

Son of Scientology founder believes Hubbard dead or ill

Petition filed requesting estate trustee

By DICK LYNEIS

Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

The oldest son of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of the Church of Scientology, believes his father is either dead or mentally incompetent, according to a petition filed in Riverside Superior Court.

The son, Ronald E. DeWolf, also claims in the court papers filed Wednesday that officials in the church have stolen millions of dollars, gems and securities either from his 71-year-old father or from Hubbard's estate in the last 12 months. DeWolf, 48, of Carson City, Nev., is asking the court to appoint him as trustee of his father's affairs to protect the assets.

DeWolf, a former Scientologist who now manages an apartment complex in Carson City, claims the worldwide organization is now run by David Miscavage, described in the petition as a "22-year-old with a ninth-grade education." He alleges Miscavage and another church official, James Isaacson, forged Hubbard's signature to loot the accounts.

"I am not attacking LRH (L. Ron Hubbard) in a legal sense," DeWolf said yesterday in a telephone interview, "because no one has ever been able to do that successfully . . . The only way he can contest all of this is to show up physically in court. But I expect he may have trouble doing that because I don't think he is alive."

The son said he has not seen his father since 1959, but DeWolf said he has kept track of the inner workings of the secretive church "through conversations with attorneys, friends and a loose-knit network of former cult members."

DeWolf also left the Church of Scientology in 1959. He said that since then his life has been threatened and he has been subjected to "harassment" by the church. The harassment prompted him, in 1972, to change his name, which had been L. Ron Hubbard Jr.

Allen Hubbert, president of the Church of Scientology of California in Los Angeles, declined to comment yesterday on DeWolf's petition. "I really cannot make a comment until I have seen the documents and have had a



L. Ron Hubbard

chance to consult with our attorneys," he said.

Gerald Armstrong, a former personal aide to L. Ron Hubbard, also said this week that Hubbard may be dead. "There is every chance that the man is in fact dead," said Armstrong, who left the church last year after being a member for 12 years.

"But, it has been the habit, the practice, the policy of the organization as long as I've been in it to originate communications, policies, bulletins, programs, orders in his name and to sign his name to it," he said.

Armstrong said that in the 1970s, when he spent considerable time with Hubbard, the church founder had lost weight and suffered a variety of medical problems. Hubbard, he said, was hospitalized at least twice, once in 1975 in Curacao in the Caribbean and again in 1978 in Los Angeles when he was living in La Quinta in Riverside County's Coachella Valley.

Hubbard's former personal medical officer, Kima Douglas, declined to be interviewed yesterday, but she acknowledged that the church founder suffered from blood clots in the lung. Douglas, who is not a physician, now works in a real estate office in Palm Desert.

While he lived in La Quinta,
(See HUBBARD, Next Page)

County

Press-Enterprise

Saturday, November 13, 1982

Son of Scientology

Press-Enterprise • Saturday, November 13, 1982

Hubbard . . .

(From County Page)

Hubbard laid out secret plans for his death, according to DeWolf. Hubbard instructed Douglas to "bury him in the date fields" in the area and not to disclose his death. "Shortly thereafter," DeWolf states in his petition, "my father disappeared."

Armstrong said he last saw Hubbard toward the end of last year. "His weight was way down," he said. "He was very shaky. He always shook a lot. His hands were never steady. I felt he looked very weak and drawn."

The Church of Scientology has sued Armstrong in Los Angeles Superior Court. As a personal servant to Hubbard, Armstrong had an estimated 30,000 documents — Hubbard's early writings — which the church claims belong to it. The case is pending.

Hubbard's son filed his petition in Riverside County because his father's last known whereabouts was Gilman Hot Springs, the former resort near Hemet that is now owned by the Scientologists.

Hubbard had earlier lived in a compound in La Quinta where he developed a fear of germs, according to DeWolf's petition. His father had "bursts of uncontrolled rage with attendant screaming, requiring that his surroundings be kept in 'white glove' sterility, that his food be tasted, that his clothes be rinsed in '13 buckets of water.'"

DeWolf contends that his father's financial affairs have been managed by people whom he believes to be officials of the Church of Scientology.

