

Clearwater Sun

July 18, 1984

Liens on sect property on sale

Pinellas County Tax Collector O. Sanford Jasper will offer for sale today \$228,845.33 in tax sales certificate liens on 10 parcels of Church of Scientology-owned real estate holdings in downtown Clearwater.

The open-bid auction of the certificates—the result of the Clearwater-based sect's reluctance to pay 1983 taxes on its property—will commence at 10 a.m. in Jasper's third-floor office of the Pinellas County Courthouse on Markley Street in downtown Clearwater.

In a related action, Pinellas Circuit Judge B.J. Driver ruled Monday the county cannot seize the sect's tangible personal property for non-payment of \$28,422.38 in 1983 personal property taxes until

legal questions surrounding the action are ironed out in court.

Instead, Driver ordered the sect to post a \$10,000 bond until a hearing determines the action the county may take on the non-payment of personal property taxes.

“(Judge Driver) approved the tax warrants (for the personal property), so they're effective when we want to use them,” Jasper said after the hearing. “But we're not to use them until they (the sect) have their hearing.”

Jasper said the bond request was granted to allay county officials' fears the sect would move or sell some of the contested personal property.

The combined \$257,267.71 in taxes the county claims is owed by the sect came due June 24.

However sect officials say they are like other mainstream religions and should be exempt from paying real estate taxes.

The tax certificates to be sold today are certificates for the amount of taxes owed on each parcel of property, Jasper explained. He said a buyer will have no claim to the property, but rather only hold a lien.

The buyer can do little with the certificate—other than draw interest—for two years. At that time, Jasper said, the property could conceivably be put up for auction.

But sect attorneys have said if it came to that, the Church of Scientology would pay the taxes under protest before allowing the property to be sold.

Rocky Mountain News

Denver, Colo.

Friday

July 20, 1984

Colorado sites sought for sci-fi films

By **ROBERT JACKSON**
Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

The Psychols are coming to Colorado and two Hollywood filmmakers will be their leaders.

William J. Immerman and Ken Annakin are in Denver looking for "possible locations" and to fill two lead roles for two \$20 million sci-fi movies based on L. Ron Hubbard's best-selling novel "Battlefield Earth."

The Psychols are creatures from space and the movie's villains.

If things go right, the first film and its sequel will be filmed in the Denver area beginning in January.

"We want to film both segments of the movie here," said independent producer Immerman ("Southern Comfort" and "Take This Job and Shove It") Thursday during lunch at the Mt. Vernon Country Club on Lookout Mountain in Golden. "The book is written with everything happening within 100 miles of Denver. The sites for

shooting that we've seen so far today have been positive. Colorado is much more interesting for filming than I thought it would be."

The movies will be directed by Annakin ("The Longest Day" and "Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines"). The screenplays for the films are being written by Abraham Polonsky ("Body and Soul" and "Mommie Dearest").

"We also would like to film in Colorado
See **FILM**, next page

Film: Actors sought for lead roles

Continued from previous page because they want us here," Annakin said. "The people here make our job easier. The state film commission has been very helpful and the people have good attitudes. Also, we don't have the union problems in Colorado that we have in Hollywood. The Colorado laws allow for a full day's work. In Hollywood a person can work for five minutes and we'd have to pay him for a day's work."

Even though the book was written by Hubbard, founder of the controversial Church of Scientology, both men denied the film has anything to do with the church.

"We look at it (the novel) as a classic work of science fiction," Immerman said. "But I'm sure the

church would like to see a successful film."

First round auditions for the lead roles of Jonnie and Chrissy will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday at Vannoy Talent Agency, 1100 East 16th Ave.

Jonnie, the male lead, should look between the ages of 16 and 20, be between 5-foot-7 and 5-foot-10, with an athletic build, Annakin said.

Chrissy, the female lead, should look between the ages of 15 and 18, and be between 5-foot-2 and 5-foot-6. Both should have an All-American look, he said.

