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# Memorandum



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То :	SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) <del>(P)</del> Date 11/8/93
From :	SA (C-4)
Subject:	"FINDERS" GROUP; WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI; OO: WMFO
Special A	Attached to this memo are copies of materials relating oned group provided to writer on 11/08/93 by Senior agent United States Customs Service, leadquarters, 1301 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, D.C.
	This information is further described as listed below:
fc	1. Copy of "FINDERS" briefing bullets prepared by SA or Commissioner, U. S. Customs briefing book.
2/7/87.	2. Copy of SA memo to file dated
4/13/87.	3. Copy of SA memo to file dated
	4. Copy of a NEXUS report prepared by U.S. Customs.
U.S. Cust	5. Copies of2/7/87, and 4/13/87 memos with be noved together with a "FINDERS" chronology provided to brown by a Sgt of the Tallahassee, Florida epartment.
	6. Copies of Tallahassee Police Department Reports
concernin	and subsequent "FINDERS" group investigation.
dated 2/8	7. Copy of U.S. Customs RAC Tallahassee case file
4/13/87.	8. Copy of U.S. Customs RAC Reston case file dated
Finders".	9. Copy of a magazine article titled "In search of the
2) WMFO MDC: mdc	SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED POLICE
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"FINDERS"

SAC/Miami office trequest of reiterate to RAC/Ft. Laudero	3, I was advised by agents from the that they had interviewed per SAC/Miami. They listened to the information he provided earlier dale and Postal Inspectors and in his members of the legislature. Upon
departure	
	regarding a group called the
	inquired if the agents were aware
of this case and s	suggested they make themselves
knowledgeable of :	its details. provided no
further information	on. At that time I queried the name
"Finders" and "The	e Finders" in the CPPU database and
was able to locate	e a record under each title. These
records revealed t	that an investigation had occurred at
	ee and RAC/DC. A brief statement
regarding the init	tiation of the case was included in
one CPPU database	entry. Neither entry mentioned child
	ueried the case number inand
	case had been open and closed by
	on February 12, 1987. No

further information was located. This information was provided to SAC/Miami agents. It should be noted that is retired from the Customs Service. A copy of the CPPU records and the record are attached as number 17.	b6 b7C b7E
Inquiries regarding this matter with  Division Director, Smuggling Investigations Division, revealed that the Finders incident was investigated by Special Agent when he was assigned to what was then the RAC/DC.	
On September 3, 1993, I spoke with Special Agent  who is currently assigned to Headquarters,  Internal Affairs.  was the agent who participated with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) during the initial stages of their investigation of the "Finders".  provided two "Memo to File" reports, one dated "2/7/87" and the other "4/13/87". Copies of these memos are attached as number 18.	
in initial establishment of the Child Pornography and Protection Unit at the request of then Commissioner Von Raab. Upon final staffing of the unit, he was transferred to the RAC/DC where he was assigned to work among other things, child pornography cases.	p,
advised that the reason the Tallahassee Police  Department (TPD) had contacted Customs was due in part	
stated that contacted Special Agent RAC/DC, who was duty agent, because the TPD was requesting assistance in contacting Washington DC area law enforcement agencies that could help follow up on leads that they had developed. Subsequently, Customs was able to assist in this matter by arranging contact between the TPD and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Washington DC.	b6 b7с b7Е
SA stated that he originally got involved with the MPD in this matter because there were suspicions that	
said that when	

	b7E
stated that he accompanied MPD in the search of one location while accompanied MPD in the search of a second location. During the search of one location, no child pornography was located. At the second location,	
It should be noted that Special Agent has retired from the U.S. Customs Service.  was asked about what if any FBI involvement occurred during the execution of the warrants.  stated that Special Agent , Washington Field Office, had been assigned to the case. said that he was told that made a walk-through of one the sites the day after the warrant was executed.	ь3 ь6 ь7с
SAadvised that after the search warrants were executed, he tried several times to contact Detective (MPD) to attempt to review the documents he had reportedly seen. These attempts were unsuccessful until March 31, 1987, whenmet with SgtJohn Stitcher, MPD, who advised him of the alledgedinvolvement. It should be noted that Sgt. Stitcher is now deceased.	ь6 ь7с ь7Е
On September 14, 1993, I spoke with  Office of Congressional Affairs to discuss this issue. This meeting was a result of Congressman Rose's questions to the Commissioner about this matter. At that time, all available information regarding Customs involvement on this issue was provided to  A copy of the memorandum dated September 9, 1993, from Assistant Commissioner, Congressional Affairs, to the Assistant Commissioner, Enforcement, requesting this information is attached as number 19.	Ь6 Ь7С
On September 14, 1993, I met with  National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  (NCMEC).  advised me that he had been a MPD  officer in 1987 and had participated in the execution  of the search warrant at one of the locations where the  "Finders" resided.  further stated that his  function during the search warrant was to	