Since October, 1981, DeWolf contends, certain church officials have been stealing from his father's multimillion-dollar estate. DeWolf charges:

✓ Millions of dollars have been removed from Hubbard's bank accounts with forged signatures. On June 14, 1982, an "Arab" man attempted to deposit a

\$2 million check drawn on an account Hubbard has with E.F. Hutton, the stock brokerage firm. The check was payable to "Aquil Abdul Amiar."

The attempted deposit occurred at the Mid East Bank in New York City. The check was drawn on an unspecified branch of the New England Merchants Bank. The New England bank investigated the check. The son's petition claims the bank determined that Hubbard's signature on the account signature card had been forged by an unknown Scientology official, and the bank has since frozen Hubbard's account.

DeWolf states in the petition that unidentified "individuals who live and work in the area of Los Angeles" manage Hubbard's accounts with E.F. Hutton, and the accounts contain "10 to 20 million dollars in liquid assets." The individuals have "routinely forged" Hubbard's signature in the "past several years."

Hubbard's son said the persons also control about \$1 million of valuable coins belonging to his father.

✓ In June of this year, James Isaacson, representing himself as Hubbard's "personal financial representative," attempted to sell about \$1 million worth of Hubbard's gems on the wholesale market in Los Angeles. Wilkie Cheong of Los Angeles, DeWolf's attorney, said DeWolf does not now know where the gems are or whether anyone has actually bought the stones.

✓ In March several Scientology officials "surreptitiously acquired all of the copyrights" to Hubbard's books and articles, which span 30 years. They also have acquired the patent rights to the "E-Meter," a device used by the church in personality testing.

DeWolf claims in his petition that there have been high-level "purges" and "defections" inside the Church of Scientology since the beginning of 1980. The son contends that church officials under Hubbard's "total control" have gone, "which suggests that

my father is either deceased or incompetent."

Armstrong, the former aide to Hubbard, said the church founder himself started the purges as his health declined. "It seemed like his orders became more bizarre and irrational," Armstrong said this week. "He struck out at people more, either verbally or at his messengers."

"He got the idea he was surrounded by subversive persons. He originated this massive campaign to purge the organization of subversive persons. Hundreds of people were removed. And this continues today."

Armstrong's last job with the church was as the second-ranking public relations officer for Hubbard. He said that DeWolf's claim that the church is actually being run by a 22-year-old man — David Miscavage — may be true.

When Hubbard moved from Gilman Hot Springs to an unknown location in March, 1980, he was accompanied by Miscavage and two other church officials. "The conduit and communications lines to Hubbard was David Miscavage," Armstrong said.

Miscavage, he said, was on Hubbard's personal staff in 1976, as a messenger, and he has risen rapidly to a position of power in the church.

Hubbard's son contends in his petition that Isaacson was responsible for looting Hubbard's accounts. Armstrong said that in 1980 and part of 1981, Isaacson had been in charge of at least some of Hubbard's money.

"He was in charge of bank accounts," Armstrong said. "He was in charge of investments."

A hearing on DeWolf's petition filed this week has been scheduled for Dec. 30.

In order for DeWolf to be named trustee, a judge must first decide whether to declare Hubbard legally dead. If a judge determines Hubbard is alive, DeWolf will argue that his father is mentally incompetent to handle his financial affairs, according to Cheong, DeWolf's attorney.

Son claims Hubbard was heavy drug user

By BOB LABARRE

Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

L. Ron Hubbard wrote his most important books and articles, the foundation of the Church of Scientology and his psychotherapeutic treatment, Dianetics, while "saturated" with cocaine and other drugs, according to his son.

Ronald E. DeWolf, the oldest of Hubbard's six children, contends his father distorted his military record to create cult devotion to his budding church. And, the son maintains, his father lied about his physical health, maintaining that Dianetics had made him well, when in fact he was severely ill.

Moreover, the church founder suffered from venereal disease for most of his adult life, and his general physical condition so deteriorated over the years that in 1974 he broke a wrist when he swatted a fly. And he also suffered from mental illnesses for decades, requiring hospitalization for suicidal tendencies.

That is part of the picture Hubbard's son has drawn of his father in a sworn declaration filed this week in Riverside Superior Court.

DeWolf, who changed his name from L. Ron Hubbard, Jr. in 1972, said he worked with his father from 1949 to 1959, developing the church and promoting its activities. He left the church, he said, and, when Scientology began "operations" against him, he changed his name.