"Denver's got a lot of fine talent," Immerman said. "I hope we can discover both leads here. And Annakin loves to work with new

young talent."

The movie is set in the year 3,000. Earth has been controlled for a thousand years by vicious aliens, and man has been reduced to a few scattered tribes in remote mountain corners where survival is marginal.

The hero, Jonnie Goodboy Tyler, lives with some 30 or so people in the Rocky Mountains until he decides to venture alone down onto the plains in spite of the legends of the Psychols. It takes off from there with all kind of action, Annakin said.

Karol W. Smith, director of the state film commission, said making the movies in Colorado could bring \$20 million into the state.

Clearwater Sun

Pinellas County's fastest growing newspaper

Clearwater, Florida

1984

Saturday, July 21, 1984

Clearwater 5



Letters to the Editor

Scientologists respond

Editor:

I have been a reader of your newspaper for the past 2½ years during my semi-annual visits to your city.

I like the paper as well as the people. However, I take strong exception to your consistently biased reports concerning the Church of Scientology; particularly, the recent period of May 28—June 13.

I have been a member of the Church of Scientology since 1970. I have had the distinct pleasure of reading the more than 40 books by the founder, L. Ron Hubbard; studying many courses and receiving the special counseling offered. My life has been enhanced to the point where I can honestly state I am a happy person, successful attorney, devoted family man and all with integrity. This is what Scientology is really about. I have never read anything of this sort in your paper. I see downtown Clearwater busier than in a long time. I see clearer waters. I see a positive difference in your community. I attribute this to the successes of the Church of Scientology.

I am very proud to be a Scientologist. I live a very clean and decent, productive life. I wish you would read a book or visit the church. The picture you present to your readers is false. It thus makes your paper unfair. But I learned something a few years back. The truth will always win out in the end.

This letter is sent to you unsolicited by anyone. If you have the guts to print it, please send me a copy. If you would like to respond to it, I would be interested in your reply.

MALCOLM S. BABEL
Bayside, N.Y.

Editor:

First of all I want to thank you for publishing my last letter.

Secondly, I want to tell you, as a Scientologist, that I feel Scientologists in Clearwater have made a mistake. There simply needs to be more communication.

Throughout history, wherever there has been a new idea, a new religion or a new thought even, it

has been ridiculed or attacked. Then as time goes on, it gets understood.

L. Ron Hubbard would say that communication is the universal solvent. Marriages, relationships between employer and employee and parent-child relationships alike are improved by communication. Nothing indeed gets done without communication.

Like a vacuum, an empty space will get filled up somehow. It's a simple law of the universe. There is a vacuum in Clearwater of real information as to what exactly Scientology is. So it gets filled up with anything, like Flynn's comments for instance. What does he know about it? Has he ever read a Scientology book and used it to save a failing marriage, or to help someone recover from a loss or an operation, or to help a man who couldn't work overcome his fears and get a job a I have?

Scientology hasn't communicated enough what it is really doing, so along comes Flynn. He looks at a beautiful field of roses and finds one has wilted. So he says the whole field is bad. There are thousands of flowers out there growing and giving beauty to others. Flynn, of course, needs glasses.

And Scientology needs to come out of the closet and say what it really is and what it does. *Clearwater Sun*, you can help. How about publishing articles written by Scientologists themselves, about their successes and gains and how it has helped them in their lives? How about for every Flynn article, one by a member of the church? Equal time, just like in the presidential debates.

SIOUX ROBERTS
Clearwater Beach

Editor's note: The Letters to the Editor column of the *Sun* is open to all the paper's readers, including Scientologists. Also, though the *Sun* has repeatedly asked Church of Scientology officials to elaborate on their beliefs and tenets, these officials always have declined.

