



# Rocky Mountain News

Sun., Nov. 14, 1993 Rocky Mountain News

## Scientology pays, documents from church's battle with IRS indicate

By Karl Vick  
and David Dahl

*St. Petersburg Times*

It pays to pitch Scientology, according to earnings reports the church has filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

One man averaged almost \$200,000 a year in commissions from the fees of new members he had solicited to become Scientologists.

The church gives its proselytizers 10% to 15% of what newcomers "donate" for church services, such as the process called auditing that tells how far from salvation the newcomer is. That means the top pitchman in the 1990s, identified only as Barry Klein, drummed up more than \$1.3-million for Scientology each year.

Scientologists who collect from other church members can make out even better. Ken Pirak made \$407,000 from a 1991 "membership tour," as the church calls its

fund-raising roundups.

The earnings reports stand out in the voluminous record of Scientology's 40-year battle to persuade the IRS that as a religious organization it deserved to be exempt from taxes. The IRS recently granted the exemption.

Documents from 12 Scientology organizations list \$275 million in assets. The church has holdings in real estate, stocks and gold bullion, but by far its largest source of revenue appears to be donations from its members and newcomers.

For example, the buildings in Clearwater house the church's spiritual headquarters. It had assets last year of \$48 million and revenues of \$74.3 million.

The mother church listed assets of \$69 million in 1991. They were topped a year later by the \$92-million controlled by the International Association of Scientologists, a "support" organization established to safeguard Scientology and raise funds.

*Scripps Howard News Service*

# St. Petersburg Times

Florida's Best Newspaper

NOVEMBER 15, 1993

## Ex-city manager has bumpy homecoming

ST PETERSBURG TIMES 11/15/93  
WELCOME BACK, MR.

**BONCZEK:** Former Largo City Manager Stephen Bonczek had a run-in (literally) with a resident and the local police when he was in town last weekend.

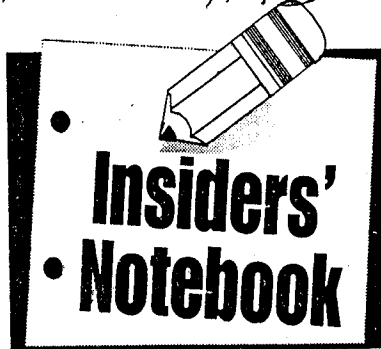
According to police records, at 2:02 p.m. Nov. 6, Bonczek drove his 1993 Ford into the path of Christine Lightfoot's 1985 Dodge at West Bay Drive and Third Street NW.

Lightfoot wasn't injured in the collision, according to the report. Bonczek, however, got a bump on his head and a ticket. After investigating the accident, Officer Judy Gershkowitz charged Bonczek with a right-of-way violation.

Bonczek, never a favorite with the local police, was forced to resign as city manager last April. He is now the city manager of Cocoa. Capt. Tom Knapp said Gershkowitz recognized Bonczek but his identity did not influence her decision to ticket him.

As Knapp put it: "She just viewed it as needing to do her duty."

**THE SCOTTISH HIGHLAND QUIETUDE CLUB:** Robert



Vaughn Young handled publicity and the media for nearly 20 years for the Church of Scientology in California. He has since parted ways with Scientology and writes of his experiences in an article in the November-December issue of *Quill*, the bi-monthly magazine published by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Young details how Scientology moved into an old spa in Gilman Hot Springs much like it covertly bought the Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater:

Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard was in hiding at Gilman Hot Springs in 1980 when the *Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise* Please see **NOTEBOOK** Page 10

## Notebook

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broke a story revealing his whereabouts and placing the international management of the Church of Scientology at the Gilman Hot Springs property.

The facility was listed in the telephone book as the "Scottish Highland Quietude Club."

Young says he was called in to handle the attendant publicity. At Gilman Hot Springs, he found nearly deserted international management offices, as well as a small filmmaking area and audiotape production facility called Golden Era that Hubbard had closed down. He decided to transform, for the benefit of the press, the offices into Golden Era Studios.

When reporters were given tours, they saw a carefully engineered scene, with scripts and other paperwork lying around to add to the illusion.

"The news that night was perfect," Young wrote. "The *Riverside Press-Enterprise* story had been countered. Gilman was no longer considered the headquarters of Scientology. It was just a bustling film and tape facility that supplied the Church of Scientology."

Which it still is. But after the publicity died Scientology moved its tr back to Gilman Hot Springs.

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