DeWolf's 16-page declaration is an abbreviated biography of a man who went from science fiction writer to head of a worldwide church that has earned, by some estimates, hundreds of millions of dollars. The son alleged in court papers that his father's assets are being looted and he wants them protected.

In 1950, Hubbard published "Dianetics — The Modern Science of Mental Health," which became an instant success. The book became the theoretical foundation of Scientology.

But long before the book entered its first printing, Hubbard was a user of a number of drugs, his son said in his sworn declaration.

"Between the years 1944 and 1959, I have personal knowledge that my father regularly used illegal drugs, including amphetamines, barbiturates and hallucinogens. He regularly used cocaine, peyote and mescaline."

In "Dianetics," Hubbard advanced his theory that most illnesses resulted from painful ex-

periences reasserting themselves from the "reactive mind." The recollections interfered with the rational mind. He devised a way of putting to rest — "auditing" or "processing" — the disturbing intrusions.

In fact, according to DeWolf, Hubbard's beliefs came from black magic and satanic theories associated with the Order of Templars Orientalis and its founder, Englishman Aleister Crowley.

For example, Hubbard became involved with John W. Parsons, a close associate of Crowley's, and Sarah Northrup, at the end of World War II, according to the document.

The trio attempted to create a "moonchild" during 11 days of rituals when "an unborn human embryo was 'implanted' with 'satanic power.'" Shortly afterward, Parsons claimed that Hubbard stole \$20,000 from him, acquired a yacht and ran off with Northrup in August, 1946, the son said.

At the time, Hubbard was still married to DeWolf's mother, Margaret Louise Grubb, when he entered a "bigamous marriage" with Northrup in Chestertown, Md.

The marriage produced a daughter, Alexis Hollister Connolly, who was born four years later in Point Pleasant, N.J. The next year, Northrup sued for divorce after trying to have Hubbard hospitalized for "paranoid schizophrenia," according to DeWolf.

For nearly three decades, Hubbard has claimed that Dianetics has kept him in excellent

health and that it can heal injuries and diseases. Hubbard has claimed he was "crippled and blinded" in World War II and healed himself. DeWolf, however, said the claim was not even remotely true.

In fact, he said, "My father's naval career was a disaster."

In early 1942, Hubbard was ruled unfit for any "available" assignment, according to the declaration. He bounced from assignment to assignment in the United States and did not serve in combat, as he claimed, and was not "one of the most highly decorated officers in W.W.II," as he also claimed, the document said.

In the Cold War years of the 1950s, Hubbard turned to theorizing that Dianetics could cure radiation burns from nuclear fallout. In 1957, he wrote "All About Radiation."

However, by that time, "he was saturated with cocaine and severely deluded," DeWolf said. "His books were written from his imagination, off the top of his head, while under the influence of drugs."

Although Hubbard has claimed that anyone reaching the advanced state of "clear" will not suffer so much as a cold, Hubbard was ill for decades, his son said.

"Throughout most of his life, my father has suffered from recurrent cycles of severe mental and emotional illness, characterized by several hospitalizations, suicidal inclinations and ideation, excessive drug usage, advanced venereal disease," he said.

Daily News

DAILY NEWS/Monday, November 15, 1982—Sec. 1—Pg. 5

Scientology assets are being stolen, founder's son charges

RIVERSIDE (UPI) — The oldest son of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of the Church of Scientology, has filed a court petition contending his father is either dead or mentally incompetent and asking to be appointed trustee of his affairs.

The Riverside Press-Enterprise reported Ronald DeWolf also claimed in papers filed in Riverside County Superior Court that officials of the Florida-based church have stolen millions of dollars, gems and securities from Hubbard's estate.

DeWolf, 48, of Carson City, Nev., asked the court to appoint him trustee of his father's affairs to protect the assets.

The court action charged the worldwide organization was being run by David Miscavage, described in the petition as a "22-year-old with a ninth-grade education." DeWolf further charged Miscavage and James Isaacson forged Hubbard's signature to loot the accounts.

DeWolf, a former Scientologist, said he was not attacking his father in a legal sense. In a telephone interview with the newspaper, he said:

"The only way he can contest all of this is to show up in court. But I expect he may have trouble doing that because I don't think he is alive."

