, until we talk to everyone. But there are several theories," Todd said, including the possibility that the family "wanted to resolve the woman's problems on their own."

A tip from a doctor who had examined the woman at the house led police to the discovery late Friday. The woman is now undergoing psychiatric evaluation at a Los

Angeles County Mental Health Department facility in the Pomona area.

When found, she was incoherent and unable to talk to authorities, police said. She had bruises on her legs and scratches on her neck and hands. A preliminary examination indicated Sunday that she is not ailing physically, although she is thin and frail when officers found her, police said.

Upon their arrival Friday at the home, located at 3 Rolling Hills Drive, officers and mental health workers said they found that the door to one of the four bedrooms had been bolted shut. According to their account, steel bars had covered a 5-inch-square peephole which had been cut in the door. The only window in the bedroom had

been covered with plywood; carpeting had been removed to expose a concrete floor.

The room's light switch had been rewired so it could be operated only from outside in the hallway. The furniture in the room included a mattress, blanket and dishtpan.

But when police returned to the house Saturday with a search warrant, they found that someone had tidied up the room, Todd said. A new door had been installed, plywood had been taken off the window, and carpeting had been placed in the room. However, investigators said they found the old door and plywood in the garage and confiscated them for evidence. "We don't know who made the changes, whether it was the people living there or the landlord," Todd said.

# Man Held Mentally Ill Wife Captive in Home, Police Say

By DAVID FREED  
and EUGENE AHN  
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

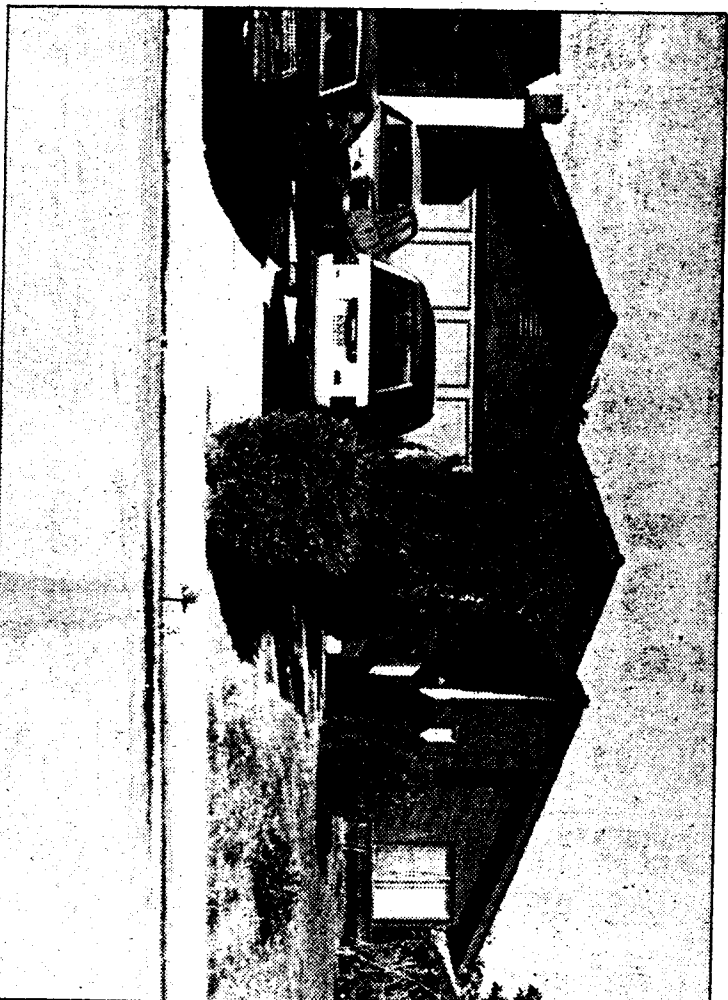
A mentally disabled woman who apparently had been kept locked away in a stark, cell-like bedroom in Pomona was under psychiatric observation Saturday while her truck driver husband was free on bail after being arrested for allegedly imprisoning her.