	that while the whole matter was bizarre, he did not notice any child pornography then provided me with some UPI news articles he had obtained from NEXIS. None of these articles mentioned involvement. The articles are attached as number 20.	b6 b7C b7E
•	On September 16, 1993, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Enforcement, requested me to develop more information pertaining to this matter.	
•	On September 16, 1993, I contacted RAC/ Tallahassee. advised that he had been contacted by SAC/Miami agents for any information regarding the "Finders". stated that he had requested the TPD to provide any information they might have on the incident that occurred in 1987. The officer he spoke with provided him with all police reports and a newspaper article that pertained to this subject. The	
•	requested that provide me with the same information as well as any Customs case reports. He advised that after the initial opening report, the investigation revealed no Customs violations and the matter was closed. It should be noted that both the TPD police reports and the news article reported the incident as being bizarre. At no time did either report mention child pornography or any other violation that would fall within Customs jurisdiction nor did either report mention any involvement. The TPD report and news article are attached as number 21. The RAC/Tallahassee case report is attached as number 22.  On September 16, 1993, I contacted ASAC SAC/Baltimore office. was the acting RAC/Reston on February 5, 1987. stated that from what he could remember of the incident, he had cautioned	b6 b7C b7E
	getting involved in the matter, as he suspected that there were no Customs violations at that time. stated	
[	On September 16, 1993, I contacted regarding additional information about this matter. He stated that	b6 b7С

	ъ6 ъ7С
On September 16, 1993, I contacted Special Agent  FBI, Washington Field Office.  FBI case agent who handled matters regarding child pornography.  Stated that the "Finders" was a very bizarre communal group who got their name based on the fact that they could "find" any type of information that was requested of them.  She said that during that period of time, the subject of child pornography and child sexual abuse was in the limelight of media attention because of the Meese report and the passing of the Child Protection Act. As a result, she stated that this case started a media frenzy. She also advised that it appeared to her that  and the MPD investigators were trying to	ь6 ь7с
said that no evidence of child sexual exploitation, child pornography, or kidnapping was obtained.  In a memorandum dated March 9, 1987.	ь3 ь6 ь7с

advised that she interviewed every member of the "Finders" during her investigation. She said the group was a bizarre and abnormal cult that lived a different type of lifestyle. At no time did she uncover any evidence of any federal violations. She further stated that she had never heard about any State Department or involvement and was never instructed by to discontinue her investigation.	
On September 17, 1993, I contacted Freedom of Information Offices in both Headquarters and the Southeast region. I inquired as to whether there were any records of FOIA requests from This met with negative results.	
On September 17, 1993, I contacted SAC/DC and requested that they provide me with the investigative case file regarding this matter. An examination of the case file revealed no mention of child pornography. A copy of this case file is attached as number 23.	
On September 17, 1993, I contacted stated that from what he could remember, tended to get himself involved in matters involving children that were outside the jurisdiction of Customs. As far as this matter is concerned, stated that did not show any indication of a Customs violation after his to discontinue the investigation. stated that he does not recall any mention of involvement.	
On September 17, 1993, I interviewed  Division Director, Smuggling Investigations Division. He stated that recalls the incident but does not remember any fax being sent to him, however, he did not deny receiving the fax. stated that during that time, Customs Headquarters had no line authority over field offices, and therefore he was not in a position to dictate what action was appropriate. stated that he does not recall any conversations between himself and regarding	b6 b7 b7

NEXUS.

Heading # 2

.295

13 of the 30 presumed members of a religious sect arrested amid allegations linking the church to sexual activity involving children have been released from custody, a judge said Saturday.

