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Hubbard Suit Challenged

The wife of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of the Church of Scientology, has asked a Riverside County Superior Court judge to dismiss a petition by Hubbard's son to have the science fiction writer declared dead or mentally incompetent. Attorney Barrett Litt said the elder Hubbard is alive and well and not in need of a conservator, although his wife, Mary Sue Hubbard, doesn't know where he is and hasn't seen him since 1979. Litt called the petition by Hubbard's son, Ronald De Wolf, "a sham pleading."

Oh, where, oh where has L. Ron Hubbard gone?

By RUSSELL CHANDLER
Los Angeles Times

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, has filed a petition in Southern California's 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 Scien-

tology 23 years ago — said 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 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 formed the basic tenets of Dianetics. He summarized them in 1948 in his book,

"Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health," which now has 5 million copies in print.

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

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

Scientology has also been the target of intense controversy and scores of lawsuits. Most court cases have involved the church's finan-



L. Ron Hubbard

cial dealings and tax status.

As controversies have mounted, Hubbard has increasingly retreated from the 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.

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."

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:

"I saw a deterioration through the years I knew him. 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.

Armstrong said he accompanied Hubbard to Culver City, near Los Angeles, in the summer of 1976, where Hubbard had "a secret staging area" while he was arranging for the purchase of properties near Hemet, Calif.

"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."

DeWolf's petition alleges that:

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

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

(A statement executed Jan. 25, 1982, by Hubbard's wife, Mary Sue, and on file in Los Angeles County Superior Court, indicates she had not been in touch with him since March 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 1982 a church agent attempted to sell about \$1 million of Hubbard's gems in the Los Angeles wholesale market.

Scientology officials insist that DeWolf's suit is a "blackmail effort" and part of an orchestrated harassment designed to "destroy the church through a massive and continuing legal campaign."

A SPOKESWOMAN for St. Martin's Press, which published "Battlefield Earth," said her company had corresponded with him about the book and an upcoming science fiction sequel, "Missioners."

"Stylistically, the book is consistent with everything he's done in the past," Maryanne Mazzola told United Press International. "We have no reason to believe he's dead."

Jeff Hawkins, advertising director of Bridge Publications, which publishes Hubbard's Dianetics books, said Hubbard "writes regularly and voluminously." But he conceded he has had no contact with Hubbard since 1975 or 1976.

Hawkins said that he had seen a "policy directive" for the Church of Scientology written by Hubbard "a couple of days ago" and that it mentioned "current events."

When asked to make a copy of the directive available, Kathy Heard, a public affairs spokeswoman for the church, produced a 47-word mimeographed article dated Aug. 25, 1982, titled "The Joy of Creating," over the typed name, "L. Ron Hubbard." It did not mention any current events.

The last two lines read:

"The greatest joy there is in life is creating.

"Splurge on it!"

"The style is unmistakable," said Heard.

Scientologists in Riverside break off from central church

By DICK LYNEIS

Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

Leaders of the Riverside mission of the Church of Scientology revealed yesterday that they have "severed" themselves from the mother church.

Bent Corydon, president of the Riverside mission, said the local church's board of directors made its decision on Nov. 24, and informed the mission's estimated 250 members of its decision Sunday night.

He said leaders of the ex-Riverside mission of the Church of Scientology have joined with other dissident Scientologists in Kansas City and Omaha to form a new organization called the Church of Sciologos, and that their church has been incorporated "in California, Nebraska and in other states."

The action was taken, Corydon said, because "we have become convinced that current top management of the mother church has fallen away from the teachings of the founder, L. Ron Hubbard. Attempts to have top management conform to the writings and policies of the founder of the church through internal procedures and protests have been met with harsh discipline . . ."

Corydon said the Church of Scientology has been taken over by an organization called Religious Technologies Center, which is headed by David Miscavige, a 22-year-old former messenger to Hubbard.