Authorities said they could not immediately determine how long or why Marianne Coenan, 31, had been kept in the room. They described her as incoherent when police officers and Los Angeles County mental health workers found her late Friday.

"Her husband didn't want us in there, but we went in anyway," said Pomona Police Lt. Larry Todd. Police had been tipped off by a doctor who had examined the woman earlier in the day. It was not immediately clear why the woman had been examined or by whom.

When officers and mental health workers arrived at the one-story, wood-frame house, located at 3 Rolling Hills Drive in the Phillips Ranch area, they found that the door to one of four bedrooms inside had been bolted shut. Steel bars covered a 5-inch square opening in the door.

The only window in the bedroom had been covered with plywood. The carpeting had been removed, leaving a bare concrete



ADRIENNE HELTZER / Los Angeles Times

inside the house at 3 Rolling Hills Drive is a stripped-down room with a door that bolts shut, police say. They claim Edwin Clemens Coenan kept his wife captive there.

The only furnishings, Todd said, were a mattress, a blanket and a plastic dishpan. A naked light bulb shone from the ceiling.

"She was incoherent, rambling on" when authorities opened the door, Todd said. "The [mental health] people evaluated her

as being psychologically . . . disabled."

Marianne Coenan, Todd said, was wearing a shirt and pants but no shoes. Her legs were bruised, and scratches covered her wrists and neck, but she was otherwise uninjured.

She was taken to Pomona Valley Medical Center for evaluation, then placed by county health officials in an unidentified psychiatric facility in the Pomona area for a 72-hour observation period.

Todd said the husband, Edwin Clemens Coenan, 41, a truck driver from Hendersonville, Tenn., refused to answer any questions without an attorney present. He was arrested on suspicion of false imprisonment and endangering a dependent adult.

Coenan was booked into the Pomona jail and released a few hours later after posting \$5,000 bail, Todd said.

On Saturday, a man with graying brown hair who identified himself as Marianne Coenan's husband answered the door of the house but declined to discuss the case with a reporter.

"A lot of people have been asking me about this, and we just don't have any comment," he said.

The exterior of the house offers no hint of the prison-like conditions that police said they found inside.

The house and grounds are not well-maintained compared to other homes on the street.

**Please see CAPTIVE, B11**

## CAPTIVE: III Woman Taken From Home

Continued from B1

the street, some of which have elaborate front yards adorned with shrubs trimmed in perfectly shaped geometric forms.

At least three other adults live in the house where Marianne Coenan was found, according to officers, but neither police nor neighbors knew whether they were friends or relatives.

No one questioned Saturday was sure how long the Coenans had lived there.

"One of the things I noticed was they're never out doing yard work," said next-door neighbor Roger Sparkman. Neighbors, including Sparkman, 34, said they had little, if any, contact with the Coenans.

# Captivity Case May be Tied to Faith

13 JAN 90

LOS ANGELES TIMES

■ **Investigation:** Church teachings may explain why a mentally ill woman was kept locked up in her Pomona home, police say.

By JOHN H. LEE  
and JOHN JOHNSON  
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

Pomona police said Friday they are investigating whether beliefs espoused by the Church of Scientology led a family to confine a mentally disabled woman in a cell-like bedroom at a Phillips Ranch house.

While stressing that neither the church nor its beliefs are under investigation, police said they want to know if Scientology practices could explain why the woman was kept in confinement.

Police and Los Angeles County mental health workers discovered Marianne Coenan, 31, locked in a sparsely furnished room with a boarded-up window after they entered the residence on Jan. 5.

The woman was incoherent and had bruises and scratches on her legs, wrists and neck, police said. She was kept behind a door into which a small, square opening was cut and steel bars had been inserted, police said.

Her husband, Edwin Coenan, 41, was arrested the same day and booked on suspicion of false imprisonment and endangering a dependent adult. He has been released on \$5,000 bail, and no charges have been filed.

The woman's father and step-mother, Floyd and Audrey Twede, as well as the victim's half-brother, Steven, are also under investigation, police said. The Twedes rented the house on Rolling Hills Drive where the woman was confined.