DeWolf said he had not seen his father since 1959, the year he left the religious organization. He said that since then, he has been subjected to "harassment," by the church, which in 1972 prompted him to change his name from L. Ron Hubbard Jr. to DeWolf.

The senior Hubbard's last known whereabouts was Gilman Hot Springs, the former resort near Hemet, Calif., owned by the scientologists. He reportedly went to Gilman Hot Springs after being hospitalized in Los Angeles in 1978.

Purple monster spares the earth, hawks science fiction book instead



Staff Photo by Greg Crowder

The monster travels Magnolia Avenue in Riverside.

There is some interesting, more lively music and then a voice says, "Be prepared, the alien Psychlos may be here sooner than you think."

Of course, we already know that because there was one in Riverside yesterday. Terl also has been dragged through the streets of New York and made an appearance at the US Festival held in September.

The regular hard-bound copy of the book sells for \$24 and, according to Boyd, has made the best-seller lists.

Jeannine Boyd of Author Services, the Los Angeles firm representing Hubbard and his book, said there have been 500 orders for the deluxe leather-bound edition, which sells for \$125. She said they've been sent to the author to be autographed.

Hubbard's son, Ronald E. DeWolf, has filed a probate petition in Riverside Superior Court in which he says his father may be dead or mentally incompetent.

By SANDY PAVICIC

Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

A big purple monster with hairy hands took a cruise along Magnolia Avenue in Riverside yesterday to promote Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard's newly released science fiction book "Battlefield Earth."

The monster rolled along in a trailer with two kilted actors "riding shotgun" in the small station wagon towing it.

A sign dangling from the beast's derriere identified it as "Terl, an alien Psychlo from L. Ron Hubbard's 'Battlefield Earth.'"

The 12-foot metal, plastic and fur dummy sounded terminally asthmatic as it sped along. It turned out that the breathing disorder was nothing to worry about — the wheezing came from a tape recorder tucked inside its green rubber boot.

When the convoy pulled into a parking lot, the two Scotsmen leaped out of the station wagon, drew their laser pistols and put on a display of bravado as they teased the creature and rattled its chains. Terl, the arch-enemy of mankind, just stood there, wheezing.

"We're recruiting Psychlo hunters," explained Henry McGee, one of the Scots. He handed out leaflets promoting Hubbard's book. "We're recruiting for people to go out and catch these terrible monsters. We spend a lot of time watching out for them."

And just how did McGee get into this line of work? "Since Jonnie Goodboy Tyler has inspired us with great leadership, we've been hunting them," he said.

Jonnie Goodboy Tyler is the book's hero who rounds up a clan of Scots to thwart Terl and his Psychlo raiders. During the 819 pages of Hubbard's book, Terl and his motley militia conquer Earth, and the Scots come to the rescue.

Not only does the book have a monster roaming the streets to sell it, but this book has a musical soundtrack, as well. First of its kind, according to the voice at the beginning of the tape.

The narrator talks about the films "Superman," "E.T." and "Tron." Then, "Now there is Battlefield Earth. For the first time there is a musical soundtrack for a book. And that soundtrack consists of music of the future — space jazz."

The listener will first hear a snatch of music reminiscent of the soundtrack from the corny 1965 Embassy film, "Village of the Giants," which featured a gang of unruly, scantily-clad, over-sized teenagers who terrorized a town. After a few strains, the narrator continues, "What is space jazz? It is music written by humans but utilizing the terrific potential of computers to create any desired sound."

County

Press-Enterprise

RIVERSIDE, CA

ovc Saturday, November 20, 1982 B-5

Hubbard wife to oppose try to rule church founder dead

By DICK LYNEIS

Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

The wife of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology, filed notice yesterday that she will oppose an attempt to have her husband declared legally dead or mentally incompetent.

Los Angeles lawyer Barrett S. Litt, the attorney for Mary Sue Hubbard, said his client thinks her husband is still alive even though she has not seen him since 1979.

The notice was filed in Riverside County Superior Court in an effort to prevent Hubbard's son, Ronald E. DeWolf, 48, of Carson City, Nev., from being appointed trustee of Hubbard's estate.

However, it is uncertain whether Mrs. Hubbard, 51, will be able to attend the Dec. 30 hearing on DeWolf's request. She is scheduled to appear in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 9 for sentencing after her conviction on charges related to a Church of Scientology plot to steal federal government documents.