Corydon said the action taken by the directors of the Riverside mission has no connection to the action taken in Riverside Superior Court by Hubbard's estranged son, Ronald DeWolf of Carson City, Nev.

DeWolf has filed a petition in which he alleges his father is either dead or mentally incompetent and that certain individuals within the church are systematically looting his estate. Alleging that Hubbard has not been seen since March 1980, DeWolf asked in his Nov. 6 petition to be appointed trustee of the estate to protect the assets of his father.

While Corydon said he opposes DeWolf's action, he agrees. (See SCIENTOLOGY, Page C-3)

"We are also concerned for the founder's welfare and the welfare of his family, as we cannot believe that he has in any way authorized or condoned the current methods of operation and management."

Kathy Heard of Los Angeles, director of national public affairs for the Church of Scientology, said last night that she doesn't know what the church's formal response will be to the action by the dissidents.

Heard said that "a new Scientology mission has been established in Riverside, headed by Robert W. Bellhart of Riverside." She said he is being assisted by Cathy Steiner, who is the former director of the Riverside mission.

Heard said she doesn't know whether the parent church or the Scientology group owns the Scientology building at University Avenue and Lemon Street.

Corydon said the deed to the

Scientology . . .

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that Hubbard "could be dead or very ill."

Yesterday, a motion to dismiss DeWolf's petition was denied in Riverside Superior Court by Judge J. David Hennigan. The first scheduled hearing on the petition is Dec. 30.

Los Angeles attorney Barret S. Litt, representing Hubbard's wife, Mary Sue, argued yesterday that DeWolf and his attorney, Wilkie Cheong of Los Angeles and Michael Flynn of Boston, had no facts to support their contentions.

Judge Hennigan said DeWolf does not have to provide evidence. He said that since Hubbard has not been seen "for more than 90 days, is a resident of California, and has property in California," the petition is valid.

However, Hennigan said that even if the petition is allowed, it is unlikely that DeWolf, who has not been in communication with his father since 1959, would be appointed trustee.

"I don't know if he (DeWolf) qualifies as a member of the family," Hennigan said, "when he is a disinherited adult son. The probate code says that preference should be given to the spouse."

Hennigan granted a motion by Litt to seal all depositions taken in the Hubbard case when they are turned over to the court.

In his petition, DeWolf said that the Church of Scientology is now under the control of Miscavige, the same person named by Corydon when he announced the action taken by the dissident Scientologists.

Miscavige spoke to Corydon and other operators of Scientology missions around the United States at a meeting at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco on Oct. 17, when they were told of changes in church organization, Corydon said.

A transcript of the meeting quotes Miscavige as saying "changes have occurred within the church in the last nine months, legally and corporately as well as organizationally."

Corydon said he and other organizers of the new Church of Sciologos feel that Miscavige and his Religious Technologies Center have improperly taken over Scientology.

"We have grave doubts," he said, "as to whether the current top management has any real basis for its authority at all."

property "is in the hands of trustees of the Church of gos," which includes himself, wife, Mary, Mark Lutovsk, Dorothy Kolb, plus "assoc trustees Bishop Robert Chambliss of Omaha, Rev. Jeff Nichols of Kansas City and Rev. Phil Black of Omaha."

The schism in the Riverside mission, Corydon and agreed, has the 250 members divided almost equally in two camps.

Son Says He Thinks Scientology Founder Died

CLEARWATER, Fla., Dec. 11 (AP)

The son of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of the Church of Scientology, has asked to be named trustee of the religion's holdings.

"I think he's dead, or become as mentally incompetent as a cigar-store wooden Indian," Ronald E. DeWolf said of his father. "I've known for years that the person writing me and other members of my family, and sending presents, was not L. Ron Hubbard."

Mr. DeWolf, who is 48 years old, is an apartment manager in Carson City, Nev. He changed his name when he left his father's church in 1959.