The *Clearwater Sun* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be signed and include a telephone number where the writer can be reached. They should be brief and to the point. Send them to the Clearwater Sun, Box 2078, Clearwater 33517.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Hands off my brain

LAFAYETTE Ron Hubbard's face stares down from practically every wall in the Church of Scientology's headquarters in East Grinstead, Surrey. It is not especially prepossessing. It is the face of a foxy charlatan and begs the question: would you buy a used cult from this man?

In previous years an insult like this to the great Hubbard would have been enough to guarantee perpetual harassment and investigation by his Scientology sect whose code of honour states: "Never fear to hurt another in a just cause."

Now, of course, scientologists are anxious to project a less threatening, less creepy image. They are no longer fighting 176 legal actions against the world's press; they no longer start malicious rumours about their enemies and at all times they wear smiles of quite sickening happiness.

They are still, however, as persistent as ever. Eighteen months ago, on the occasion of L. Ron Hubbard's reported death (not true, say the sect), I wrote an article about my experiences with the sect in Amsterdam.

Briefly, I was approached by a young man and asked if I would help him in a consumer test. He gave me the impression that I was going to try a new brand of beer. It turned out to be a rather long and repetitive personality examination which proved, as they always do, that I was an emotional and intellectual cripple.

A woman who appeared to be in the same, if not worse, psychological state as me, tried to persuade me to take one or two of the special courses to sort out my problems. I did not.

The external affairs department of the cult took exception to the article and while they did not sue, they did spend many fruitless hours trying to talk to me on the telephone.

They left it for a while and then suddenly out of the blue invited me down last week.

Much of the estate, where Hubbard's obedient followers are building a medieval-style castle, is given over to the teaching of between 400-500 students of advanced scientology. Room after room is filled with men and women poring over Hubbard's books (he has sold 20m copies), staring into each other's faces and fiddling with the E meter.

This rather bogus piece of electronic gadgetry is used by the sect to help people eliminate the nasty images we all carry round in our minds and which prevent us from fulfilling our potential. It works on the same principle as a lie detector and registers stress.

My guide from External Affairs suggested I had a go on the meter and proceeded to ask me a series of questions designed to expose moments of anxiety in my life. This it conspicuously failed to do until I looked up at Hubbard's mug and the needle went haywire.

Despite the absurd simplicity of Hubbard's path to clean-living harmony, on the whole I do not feel that people I saw at East Grinstead looked especially happy, despite the smiles. The place has about it the air of an institution: there are too many rules (Don't walk on the grass, Out of bounds, Do not enter, Silence, Pastoral Counselling in Progress), there are too many uniforms and despite the pleasant country surroundings, there is something ineffably depressing about East Grinstead's Saint Hill Manor.

Cynical I may be, but should you be asked by a pleasant young man to taste some beer or help him in a psychological survey, just walk on.

'Corrupt, sinister immoral'

Standard Reporter

THE Church of Scientology was condemned as "corrupt, sinister and dangerous" by a High Court Family Division judge today.

Mr Justice Lacey, in a damning indictment of the Californian-based sect founded by L. Ron Hubbard, said: "Scientology is both immoral and socially obnoxious."

"It is corrupt because it is based on lies and deceit and has as its real objective money and power for its founder, his wife, and those close to him at the top."

"It is sinister because it indulges in infamous practices both to its adherents who do not toe the line unquestioningly and to those outside who criticise or oppose it."

"It is dangerous because it is out to capture people, especially children and impressionable young people, and indoctrinate and brain-wash them so that they become the unquestioning captives and tools of the cult, withdrawn from ordinary living and relationships with others."

He was giving judgment at the end of a six-month dispute over a boy aged 10 and a girl aged eight.

The children's father, a dedicated scientologist, and their 28-year-old mother, who has left the sect, both sought custody. The judge directed that their



RON HUBBARD: a "charlatan."

identities should not be disclosed and the children were referred to as "B" and "G."

Awarding care and control of the children to the mother, who has remarried since she was divorced by her husband in 1978, the judge said the father, who has also remarried, had promised to seek to correct the evils of scientology disclosed during the private court hearing.