Police said they saw Scientology printed material in the house and plan to review documents written

by Scientology's late founder L. Ron Hubbard that describe how to treat mental breakdowns. In the documents, Hubbard recommended isolation as a treatment and also warned his followers to avoid conventional psychiatric care.

"During talks with attorneys representing the husband and the Twedes, it has always been a

**'The family also made statements to the effect that they didn't believe in some forms of medicine and psychiatric help. We are trying to determine what connection the beliefs had with the false imprisonment.'**

SGT. ELIAS VALDEZ

given fact that they are Scientologists," Pomona Police Detective Carolyn Lundstrum said.

"The family also made statements to the effect that they didn't believe in some forms of medicine and psychiatric help," Sgt. Elias Valdez said. "We are trying to determine what connection the beliefs had with the false imprisonment."

Investigators said other relatives and friends of the woman said she had been kept in the room for at least eight weeks after suffering a mental breakdown in October.

"Attorneys for the husband and parents have said that Marianne became so violent, she was hurting herself," Lundstrum said. "So they created a space where she could not harm herself. They said they did it for her own safety."

The woman's confinement came to the attention of authorities after Cathy Speer of Hillsboro, Ore., said

her sister failed to arrive in Oregon for the Christmas holidays. Lundstrum said, Speer asked police to go to the Phillips Ranch home to check on her, the detective added.

After Edwin Coenan's arrest, a relative called the Church of Scientology and was referred to Timothy Bowles, whose Los Angeles law firm represents the church on various matters. Bowles told The Times that he had been briefly involved in the case, but is not defending Coenan.

Church spokeswoman Shirley Young confirmed Friday that the Coenans and Twedes are Scientologists but added that the care of Marianne Coenan "was not a church matter... nor did the church take any stand with relation to her treatment."

Specifically, police said they will review a "technical bulletin" authored in 1974 by Hubbard, in which he describes the "Introspection Rundown"—a process for treating people with mental breakdowns.

He wrote that people suffering severe mental anguish, or a "psychoic break," should be isolated and "destimulated" to protect them and others from possible harm. During the process, Hubbard added, the "muzzled rule is in force," meaning that no one should speak to the troubled person or talk within earshot.

The document also articulates Hubbard's understanding of psychosis and his disdain for psychiatry.

Please see CAPTIVE, B16

## CAPTIVE: Detectives Study Church Tenets

Continued from B15

Asked if the family was using a church-approved treatment for psychosis, church spokeswoman Young said Coenan's isolation was "a medical matter" and added that "the church takes no official stand on it."

However, church officials, relatives and police said Coenan had been under medical supervision during the two months of confinement.

Young, asked whether the family was applying the "Introspection Rundown," said, "I'm just becoming abreast of the situation. So far as what they did, this is a sad and unfortunate case."

Detective Lundstrum, meanwhile, said the bulletin "may help explain what the people were doing, but the information has absolutely no legal bearing on the case."

Detectives visited Marianne Coenan several times this week at a private psychiatric hospital in Pomona, Lundstrum said. Coenan appeared to be in fair physical condition, and "she had some lucid moments, but she still has not been able to concentrate," the detective said.

"I haven't talked to her yet about the case," Lundstrum said. "She is not ready to be questioned."

She says things to herself, most of which I couldn't understand."

Relatives told police that her condition deteriorated over the past year, during which time she had been taken to several doctors.

One of those physicians was James R. Privitera, a Covina nutritionist and allergist. Coenan was brought to his office two months ago, and he recommended a CAT scan, which is a medical imaging procedure, Privitera said.

The doctor declined to discuss the case in detail, citing the need to protect the patient's privacy. Privitera said he told the police investigators he would discuss the case with them if they obtained a court order.

Privitera was placed on medical probation in 1980 after prescribing the controversial drug laetrile to cancer patients. In 1987, the state moved to revoke his probation and end his practice. Privitera has denied the allegations, and the case against him is pending.

Privitera said he has no connection to Scientology and the church has never steered patients to his practice.