In his petition to a Superior Court in Riverside, Calif., Mr. DeWolf contends that officials of the Church of Scientology are saying Mr. Hubbard is alive in order to maintain control of his assets. "The only way he can contest all of this is to show up physically in court," Mr. DeWolf said of his father, who would be 71 this year. "But I expect he may have trouble doing that because I don't think he is alive." A hearing on Mr. DeWolf's petition is scheduled for Dec. 30.

Frizell Clegg, a spokesman at the church's headquarters in Los Angeles,

called Mr. DeWolf's petition "crazy" and "a joke."

"As far as the church is concerned," Mr. Clegg said, "he's alive. I've not seen him personally. His writings are pretty much what I'm going on."

Mary Sue Hubbard, Mr. Hubbard's wife, says she has not seen him since 1979 but, according to her lawyer, "hears from him on a regular basis and is comfortably supported by her husband on a monthly basis." Mrs. Hubbard has filed notice to try to stop her stepson's petition.

In 1954 Mr. Hubbard founded a faith

that has spread to 55 countries and claims 2.5 million adherents. Current Scientology literature asserts that Mr. Hubbard was, "at various times, top sergeant in the Marines, radio crooner, newspaper reporter, gold miner in the West Indies and a movie director-explorer, having led a motion picture expedition into the South Seas aboard an ancient windjammer."

By November 1959, Scientology was under investigation in the United States, France, Britain and Australia, chiefly for saying that Scientology could heal ailments from cold sores to cancer, Mr. Flynn said.

In 1973, a criminal court in France sentenced Mr. Hubbard in absentia to four years in prison for fraudulent business practices. Three years ago, 11

church leaders, including Mrs. Hubbard, were convicted in California in connection with a plot to infiltrate Federal agencies and steal documents.

Today, Mr. Flynn alone is handling 27 suits involving Scientologists. There are two basic types of suits, he said: those filed by defectors from the church and countersuits filed by outside critics who have themselves been sued by the church.

Mr. Hubbard's last known residences, according to documents filed by Mr. DeWolf, were one in nearby Dunedin, Fla., and three in California. Defectors from the church say that while living at one ranch, Mr. Hubbard twice required hospital care and asked to be buried under the date palms.

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDIEST!

A sect asunder? Scientology showing signs of schism

By Joe Stebbins

staff writer

For 10 years the operations of the Kansas City Mission of Scientology had proceeded smoothly.

The mission held to the teachings of founder L. Ron Hubbard and eagerly solicited converts to make the expensive journey through Scientology, while its international organization gained notoriety by breaking into FBI and Internal Revenue Service offices, and amassing huge sums of money.

But in the space of six days last month, the mission's leader resigned, a large part of the staff followed him,

hundreds of their files were taken and what is apparently a rapidly growing disenchantment with Scientology's current methods across the nation surfaced in Kansas City.

Former members—most of whom requested anonymity because of fear of harassment—have made several charges against Scientology's current operations:

- Mr. Hubbard is either dead, incapacitated or being held captive by Scientologists who are "perverting" his teachings. Many of Scientology's teachings parallel Buddhism and they strongly believe in reincarnation.

- A corporate reorganization has

been made that places the power—and the immense resources of Scientology—in the hands of a few leaders.

- A "systematic purge" of old-line members has begun that they say is designed to quell any criticism of Scientology's policies.

Such complaints led to the disbanding of the Kansas City mission at 1206 W. 39th St. last month when Jeff Nichols, the mission's leader for almost 10 years, resigned. Mr. Nichols said about 20 staff members also resigned after he left his post.

Six days later the building was broken into and hundreds of files were taken.

After the break-in, numerous notes were found at the scene that said the files were taken because an ecclesiastical order had been issued to regain property belonging to the Church of Scientology, said Detective Jimmie Boyer of the Kansas City Police Department central burglary unit.

Before the break-in, ownership of the missing files—each with a value of \$5,000 to \$10,000 in terms of business that can be generated for Scientology in purchases of services or paraphernalia—had been legally transferred to another church, said Phil Black, a former mission official.