"But what could he do against the power of the church? Nothing. The result would be that he would be declared a suppressive person with all that that would entail for him and his family," said Mr Justice Lacey.

"The baleful influence of

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JUDGE CONDEMNS SCIENTOLOGY CHURCH



MR JUSTICE LACEY: the cult is "out to capture people, especially children, and brain-wash them."

Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles Times

Tuesday, July 24, 1984

Scientists Blame Mystery Forgery Try on Lawyer-Critic

By WILLIAM OVEREND, *Times Staff Writer*

Church of Scientology officials Monday accused a Boston lawyer who has been a prominent critic of the organization of conspiring to pass a counterfeit \$2-million check on the account of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard and later blaming the forgery on members of the church as part of an "overall plan" to destroy the group.

The charges were made against attorney Michael Flynn in documents filed in Los Angeles federal court in connection with a lawsuit filed by a Scientology member, Steve Miller, accusing the lawyer's brother, Kevin Flynn, of kidnaping him three years ago and attempting to "deprogram" him.

Michael Flynn, who has filed 20 lawsuits against the Church of Scientology, angrily denied the charge and said it was a "typical" Scientology tactic to try to smear critics of the organization.

"There is not an ounce of truth in this story," Michael Flynn said. "This is a conspiracy to frame me. It's absurd; it's a joke. I am not a forger. I'm going to file a criminal complaint against them for this. Somebody is going to pay."

Two-Year Investigation

The Rev. Heber C. Jentzsch, president of the Church of Scientology International, said the accusation against Michael Flynn was made after a two-year investigation into the mysterious forgery attempt in response to renewed claims by Flynn's brother last week that the alleged crime had been carried out by "Scientology insiders" who had access to Hubbard's personal financial records.

"We're clean. We've cleaned out that whole house in the last seven years," said Jentzsch, referring to past legal problems involving the organization, including FBI charges that the group had infiltrated government agencies and stolen government documents pertaining to the church. "They keep making the allegations about us, but we have the documents."

Donald C. Randolph, a Los Angeles attorney representing Miller in the suit against Flynn's brother, said the investigation into the Boston lawyer's activities by the Church of Scientology focused on the testimony of two men who said they had conspired with Flynn to pass the counterfeit check.

The two men were identified as Ala Fadili Al Tamimi, a former resident of Boston currently in jail in Italy awaiting extradition to the United States in connection with another fraud case, and Tamimi's brother, Akil, now a resident of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

Tamimi alleged in a declaration cited in the court records that he met with Flynn in early 1982 and was promised \$400,000 to pass the check. He used his

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SCIENTOLOGY: Bad Check

Continued from Page 1

brother, Akil, to try to cash the counterfeit check in early 1982 at the Middle East Bank in New York, the declaration said.

Suspecting that something was wrong, officials of the bank raised questions about the check and it was not cashed. In previous court cases against the Church of Scientology, there have been references to the check and suggestions that the counterfeit attempt revealed a plot by Scientology officials to "loot" Hubbard's personal bank accounts.

Hubbard has not been seen in public since 1980. In June, 1983, a Riverside Superior Court judge dismissed a suit by Hubbard's estranged son that claimed his father was either dead or incompetent. A declaration signed by Hubbard introduced as evidence at that trial said that Hubbard was in seclusion by his own choosing. His estranged son, Ron DeWolf, had filed a probate petition.

In the documents filed Monday, Randolph said the DeWolf probate petition was based in part on Flynn's accusations that the attempt to pass the \$2-million counterfeit check had been made by

church members.

"This type of accusation constitutes a classic example of the criminal accusing others of his own crime to divert attention from himself," the affidavit said. "In essence, attorney Michael Flynn orchestrated a conspiracy to break the law, then utilized the thwarted attempt as false evidence in subsequent court proceedings."