Detectives said charges against Edwin Coenan must be formally filed by Thursday. At that time, charges against any other suspects will be filed, if there are any, Lundstrum said.

Editorial Opinion

## HAROLD'S JOURNAL

By RWL

It's time for your lesson on the way to get happy. Today we will discuss Chapter 9, "Don't Do Anything Illegal." So go dig your little book out of the trash and study along with the rest of us.

The Father of World Morality, who wrote the book, tells us that an illegal act is an act which can result in retribution by the state and courts.

Like, for instance, infiltrating government and private offices to steal documents and inserting disinformation in particular files. Those are illegal acts.

As he prepared to sentence the top Scientology Guardian's Officer and wife of the "Source" of the Way to Happiness for her part in instigating and carrying out such schemes, US District Judge Charles R. Ritchey told Mrs. L. Ron (Mary Sue) Hubbard that "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." She got 5 years and \$10,000 in fines.

Nine Scientologists were convicted, including none other than a Scientology Guardian's Office deputy named Henning Heldt.

Henning Heldt is also one of the three original founding directors of Narconon. The other two are Scientology "Reverend" Arthur Marin, who has seen his own troubles with the law, and William Benitez, who was already in jail when he was lured into Scientology. All three signatures are clearly visible on the original incorporation papers dated 16 May, 1970, and filed with the Secretary of the State of California on 20 May, 1970.

Mrs. Hubbard's husband, that omnipotent Operating Thetan of the highest order, most knowledgeable and aware person on the planet... or in the universe for that matter... didn't know any of this illegal stuff was going on.

"I learned about it like everyone else, after the fact and could only shake my head in dismay..." he is quoted as saying with a naivete that seems inappropriate to his OT status.

Elron was, in fact, labelled an "Unindicted Co-Conspirator" by the FBI.

This is the type of person we are to entrust with our morality? With our mental health? With our eternity?

Put the book back in the trash.

# AKRON BEACON

## JOURNAL

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Sunday, January 21, 1990

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Akron, Ohio

## A tale of capture and brainwashing

### Medina clan tells how cult ruled lives

By Richard Weizel  
Beacon Journal business writer

During a five-month period in 1988, Bob and Dorothy Geary paid \$200,000 to the Church of Scientology to gain spiritual perfection.

Instead, they say, they nearly lost their minds.

A Medina dentist, Geary said he also nearly lost his 5-year-old practice, and his wife wound up requiring hospitalization after allegedly being held captive for more than two weeks by Scientologists in California.

"Our story is so bizarre that when you hear the whole thing it sounds like something that would only be made in Hollywood," said Geary. "I wouldn't have believed it myself if it didn't happen to me."

Dorothy Geary says that at the conclusion of her five-month involvement she remained in a dazed state for months until be-

ing deprogrammed by a former Scientologist in Canada.

The Gearys say that they have recovered about half the money paid to the Scientologists. But, they said, they rejected a \$44,000 cash settlement offered last month by the church, because it would have required them to remain silent.

A spokesman for the church's San Francisco mission, August Murphy, did not dispute that Mrs. Geary was taken by Scientologists to a cabin in California in the fall of 1988. And he agreed that the church had made a cash settlement offer to the Gearys, because it was church policy to "return donations" when members choose to leave.

He denied, though, that Mrs. Geary was ever held against her will and said, "We would love to resolve things with the Gearys and work out these differences. We made them an offer, but they rejected it."

Instead, Geary has begun to speak out. Recently, he addressed a group of health professionals in Michigan about his family's experience, which began

See FAMILY, page A4

# Family lives bizarre episode

Continued from page A1  
at a free seminar offered by Sterling Management Systems.

Sterling, a California company, has been described by Inc. Magazine as one of the 45 fastest growing private firms in the country. Sterling Management is not connected with Sterling Inc. of Fairlawn, the retail jewelry company owned by Ratners of Great Britain.

Sterling Management runs seminars and services that the company says will help medical professionals increase their profits. But the Gearys and other former Scientologists said Sterling also is a front organization for the Church of Scientology. Many medical professionals in the Akron area confirm they receive Sterling's mailings frequently.