"The bulk" of the files was recov-

ered, Detective Boyer said, and the three-week investigation ended when the Jackson County prosecutor's office refused to prosecute the case, apparently because of questions surrounding ownership of the documents.

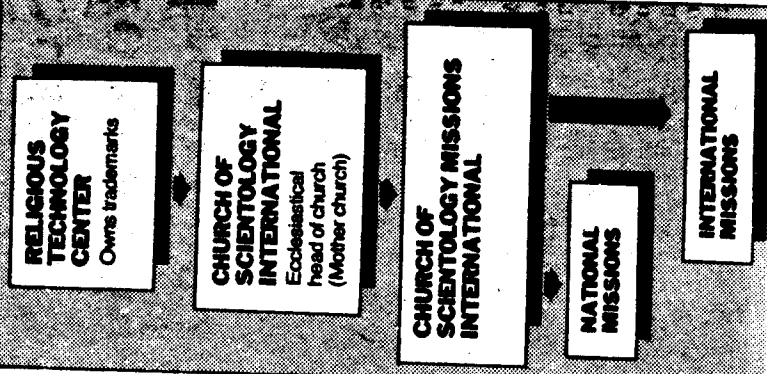
Scientology officials, contacted at a headquarters in Clearwater, Fla., had no comment about the case, but the incident appears to be symptomatic of a difficult period for the organization.

The controversy

The disbanding of the local mission is only one of several internal problems

See Signs, pg. 38A, col. 1

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY'S NEW CORPORATE STRUCTURE



Signs continued from pg. 35A

recently faced by Scientology—which claims up to 8 million members with about 1 million of those in the United States.

Although a Scientology spokesman denied any major rift in the church, an apparently growing band of dissidents is emerging across the country that says the organization is crumbling. Supporting that is the announcement that missions in Riverside, Calif., and Omaha, Neb., have abandoned the organization in the last few weeks.

Leaders of those missions echo Mr. Nichols' statements that while he still believes in Mr. Hubbard's principles, those principles have been "ignored or replaced" to the point the organization is "violating the creed it was founded upon . . . I cannot personally support a church run on duress, fear and threats on its members."

Other dissidents—many of whom are longtime church members who reached relatively important posts—have constructed an underground network of sorts that is bound by fear of harassment by main-line Scientologists, a staunch belief in the teachings of Mr. Hubbard and a gnawing sense of betrayal at what they characterize as abuses and injustices of Scientology's operations.

Most of them have been expelled from Scientology—the equivalent, according to their beliefs, of being banished to hell—and they have hesitantly begun seeking a way to counteract what they call "the forces of evil."

The disappearance

For more than 2½ years L. Ron Hubbard has not been seen publicly—and his oldest son filed a petition in Riverside, Calif., last month seeking the trusteeship of his 71-year-old father's \$100 million estate.

"We believe if he is not dead, he is incapacitated or being manipulated," said Ronald E. DeWolf, 48, who changed his name from L. Ron Hubbard Jr. in 1972 and left Scientology and his father in 1959 after he tired of what he called the organization's "crimes and frauds."

Mr. Hubbard's wife, Mary Sue Hubbard, is contesting the petition, said Wilkie Cheong, Mr. DeWolf's California attorney.

"She claims she receives payments and correspondence from him," Mr. Cheong said. He said she also cites as proof that he is alive a book recently published under Mr. Hubbard's name and an autographed copy of the book sent an old friend.

Many Scientologists say they are convinced Mr. Hubbard, who founded the organization in the early '50s, is either dead or incapacitated because of the direction Scientology has taken in the last two years.

"The big question of all Scientologists is: Where is Ron? If he is alive, why is he letting this happen? Why doesn't he just make a videotape of himself holding today's copy of *The New York Times*?" one former member in California said.

However, main-line Scientologists say they have no doubt their founder lives.