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Heading # 3

0669252

Although many adults enjoy healthy friendships with teenagers, psychologists warned Friday that parents should be alert for signals of potential child sexual abuse.

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Heading # 4

0579201

claims the organization is the target of persecution and says it is "deplorable" to link the group with child abuse, prostitution, begging and kidnapping.

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Heading # 5

0669200

Argentine investigators will wait until next week to review pornographic material seized and question sect members arrested in a raid in which 268 children were taken into custody, officials said Friday.

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Heading # 6

0669071

lice searched several residences Wednesday and took about 300 children away from members of the outlawed Children of God religious group, a cult accused of promoting indiscriminate sex.

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D : ADVICE ON DESIGN AND DECOR Easy on the Eyes - and Feet

Newsday (ND) - Thursday September 2, 1993

By: Beth Sherman

Edition: NASSAU AND SUFFOLK Section: AT HOME Page: 83

Word Count: 698

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0645417

The fate of the largest sunken treasure in American history worth about \$1 billion is going to the Supreme Court, where an armada of lawyers will argue the legal virtues of finders-keepers.

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0342936

SECTION: General news TORY TAG: children

.TELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) March 18, 1987

rIME: 23:05ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0210

Authorities dropped child abuse charges against two members of the Finders commune who were arrested last month when police found them with six hungry and dirty young children in a city park.

Police Lt. Roy Dickey said prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed to the dismissal late Tuesday and Michael Hollwell and Doug Ammerman were promptly released from jail.

"They did not find that the original probable cause was invalid, but upon further investigation they found that the facts were different than they originally appeared to the officers that originally made the arrest," Dickey said.

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Hollwell and Ammerman were arrested Feb. 4 in a park when they could not explain where they and the six children with them were going or identify the youngsters' parents. The suspects and the children, age 2-6, were subsequently linked to the Finders communal organization of Washington D.C.

Four of the children were released to their parents, Dickey said, but was unsure of the status of the two other children.

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ding # 32

0342535

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) March 17, 1987

TIME: 18:59ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0203

Child abuse charges were dismissed Tuesday against two members of the Finders commune who were arrested last month after being found with six dirty and hungry young children in a city park.

Tallahassee Police Lt. Roy Dickey said prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed to the dismissal.

"They did not find that the original probable cause was invalid, but upon further investigation they found that the facts were different than they originally appeared to the officers that originally made the arrest," Dickey said.

Michael Hollwell and Doug Ammerman were arrested in a Tallahassee park Feb. 4 when they could not explain to police where they and the six dirty, Press (return) to continue...->

'gry children with them were going or identify the parents of the .dren.

The two men and the children, age 2-6, were linked to the Finders communal organization of Washington D.C.

Dickey said four of the children have been released to their parents, but he was unsure of the status of the two other children.

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Heading # 33

0341741

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children

DATELINE: MIAMI (UPI) March 12, 1987

TIME: 06:42ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0275

Three of six children who belong to The Finders, a counterculture community based in Washington, D.C., have been ordered returned to their ers but the other three remain in temporary state supervision.

Shortly after Wednesday's order by Leon County Circuit Judge Victor Cawthon, the leader of The Finders said the group was disbanding.

Defense attorney Pau Walborsky called Cawthon Truling a victory.

"I feel their right to be different has been vindicated," she said.

She said the other three children will most likely be returned to their ents after a hearing later this month. She said close state supervision of their upbringing probably also will be ordered.

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The six children were discovered playing in a Tallahassee park Feb. 4. They were in the company of James M. Holwell, 23, and Douglas Ammerman, 27.

Holwell and Ammerman were arrested on misdemeanor charges of child abuse and are being held in the Leon County Jail pending their trial.

Hours after the court ruling, Robert G. Terrell, also known as Genghis K. Plato, said his secretive organization's experiment with "group work" had failed and is being dismantled after 17 years.

"This is farewell from The Finders. We're breaking up," Terrell said. "You won't be hearing from The Finders again until Hong Kong is being run by the Chinese and the Panama Canal is being managed by the Panamanians in other words, at least until the year 2000."