Murphy said that there "are Scientologists working for Sterling, but it is not part of the church at all." He said that Sterling workers consult with dentists and other health professionals to help them use the management techniques of Scientology's founder, L. Ron Hubbard. "Some of them get involved in the church and some don't," Murphy said.

Repeated attempts to reach Sterling officials in California for comment were unsuccessful.

Scientology is considered a dangerous cult by the national Cult Awareness Network. The church received considerable negative publicity for burglarizing and wire-tapping government agencies in the late 1970s, and has lost its tax-exempt status in California.

The Gearys say their involvement with Scientology began when Bob Geary attended a three-hour Sterling seminar in May 1988 at the Cleveland Marriott hotel. After the seminar, Geary said, he was given a personality profile and told he needed further seminars to improve his practice.

"They knew exactly the right emotional buttons to push to influence me," he said. "I don't know why, but I couldn't say no."

Before he left, Geary said, he had signed a \$10,500 check to attend a weeklong seminar at Sterling's Glendale, Calif., facility.

A month after the initial seminar the Gearys, along with their two daughters, flew to Glendale so Bob Geary could attend further seminars.

Once in California, Geary said, he and his wife were pressured into signing up for additional work at the Church of Scientology's San Francisco mission.

"They told us we had marital problems," Mrs. Geary said. "They separated us and told me that Bob needed this to improve his life and his practice. They came on real strong and wouldn't let up."

But Bob Geary said he was being told another story, that his wife wanted him to take more seminars because she wished he were more successful.

After returning home for a month, the family flew out to the San Francisco mission in mid-July for 10 days of intensive "auditing," a term the church uses for counseling and retraining. Former members maintain it actually is brainwashing.

Included in the auditing procedures is the use of an E-Meter, a wire that holds two cans togeth-

er. The meter supposedly indicates whether a person is telling the truth and if he or she has advanced spiritually.

Geary also described taking part in a practice called "bull-baiting," in which two persons sit face-to-face and stare at each other for hours without saying anything.

"The scary thing was that those kinds of exercises were making me emotionless," said Geary. "It was like I didn't have a mind of my own."

But the Gearys' daughters say they were never impressed by Scientology. "I didn't believe anything they told us," said the Gearys' 15-year-old daughter, who did not want her first name used. "I never believed in the E-Meter and I thought the whole thing was real stupid. I would sign out to go to the bathroom, and go shopping instead."

The Gearys said that within a few weeks of their involvement they were unable to resist signing checks, arranging for bank loans and borrowing money from the dental practice to pay the Scientology group for additional seminars. They showed a Beacon Journal reporter canceled checks written out to the Church of Scientology totaling more than \$180,000.

The couple also said that a Scientologist forged Bob Geary's signature to a check for \$20,000 when Geary didn't "move fast enough" to pay for additional seminars, a charge Murphy denied.

The Gearys said they allowed Scientologists to move into their house for additional auditing after Geary and his oldest daughter returned home at the end of July.

But Mrs. Geary did not return home. She said she stayed at the mission, along with her youngest daughter, because she was advised that she needed to be cleared, a Scientology term for climbing to higher spiritual levels. She said she could not return to Medina even when it was time for her youngest daughter to resume school at the end of August.

The daughter flew home alone.

In early September Mrs. Geary came back to Medina for a brief time, but describes feeling "weird" and out of place. She was by this time having hallucinations, according to family doctor W. Denny Robertson, and appeared to her friends and family to be unstable.

A week later, Mrs. Geary said, she returned to San Francisco for further auditing procedures that she hoped would clear her confusion.

Mrs. Geary says she was met at the airport by Scientologists who "drove me around in a car for hours and hours," and then held her captive for more than two weeks in a cabin near Mount Shasta to correct behavior that could harm the organization.

"All we tried to do is help Mrs. Geary with counseling procedures," said Murphy. He declined to allow the Beacon Journal to speak with any of the three Scientologists Mrs. Geary has named as her captors.