"The church's position is that he is alive and busy writing," John Peterson, a lawyer who answered questions for Scientology, said during a telephone interview at his California office. "No official of the church I'm aware of has had a face-to-face meeting with him since March 1980, but as late as October he was signing book jackets."

The changes

Since Mr. Hubbard was last seen his organization has undergone a major change.

From a diffused, labyrinthine structure that was characterized as "spaghetti" by one active member, Scientology has taken on a sleek new corporate design.

According to Lyman Spurlock, identified as a Scientology Warrant Officer in a transcript of a conference for mission holders (those who operate Scientology missions) in San Francisco Nov. 7, the reorganization was undertaken to make the church "impregnable, especially as regards the IRS."

However, many dissidents said they see something more nefarious than a simple reorganization. They said the new structure would make it easier for someone to abscond with the church's sizable resources.

Contributing to those resources are fees estimated, by several former members, at up to \$100,000 for a full course of Scientology. Thousands of dollars are generated by the sale of Scientology texts and paraphernalia. Money also

apparently comes in from the sale of rights to operate a mission—which costs about \$35,000, according to a 1980 price list that Mr. Peterson said probably was still reasonably accurate.

However, dissident members said paying such fees guarantees nothing. They said the church, under its new corporate makeup, arbitrarily decides if a mission is operating improperly. If that is decided, all rights to Scientology trademarks, paraphernalia and methods are removed, according to a 1982 license application.

Furthermore, they charged that a clause in corporate papers requires all assets of a dissolved mission to go to the parent group. They said that means anyone who took advantage of tax-shelter aspects of the franchise and placed a home, car or other personal belongings in the mission could lose them.

However, an official of the California secretary of state's office said available church documents

leave that contention unclear.

Mr. Peterson said he did not think it was the organization's "intention to take over the assets of a mission." He said he thought only materials pertaining to Scientology would revert to the corporation, with any other assets remaining with the mission holder.

Whatever the legal ramifications of the franchise agreements, the San Francisco conference made it clear the missions are to be held strictly accountable for their operations.

Wendell Reynolds, Scientology's international finance dictator and head of the group's Finance Police, told members at the conference they could face fines of \$10,000 if they took a member from another group. Also, he said, if irregularities are alleged at a mission, a team will investigate at a daily cost to the mission of \$15,000.

The dissidents cite those types of policies as coercive and charge

they are further signs of an organization weakened by greed.

The purge

The first ripples of discontent began to spread through Scientology in 1979 after the so-called "Scientology Nine" were convicted of a conspiracy involving a four-year plan to steal government documents and to infiltrate federal agencies as part of a continuing battle with the FBI and the IRS, dissidents said.

Shortly after that, mission holders also began to feel "severe and restrictive" controls of their local operations, dissidents said.

"At Clearwater (Fla.) last December there was a meeting of about 200," said a former Scientology executive. "All of those people were basically demanding that L. Ron Hubbard's teachings be followed. The big argument with the present administration is that the rules now are in violation of those of the founder."

Other former officials said most of the people who knew Mr. Hubbard or worked with him have been expelled by the new church.

"Off the top of my head, I can list 100 but I know there is far in excess of that during the past 12 months," one said. "In the past two or three years, I would estimate about 300 to 700 (old-line Scientologists) have been expelled."

Mr. Peterson, however, said there has not been a "wholesale" purge of the organization.

"Since the beginning of the church there have always been what they call 'squirrel' groups or what we call splinter groups. Whether it is more today, I don't know," he said.

Those on the outside, however, adamantly contend the organization is dying.

"I look at it," another former executive said, "and realize this thing is coming apart at the seams."

County

Press-Enterprise

Saturday, December 25, 1982

Ex-aide tells of Hubbard try to gain Nobel Prize

By DICK LYNEIS
Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard launched a major effort in 1979 to get a Nobel Prize based on his claim of having developed a way to cleanse the body of foreign substances, a former aide says.