Litt said Mrs. Hubbard entered the trustee matter in Riverside "because she feels there is no need for DeWolf's petition."

"Her husband, as far as she is aware, is perfectly capable of handling his own affairs and is doing so.

"She is opposed," the attorney added, "to an invasion of (Hubbard's) privacy."

DeWolf has been estranged from his father since 1959 and legally changed his name from L. Ron Hubbard Jr. in 1972. In his petition, he claimed that his father had not been seen since March 1980, causing him to think Hubbard may be dead or incompetent.

DeWolf also alleges that several people within the Church of Scientology have forged Hubbard's name to documents and are systematically looting the church founder's personal assets.

Mary Sue Hubbard is Hubbard's third wife.

Although she has not seen Hubbard since 1979, her attorney Litt said: "She hears from him regularly by correspondence and she is comfortably supported by her husband on a monthly basis."

He would not say where Mrs. Hubbard is and, if she believes her 71-year-old husband is alive, where she thinks he is staying.

Litt said Mrs. Hubbard's action is not meant to be an attempt to substitute herself for DeWolf as a trustee.

"But, under California statutes," he said, "if a trustee were to be appointed, she would be the presumptive person to be trustee since state statutes give preference to a spouse."

Mary Sue Hubbard was one of 11 Scientologists convicted by the federal court in Washington in 1979 of charges stemming from a four-year church program to burglarize, bug and infiltrate various U.S. government offices.

She was church controller at the time of her conviction.

Church of Scientology officials, such as Mrs. Hubbard, have denied that their church founder is dead. They have pointed to the recent publication of a novel credited to Hubbard and the pending publication of a second one.

DeWolf, however, said he will have substantial evidence at the Dec. 30 hearing to back up his claims.

Los Angeles Times

By RUSSELL CHANDLER,
Times Religion Writer

Is L. Ron Hubbard, the reclusive founder of the Church of Scientology and the writer of science fiction novels, dead or alive? The question may not be one of the world's most burning issues, but it is the latest chapter in the intriguing story of one of the world's most controversial and embattled religious groups.

The question of the health and whereabouts of Hubbard, 71, has been sharply focused in recent days by a court challenge posed by Hubbard's long-estranged son, Ronald E. DeWolf, 48, of Las Vegas, who filed a petition in Riverside County Superior Court asking the court to name him trustee of his father's estate, estimated to be worth at least \$100 million.

DeWolf—who broke ties with his father and the Church of Scientology 23 years ago—says Hubbard is either dead or mentally incompetent.

Not so, retorted the publishers of several of Hubbard's manuscripts, including a spokeswoman for St. Martin's Press which last month published "Battlefield Earth," a science fiction saga of planetary slavery and intergalactic war.

The publishers insist that Hubbard is still writing, not just books but correspondence. But no one, including top church officials, has produced Hubbard. And the mysterious founder of Scientology and its allied philosophy, Dianetics, is not talking.

In fact, he has not been heard from since

March of 1980, when he apparently "dropped out of sight," according to a former personal aide.

Parallels have been drawn between Hubbard and Howard Hughes, the late billionaire recluse who increasingly withdrew from society during his advancing years and declining health.

"Hubbard became a Hughesian kind of creature . . . It became more intense as the years went on," said Gerald Armstrong, who said he was a member of Hubbard's "household unit" from 1971 until the end of 1979.

In an interview, Armstrong said "I saw his health and his emotional and mental state deteriorate . . . He would go nuts if there was dust in the air. He was a hypochondriac, always complaining . . ."

According to his biography, Lafayette Ronald Hubbard is an ex-glider pilot, barnstormer, adventurer, mariner and explorer, as well as the author of such science fiction works as "Final Blackout" and "Typewriter in the Sky."

As a kind of self-therapy to heal his traumatic experiences in the U.S. Navy in World War II, Hubbard in the late 1940s

L. Ron Hubbard: A New Controversy!

Son of Scientology Founder Questions Father's Health, Location



L. Ron Hubbard

formed the basic tenets of Dianetics. He summarized them in 1948 in his book, "Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health," which now has 6 million copies in print.

Hubbard's next book, "Science of Survival," written in 1951, contained the foundations of the religion of Scientology. The first Church of Scientology was established in Washington, D.C., in 1954.