Murphy said that Mrs. Geary had a pre-existing mental condition that the group was trying to correct and that the couple had agreed that she have the treatment. He also alleged that Mrs. Geary's family has a history of schizophrenia.



Beacon Journal photo/Susan Kirtman

## Dorothy and Bob Geary in their Medina home

The Gearys, their psychiatrist, Dr. Myung Kwak, and their family physician, Dr. Robertson, deny that allegation.

"There was never anything wrong with her until she got involved with the Scientologists," said Robertson.

Kwak agreed. "I don't believe Mrs. Geary had any previous history of mental illness," she said.

The Gearys say the result of her captivity was devastating. Mrs. Geary said she was a victim of sleep and food deprivation and was pushed against walls and onto a bed when she protested and demanded to be set free.

"I tried to escape from the cabin several times, but they wouldn't let me leave," she said. "They just kept saying they wanted us to give them more money and that I needed to be alone."

Geary said that though he did not know his wife's whereabouts during this time, he did know that she was seeking Scientology counseling. That is why, he said, the couple has been advised not to pursue criminal charges.

But when he pressed for details about his wife's treatment, "They refused to tell me where she was," he said. "And that's when I started getting scared."

At that point Geary's lawyer, Stephen Brown, met with Scientologists and said he alerted the FBI in Ohio and in California.

"We had a meeting with several of their representatives who were in the Medina area and we told them that we wanted to know where she was and wanted to talk to her," said Brown. "Within 24 hours Dr. Geary was notified that she was at an address in California and within a day she was back. But it was an intense few days."

When Mrs. Geary returned, she required a week of hospitalization at Akron General Medical Center, according to Kwak and Robertson. Friends also say she had a bald spot on her head and had lost 20 pounds.

"She was skin and bones and had skinned elbows," said longtime friend and neighbor Elaine Lamb, wife of former Medina Mayor William Lamb.

"I've been in politics for eight years and you come up against some incredible circumstances," said Lamb. "But this situation was the most frustrating and bizarre that I had ever had any connection with."

The Gearys sought help from the local chapter of the Cult Awareness Network, and were referred to the Canadian deprogrammer, a former Scientologist who said she has been fighting the movement for 17 years.

"What they did to Dodie Geary is shocking, but typical of what they do to many others," said the woman, who asked that her name be withheld because of a court-imposed gag order resulting from a legal settlement with the Scientology church.

The Beacon Journal submitted a list of questions in writing to both the Church of Scientology's San Francisco mission and to Sterling Management that have not been answered. Murphy declined to answer many questions during telephone interviews.

Other medical professionals say they, like the Gearys, were lured to Sterling's free seminars by the promise of greater profits.

"These people almost got me," said Dr. Donald Shumaker, a Cleveland dentist who is past president of the Cleveland Dental Society and Ohio Dental Association.

Shumaker, now 51, had been practicing dentistry for 23 years when he went to the free Sterling seminar attended by Geary. He says that he and his partner, Dr. Frank Zeleznik, were initially impressed with some of Sterling's management principles, such as



# A History of Scientology



## 1950

Science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard writes a book called "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health." Dianetics claimed that people could cure their own physical, mental and psychosomatic illnesses.

## 1954

Hubbard founds the Church of Scientology.

## Mid-1980s

Hubbard, facing potential tax-evasion charges, as well as criminal and civil actions in numerous countries, forms a sea organization, where he runs the church.

## 1975

Hubbard sets up the group's headquarters in Clearwater, Fla., and Southern California because of mounting legal attacks around the world and increasing failure to gain admission in ports abroad.



Hubbard

## Mid-to-late 1970s

Scientologists begin a project in which members are assigned to infiltrate government agencies in more than 30 countries and suppress investigations of the church.

## 1978

FBI agents raid Scientology centers in Los Angeles and Washington. The FBI concluded that the church had conducted a far-ranging intelligence operation against more than 100 government agencies. Documents containing communist brainwashing techniques also were seized during this raid.

## 1979

Hubbard's wife, Mary Sue Hubbard, and 10 other Scientologists were convicted of burglarizing and wiretapping government agencies that church leaders claimed had harassed the church for decades.