Gerald Armstrong of Costa Mesa, who defected from Scientology a year ago after serving as Hubbard's personal archivist, claims "unlimited Scientology funds were to be allocated" for the effort.

He said the plan, which Hubbard ordered into operation in 1979 while living in secrecy in Hemet, was named "the Purification Campaign," after a program the Scientology founder developed. It was supposed to rid the human body of the effects of chemicals, drugs, smog and radiation.

Kathy Heard, a spokeswoman for the Church of Scientology, says she never heard of the Nobel Prize campaign, but she said Hubbard did develop something called the "Purification Rundown" and she has successfully used it herself.

However, another Scientology source, who was involved in the project, confirmed Armstrong's story, adding that nobody ever got around to making a nomination for the prize.

Armstrong is the target of a Scientology lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, which attempts to force him to turn over several boxes of documents and papers belonging to Hubbard.

Armstrong contends the material is Hubbard's property, not Scientology's, and that he was authorized by the controversial church's founder to collect the material for biographical research. The papers are in court custody, pending the outcome of the litigation.

In another action, Hubbard's son, Ronald DeWolf of Carson City, Nev., has filed a petition in Riverside Superior Court in which he asks the court to appoint him trustee of his father's estate, claiming Hubbard is either dead or mentally incompetent.

Armstrong said that "although it sounds bizarre," the Nobel Prize idea was a serious effort.

"While Hubbard was still living in Hemet in 1979, and commuting to nearby Gilman Hot Springs," Armstrong said, "he sent a dispatch to Laurel Sullivan (another top aide). The letter said she was to start the campaign and unlimited Scientology funds were to be allocated for the project."

During 1979 and 1980, the ex-Hubbard aide said, the Church of Scientology "had a representative in Europe who was trying to find out who was on the nominating committee (for the Nobel Prize). We were trying to find out which of the various fields he should be nominated in, whether it was for scientific achievement or medical.

"It could have been the
(See PRIZE, Page B-3)

Nobel Prize effort . . .

(From Page B-1)

Peace Prize, too, because of the aim of the program."

"We hoped," Armstrong said, "that by finding out who the nominating people were, we might get an 'in.'" He said that he doesn't know if any Scientology representatives succeeded in making contact with Nobel Prize nominators.

Armstrong said top Scientology officials working on the Nobel Prize plan spent "hundreds of thousands of dollars" in their effort.

He said authorization was given by Scientology officials at Gilman Hot Springs, which was then functioning as the church's world headquarters, for "bandwagon public relations" to promote Purification at all levels of the church.

"Thousands of people with Scientology unknowingly participated in the operation to win the Nobel Prize," Armstrong said, "but few of them knew what they were really working on. They were told they were assisting in a research study and PR (public relations) concerning the Purification Rundown."

Although Hubbard viewed scientists "with utter contempt," Armstrong said, "He always had an aspiration to be accepted by the scientific community for his work.

"In my opinion, and I was associated with him regularly for 10 years," Armstrong said, "Hubbard considered himself a failure in anything he has done, and that's why he continually tried for recognition."

The reclusive Hubbard's Purification program could last as long as a month, the former Hubbard aide said.

"First, there was a period of exercise in which you ran," Armstrong said. "Then there was a period of sitting in a sauna up to five hours a day. And next came a period of ingesting up to 5,000 milligrams a day of vitamin B-3, along with corresponding doses of other vitamins.

"After that, you took large quantities of oil, like from grains or safflower, and you drank as much as a quarter cup once or twice a day. The theory was that this oil replaced the oil lost in the body so that you could get rid of the impurities from drugs, smog and chemicals which were lodged in the fat tissues of the body."

Heard, the Scientology spokeswoman, said that "at last count, over 11,000 people have successfully completed the Purification program."

While Purification has been used by Scientologists for two years, she said the church offers it to non-members as well, "but only under medical supervision."

Narconon, Scientology's anti-drug organization, uses Purification as part of its program for addicts, according to Danny Naten, Narconon's Los Angeles public affairs officer.

