


# L. Ron Hubbard In Ocean County

By Patricia H. Burke



L. Ron Hubbard, the internationally known author of *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*, completed his research and wrote his bestseller at 666 East Avenue in Bay Head, New Jersey where he lived from 1949 through mid-1950. Published in May, 1950, the book was an immediate New York Times bestseller for 26 weeks. It returned to the New York Times bestseller list in 1988, again in 1990, and has now sold over 20 million copies worldwide in more than fifty languages.

In a letter that Hubbard wrote to his friend, writer Russell Hays, dated November 14, 1949, he states “I am dug down here in a very nice windbreak...I have eight bedrooms here to wander around and contemplate. If you get tired of the wilds of Kansas you are hereby invited to come down and view the wilds of New Jersey. The ocean is just outside the front door but it knows its place and never makes a real nuisance of itself. And if it does, why, we just go to a movie until the house has settled back down on its foundation again. Right now there are a couple of writers staying here...I’m still doing this research on the mind. The results are going to be published soon...”

The Dianetics techniques provided Hubbard the research tools for his later 1952 discovery of the spiritual principles that became Scientology and developed into the religion. The earliest statement made of these principles was in Camden, New Jersey and were further developed in Phoenix, Arizona during 1952-1955.

The Bay Head house was recently purchased by Heritage Properties International to preserve the historical legacy of Hubbard’s work in Bay Head. The corporation partners with the Church of Scientology, to care for and maintain former Hubbard residences in various locations around the world, most notably in South Africa, England and the United States. The Friends of L. Ron Hubbard and the L. Ron Hubbard Library plan to restore the house.

The actors Tom Cruise and John Travolta are among the many prominent members of the Church of Scientology which reports to have 9 million members