## 1986

Hubbard dies at age 74 under mysterious circumstances in San Luis Obispo, Calif. He had not been seen in public since March 1980. His death certificate, signed by a Scientologist doctor, stated that Hubbard died of a stroke and was cremated before an autopsy could be performed. Some former Scientologists speculate that Hubbard is still alive and faked his death to avoid legal problems.

## 1990

The Church of Scientology is now run by David Miscavige, who as a teen-ager acted as Hubbard's servant aboard the Apollo, the leader's personal yacht. The church claims 6 million members; former Scientologists estimate between 100,000 and 700,000 members.

Beacon Journal

organization and goal setting.

But Shumaker said they got nervous when Sterling wanted them to sign up immediately and pay \$20,000 for further seminar work.

"They were intent on closing the sale that night, and taking our \$20,000 right then and there," said Shumaker. "They didn't want to wait and wanted to know how big our credit lines were."

Shumaker said he became uneasy about what he termed unethical practices promoted by Sterling — mostly that health professionals prescribe high-cost procedures regardless of whether they are in the patients' best interests.

Bob Geary says he wishes he had been able to resist Sterling's tactics. The couple say they will carry serious emotional scars the rest of their lives.

Dr. Tom Ebner, an orthopedic surgeon from Medina, heard Geary's first speech to the Tri-state Dental-Medical Group in Michigan. "He told us in his own words how he was duped," Ebner said. "People were quite shocked that something like this could happen. Almost all of the dentists said they had been approached by these consulting management companies, but many were not aware of the things that have been going on."

Geary said that's why he's speaking out, though he has not yet arranged further speaking engagements.

"It was a total nightmare," said Geary. "I hope that we can help prevent other people from making the same mistake we did. Tell people that if they get any brochures from Sterling or any other Scientology group . . . to just throw them away."



# IRS is seeking church's records

By CURTIS KRUEGER  
Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — The Internal Revenue Service is seeking scores of internal documents from the Church of Scientology in Clearwater to determine whether the organization has violated its tax-exempt status.

The IRS has sent a summons to the Scientologists asking for internal documents such as bank statements, minutes of Scientology board meetings, organizational charts and job descriptions.

The documents could show whether the organization is involved in commercial enterprises for profit, IRS agent Melvin Blough testified Friday in a hearing before a federal magistrate.

So far, the Scientologists have not agreed to hand over the documents.

**The IRS is seeking to review the documents because it has information indicating that the organization might not have been worthy of tax-exempt status during 1985, 1986 and 1987.**

The IRS is seeking documents from a group called the Church of Scientology/Flag Service Organization in Clearwater, which has several hundred staff members and generally is considered Scientology's international spiritual headquarters.

Scientologists from around the world travel to Clearwater for training and for a counseling process called "auditing," some of it offered in the Fort Harrison Hotel, nicknamed "Flag."

Critics charge that the group is a cult, or merely a money-making organization. Scientologists insist that it is a religion, but they have clashed with government authorities over that point in the past and on whether Scientology groups deserve the tax-free status given to churches.

In the recent case, the IRS is seeking to review the documents — 47 categories of them — because it has information indicating that the organization might not have been worthy of tax-ex-

Please see **RECORDS 6B**

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## Records from 1B

empt status during 1985, 1986 and 1987, court records show.

If the IRS determines the organization should not be considered tax-exempt for those years, the agency will seek payment of back taxes.

Paul B. Johnson of Tampa, an attorney for the Scientologists, said the government is required to prove a need for the documents before it can review them. A hearing on that issue before U.S. Magistrate Elizabeth A. Jenkins is scheduled to resume Thursday.

Some of the documents would be used to examine the Clearwater organization's links to other Scientology groups, Blough testified Friday.

In a separate legal action, Pinellas County is seeking payment of back property taxes from the Flag Service Organization.

Scientology was founded by the late L. Ron Hubbard, who was a science fiction writer and author of *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*. The book said man's path to spiritual freedom is blocked by negative experiences that can be purged through "auditing."