Flynn, reached by telephone in Boston, predicted that Randolph's charges, contained in a motion to dismiss his brother's previous claims of Church of Scientology harassment, would be dismissed by U.S. District Judge Francis C. Whelan.

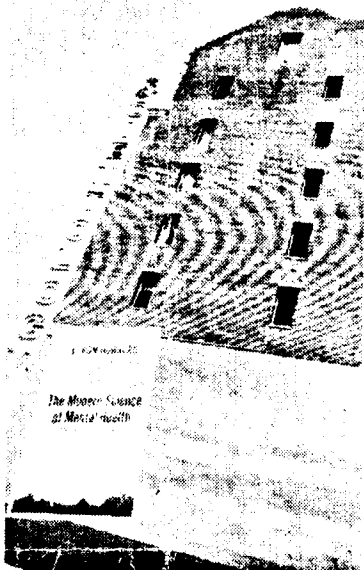
The deprogramming case involving Flynn's brother is in an early stage, with no trial date yet set. The private investigator who brought the charges against Flynn is Eugene M. Ingram, a former Los Angeles Police Department sergeant. Ingram was fired in 1981 from the LAPD on departmental charges of helping run a house of prostitution and protecting drug dealers. Criminal charges were dismissed the following year, however, for lack of evidence.

Insights

Did Scientology Defraud Members?

Is it the beginning of the end for the Church of Scientology? In the past senior church officials have refused to discuss the inner workings of L. Ron Hubbard's empire, but according to a recent story in the *New York Times*, disillusionment with Hubbard and a power struggle within the organization have prompted several church officials to meet with police investigators and testify against Scientology in a number of court cases.

At a trial that just ended in Los Angeles County Superior Court, former church officials testified that from the 1970s until 1982 they helped Hubbard divert more than \$100 million from the church into foreign bank accounts he controlled. This contradicts the organization's claims that Hubbard cut his ties to it in the mid-'70s and that its millions of dollars of revenues are spent for charitable purposes. This may be the ammunition needed by those critics who have for years charged that Scientology is not a religion but is in fact a lucrative business operating under the guise of a tax-



Gary Leonard

exempt religion.

The IRS, among the critics, has been investigating Hubbard's financial arrangements with the church for more than a year, and the church itself is under investigation in Florida, Canada and West Germany. Michael Flynn, a Boston lawyer who has represented dozens of Scientologists in lawsuits against Hubbard and the organization told the *N.Y. Times*, "They're in the process of total disintegration. They've got a huge reservoir of money and they are using it to pay lawyers to withstand the legal assault that is occurring against them worldwide."

Church officials interviewed by the *N.Y. Times* had testified in a court case brought against former senior church official Gerald Armstrong. Armstrong, once a member of the church's inner circle, defected with church

documents in 1981. He had been researching Hubbard's life for a biography, but became disenchanted with the organization when he discovered that much of what Hubbard had told Scientologists about his life — including that he was a war hero and a nuclear physicist — was fictitious.

Kima Douglas, Hubbard's personal medical officer, testified at the trial that she had helped establish 14 or 15 corporations and had "couriered hundreds of thousands of dollars out of the United States" for the church in violation of federal law requiring cash amounts over \$5,000 to be disclosed to Customs officials, according to the *Times*.

Howard Schomer, executive of the company from March 1982 until November 1982, said a major task of his staff was to convert church assets to assets owned by Hubbard, in part by preparing invoices for fictitious services by Hubbard.

"Our purpose was to get as much money as we could from the church and make it look legal," he told the *N.Y. Times*. "We were skimming money from the church; it was fraudulent as far as I was concerned."

Other former Scientologists also testified that they had used confidential material from "auditing" sessions to blackmail members.

Lawyers for Hubbard maintained that he had done nothing illegal, and that if any money had been given to him, it had been given legally. The *Weekly* was unable to reach Scientology officials for comment. Hubbard, 73, has not been seen in public since March 1980.