In essence, Hubbard's "common people's science of life and betterment," as he has called Scientology, is based on a theory that the brain is a virtually perfect calculating machine. But the mind exists in two aspects.

The "analytical" mind perceives, reasons and remembers. The "reactive" mind comes into play when the analytical mind is suspended in moments of intense pain. The reactive mind stores "engrams," or detailed impressions of perceptions, during those moments.

Later, in times of stress, when the analytical mind is partially blocked, engrams enter and cause the individual to lose control, get angry or be depressed. Dianetics, according to Hubbard, is a set of techniques

★ Sunday, November 21, 1982/Part I N 3

for "reaching" these engrams and canceling their debilitating effect.

Through counseling exercises, which cost people progressing in Scientology thousands of dollars, all engrams can finally be banished and the subject becomes a "clear."

The process, called "auditing," is done with the aid of a so-called E-meter, a kind of galvanometer. Scientologists say it is a "truth detector."

Despite being attacked as a pseudo-science or pseudo-religion, Scientology grew to perhaps a million serious adherents worldwide. Hubbard became the preeminent philosopher-guru of the movement.

A large bronze bust of him adorns the main lobby of the church's U.S. headquarters in Los Angeles and Hubbard's picture—often showing him wearing a jaunty ship captain's cap—is prominent in Scientology literature and meeting places.

Scientology has also been the target of intense controversy and scores of lawsuits. Most court cases have involved the church's financial dealings and tax status.

In 1979, for example, nine church leaders were convicted on charges stemming from a four-year church program to burglarize, bug and infiltrate various federal agencies that Scientology had battled for two decades, including the Internal Revenue Service.

As controversies have mounted, Hubbard has increasingly retreated from the public eye. Please see HUBBARD, Page 27

Los Angeles Times

HUBBARD: Son Questions Status

Continued from Third Page

public eye. During the 1960s and early 1970s, he alternately spent time at his mansion in Sussex, England, and on board his several ships stationed in Mediterranean waters.

But in 1975, Hubbard and his third wife, Mary Sue, came ashore in Clearwater, Fla., where the church acquired extensive property for training and administrative operations. Hubbard's floating home, the 3,287-ton yacht Apollo, was sold.

Directed Films

The mysterious figure was last seen publicly in 1976 when he was directing Scientology training films in Clearwater. At the time, Time magazine described him as "portly, in apparent good health" and "flamboyant and authoritative."

In a May, 1976, interview, one of Hubbard's daughters, Diana Hubbard Horowich, said her father played tennis in Clearwater and was in such good health that he "keeps his secretaries so busy they're out of breath."

But Armstrong, the Hubbard aide who said that he had lived with Hubbard on the Apollo yacht as well as in Dunedin, near Clearwater, painted a different picture:

'Boats of Anger'

"I saw a deterioration through the years I knew him," Armstrong said last week. "I saw him lash out at people during that period in . . . huge, insane bouts of anger. (He was) . . . a blithering idiot. . . . Shooting movies with the man was quite intolerable. He was childlike and bullying."

Armstrong also said that Hubbard suffered a variety of medical problems in the 1970s. He was hospitalized and treated for a pulmonary embolism twice, Armstrong said, once in the summer of 1975 in Curacao in the Caribbean and again in 1978 when he lived in Riverside County in California.

Armstrong said he accompanied Hubbard to Culver City in the summer of 1976, where Hubbard had "a secret staging area" while he was arranging for the purchase of properties at La Quinta, a desert resort in the Coachella Valley, and at Gilman Hot Springs near Hemet.

Claiming that he was Hubbard's archivist and had been commissioned to produce a biography of the Scientology founder, Armstrong said he was in a position to observe a man "increasingly paranoid and secretive" during the two years Hubbard was sequestered in Southern California.

Arrives Incognito

"He lived in a secret Hemet location with 10 or 12 of his closest associates," Armstrong said, adding: "He would arrive in the back of a black panel van. I would unlock a chain across the gate and he'd be driven in"—incognito.

Armstrong left Scientology last year and was subsequently sued by the church. The complaint alleges that Armstrong stole large quantities of Hubbard's personal letters and journals and asks that they be returned to the church. A Los Angeles County Superior judge has ordered the documents impounded pending disposition of the case.