Heard said Purification "makes a person feel brighter and be more himself. We're interested in allowing a person to function at full capacity spiritually, mentally and physically."

New York
Stocks

Los Angeles Times

Friday, December 31, 1982

LF/78 pages/Copyrig

Trial Ordered to Determine if L. Ron Hubbard Is Alive

RIVERSIDE (AP)—A trial will be held in April to determine if Church of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard is dead, or possibly mentally incompetent, a Superior Court judge ruled Thursday.

Ronald DeWolf, Hubbard's oldest child, contends in a court petition that his father has not been seen since March, 1980, when he was living secretly in Hemet, 25 miles southwest of Riverside.

DeWolf, of Carson City, Nev., is asking the court to name him trustee of his father's assets. He maintains that officials of the Church of Scientology have stolen millions of dollars from Hubbard.

Attorneys for Hubbard's wife, Mary Sue, urged Superior Court Judge J. David Hennigan to dismiss Wolf's petition. Los Angeles attorney Barrett Litt contends that the court action is an invasion of Hubbard's privacy.

Hennigan challenged Litt to have the controversial church founder appear in court.

"If he (Hubbard) is concerned

about his privacy," the judge said, "all he has to do is walk in here and say, 'Here I am' and I'm alive."

Litt said Hubbard, long a recluse, would not appear. Hennigan then scheduled a trial to begin April 18.

Hennigan said earlier that it is unlikely he would appoint DeWolf as trustee of his father's assets because the two have been estranged since 1959, when the younger man left the church and changed his name from L. Ron Hubbard Jr.

The judge asked if Hubbard's wife would be willing to be trustee if the Scientology founder is ruled dead or incompetent.

"She, or a nominee, would act as a trustee," Litt said.

Mary Sue Hubbard is scheduled to appear in a Washington, D.C., court on Jan. 7 for sentencing on a federal conspiracy conviction. She and 11 other Scientologists were found guilty of various charges stemming from a four-year church program to burglarize, bug and infiltrate U.S. government offices.

Please see HUBBARD, Page 2

HUBBARD: Trial

Continued from First Page

An attorney for DeWolf, Wilkie Cheong of Los Angeles, said he would object to Mary Sue Hubbard or her nominee acting as a trustee. "We would like the court to suggest a corporate trustee," he said, "such as a trust department at a large bank."

After Thursday's hearing, Cheong said it will be difficult to prove during the trial that Hubbard is dead.

"We have to prove he is missing and I feel we can do that circumstantially," he said. "We will show that he hasn't been seen by anyone since March, 1980."

Litt has submitted in evidence an autographed copy of Hubbard's recently released science fiction book, "Battlefield Earth," which he contends proves the Scientology founder is alive.

Daily News

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Friday, December 31, 1982

Church chief subject of court trial

A judge Thursday ordered a trial to determine whether Church of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, who has not been seen in several years, is dead.

The trial was sought by Ronald DeWolf, Hubbard's oldest child, who contends his father has not been seen since March 1980 and that high-ranking church officials have stolen millions of dollars from his estate.

DeWolf, who has been estranged from his father since 1959, is asking the court to name him trustee of the estate.

In setting the April 19 trial, Riverside Superior Court Judge J. David Hennigan denied the contention of attorney Barrett Litt, representing Hubbard's wife, Mary Sue, that the court action was an invasion of Hubbard's privacy.

Litt, who has submitted an autographed copy of Hubbard's recently released science fiction novel, "Battlefield Earth," as evidence that Hubbard is still alive, said the controversial church leader would not make a court appearance.

At an earlier court hearing, Hennigan said it was unlikely he would appoint DeWolf as trustee of his father's estate since they have been estranged for so many years.

On Thursday, the judge indicated that since California probate law established a wife as the primary trustee, he may appoint Mrs. Hubbard to administer the estate if he finds Hubbard is missing or incompetent.