

By URANTIA Foundation Special Representative Vern Bennom Grimsley

NURANTIA HEALTH-MASSAGE

Under the guidance of Foundation attorneys, I submitted a notarized affidavit composed by Lloyd Root and detailing my investigation of the misuse of our registered word by "NURANTIA-HEALTH MASSAGE" in Long Beach, California. Also included as evidence were photographs taken by me which indicated that the word "URANTIA" was simply repainted on their sign to read "NURANTIA," a "colorable imitation" of our word. On July 10, 1978, we won an injunction against "NURANTIA-HEALTH MASSAGE" in Federal District Court.

BRAZELL

During a surprise June visit to Berkeley, Houston Brotherhood Councilor Allen Brazell expressed continuing opposition to the Foundation's Liscensing Agreement, and indicated that he had held a meeting the night before in San Francisco with the members of "The Brosnan Tortoise," a group of students of The URANTIA Book who are not Brotherhood members. The purposes and outcomes of the meeting were not disclosed.

"THE MELCHIZEDEKS"

In response to a disturbing Las Vegas newspaper article on a group of students of The URANTIA Book called "The Melchizedeks," the URANTIA Foundation asked me to investigate their activities in Nevada, which I did in early July of 1978.

I observed and photographed their headquarters at 1111 Cahlan Drive, Las Vegas (front and back photos included). As you can see, it is a modest residential home without any identifying signs, posters or uses of our registered marks.

I talked with Randy Tunnell, staff photographer for the Las Vegas Review-Journal who had taken the newspaper pictures of "Matia Melchizedek," the cult's leader, and asked Tunnell if the group put out any literature; he said he knew nothing about any publications by them.

The "Melchizedeks" have four listings in the white pages of the Las Vegas telephone directory (photocopies enclosed).

They are not listed under "URANTIA" in the white pages, nor are they listed under "Melchizedek" or "URANTIA" under "CHURCHES" or "RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS" in the yellow pages.

I was able to ascertain from which store in Las Vegas the Melchizedeks have been buying their URANTIA Books: an art, health food and literature shop called "BERTA SPECIALTIES, INC." at 2401 West Charleston Boulevard. The female clerk at the store told me the Melchizedeks "are trying to live by the URANTIA Book--they don't publish anything of their own yet." The store owner himself later said the cult had bought six or seven books during the past year, but that they maintained a fairly low profile in the community, or at least had done so before the publication of the newspaper interview.

In conclusion: although I found no misuse of our copyrighted materials and registered marks, the clerk's intimation that the group might publish in the future, together with their borderline-fanatical ideas as revealed in the newspaper interview, indicate to me that "The Melchizedeks" will bear further watching in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Vern Bennom Grimsley
URANTIA Foundation Special Representative