Meanwhile, Ronald DeWolf, Hubbard's eldest son (he changed his name from Hubbard in 1972) is claiming that a small band of Scientology officials has been forging Hubbard's signature and pilfering millions of dollars, gems and securities that belong to his father or his estate.

DeWolf charges in the petition that his father used cocaine, practiced black magic and through the church had established "one of the largest crime empires" in recent history.

'Evidence Is Strong'

"We can't absolutely prove my father's dead," DeWolf said during a telephone interview from his home in Las Vegas. "We have no body and no death certificate—but other circumstantial evidence is strong."

DeWolf's petition alleges that:

—Hubbard laid out secret plans for his death when he lived at La Quinta. He is said to have told his personal medical attendant: "Bury me in the date fields and don't tell anyone."

(The medical attendant could not be reached for comment. But Armstrong told The Times he also had heard her say what DeWolf alleges in the court petition.)

—Since 1980, according to DeWolf, no church official, Hubbard relative or attorney has had any communication from Hubbard.

Out of Touch

(A statement executed Jan. 25, 1982, by Hubbard's wife, Mary Sue, and on file in Los Angeles County Superior Court, indicates that she had not been in touch with him since March of 1980. "I cannot say where he has been since that time," her statement says.)

—Millions of dollars have been removed from Hubbard's bank accounts during the past two years, DeWolf claims. This, he says, would never have happened if his father were alive or in control of his own affairs.

An attempted deposit of a \$2-million check drawn on an account Hubbard has with E. F. Hutton, the stock brokerage firm, was forged and the bank subsequently froze the account, DeWolf alleges in the petition. DeWolf also said several church officials control about \$1 million of valuable coins belonging to his father and that in June of 1982 a church agent attempted to sell about \$1 million of Hubbard's gems in the Los Angeles wholesale market.

None of Hubbard's other five living children nor his wife could be interviewed by The Times. They either could not locate their attorneys declined to let them speak.

Scientology officials, commenting on the DeWolf petition, did not directly address DeWolf's claims that Hubbard is either dead or mentally incompetent.

Rather, they challenged DeWolf's credibility. They presented apparent transcripts of earlier DeWolf statements to show what they called his "contradictions and retractions" regarding the church.

The church would seem to have little to gain by concealing Hubbard's death—if he has died. On the other hand, the church and Hubbard would seem to have little to gain if he should reappear. He could then be subpoenaed to appear in several court cases in which plaintiffs suing the church feel Hubbard's testimony would be to their advantage.

Asked if he had any evidence that Hubbard had been seen since 1980, Allen Hubbard, president of the Church of Scientology of California, told The Times: "I cannot give you that assertion. . . . I haven't seen or talked to him myself."

Scientology Suit

Cult Founder's Son Asks to Be Trustee

Riverside

The oldest son of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of the Church of Scientology, has filed a petition in Superior Court, saying he believes his father is either dead or mentally incompetent.

The Riverside Press-Enterprise reported Saturday that Ronald DeWolf also claims in court papers filed last week that officials in the church have stolen millions of dollars, gems and securities from Hubbard's estate.

DeWolf further claims in the court papers that his father had been ill for decades, suffered from venereal disease among other ailments and was a heavy user of drugs.

DeWolf, 48, of Carson City, Nev., asked the court to appoint him a trustee of his father's affairs to protect the assets.

The court action charges that the worldwide organization is being run by David Miscavage, described in the petition as a "22-year-old with a ninth-grade education." DeWolf further charges that Miscavage and James Isaacson forged Hubbard's signature to loot the accounts.

The Church of Scientology was founded by Hubbard, a former science fiction writer, in the early 1950s. Its techniques have often generated controversy and the church has had frequent court squabbles with government agencies.

DeWolf, a former Scientologist, says he is not attacking his father.



L. RON HUBBARD

He may be dead, said his son

In a telephone interview with the newspaper, he said:

"The only way he can contest all of this is to show up in court. But I expect he may have trouble doing that because I don't think he is alive."

DeWolf said he has not seen his father since 1959, the year he left the religious organization. Since then, he said, he has been subjected to church "harassment," which in 1972 prompted him to change his name from L. Ron Hubbard Jr. to DeWolf.

Allen Hubbard, president of the church in California, declined comment on DeWolf's petition.

United Press