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- 4 See additional headings
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Total charges thus far: \$61.00

A judge Friday released five of six children found dirty and hungry in a park with two members a communal organization to the temporary care of their mothers pending a custody hearing.

"The mothers have obtained separate places of residence in Leon County," d state attorney C.L. Fordham. "Each of the children will stay with  $\mathfrak m$ ."

The mother of the sixth child has returned to her Washington, D.C., home and 3-year-old Benjamin Franklin will remain in a Health and Rehabilitative Services foster care home until the permanent custody hearing March 6.

Leon County Judge Victor Cawthon ordered the release in a closed Press (return) to continue...->

hearing. Cawthon refused to allow reporters into the hearing because HRS officials said it could include discussion of possible sexual abuse of the children. State law prohibits releasing any information about a sexual se case.

"I can assure you arrangements have been made for the protection of the children's interest," HRS spokeswoman Connie Ruggles said. She refused to elaborate.

Fordham also said he expected to resolve the fate of the two men, members of the Finders communal organization, arrested for child abuse while watching over the children by Monday. Fordham suggested that the two men Doug Ammerman and Michael Holwell might agree to plead guilty to lesser charges of child neglect.

Holwell and Ammerman were arrested in a Tallahassee park Feb. 4 when they could not explain to police the dirty appearance of the children, or say who or where the children's parents were.

Both men were charged with one count of child abuse. Holwell was also charged with one count of resisting arrest without violence.

On Nov. 14, five women claiming to be the mothers of the children Press (return) to continue...->

arrived in Tallahassee. Kristin Knauth, Judy Evans, Paula Arico, Carolyn Said and Patricia Livingston have said Ammerman and Holwell had taken the children on a Florida vacation with their knowledge and consent.

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Heading # 37

0337145

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 19, 1987

TIME: 07:05ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0408

Bond was reduced for two members of the Finders communal organization facing child abuse charges, but the judge ordered the men to stay away from six children being held by the state pending a custody hearing.

Judge George Reynolds III reduced bond Wednesday from \$100,000 to \$20,000 each for Michael Holwell and Doug Ammerman and issued his stay-away order in the event the men are released from jail.

The men were arrested in a Tallahassee park Feb. 4 when they could not ain to police where they and the six dirty, hungry children with them ' going, or who the children belonged to. The group has since been tied to the Washington D.C.-based Finders communal organization.

the parents of three of the children. Paula Arico and Pat Livingston said they let their children go on vacation with Amme an and Howell and had "full faith" in them.

Reynolds also heard brief testimony from the parents of Ammerman and well. Ammerman's father, University of Florida agriculture professor rence Ammerman, said he did not see his son frequently, but that Doug Ammerman had come to his Gainesville home Jan. 20.

Holwell's father, New York high school math teacher James Holwell, said he had contact "on and off" with his son, his daughter-in-law Paula Arico, and their two children.

Holwell originally identified himself as Michael Houlihan, but was indicted as Holwell. Prosecutor C.L. Fordham said Holwell has refused to answer questions since his arrest and frequently goes "into a trance" when questioned.

Public defender Michael Minerva told Reynolds his clients are the center of a national controversy simply because they have an unusual lifestyle. But Fordham countered that the unusual case is far from settled.

"We've had a lot of roadblocks in this investigation," Fordham said.

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"There are still so many unanswered questions. It may all turn out to be really innocuous, but at this point I'm just not comfortable saying this is all we're going to have. We don't feel we have enough of a picture to let them waltz out of here."

;s (return) to continue...->

Heading # 38

0336575

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 17, 1987

TIME: 21:59ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0408

State officials told five women they will have to prove they are the mothers of six dirty, hungry children found in a park with two members of a communal organization before the issue of custody can be decided.

"It's not that we necessarily disbelieve these people are the mothers, but we need them to prove that," Connie Ruggles, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, said Monday. "Anybody could just walk in here and claim to be the parents."

Ruggles said the women claiming to be the children's mothers met with HRS District Two chief administrator John Awad Monday morning and discussed they needed to do to regain custody of the children.

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psychological evaluation.

Ruggles said Cawthon also could postpone a ruling while he seeks additional information.

In making his decision, she said, Cawthon will consider a report on ditions at the childrens' alleged home in Washington, D.C., to be prepared by HRS' sister agency in Washington.

The six children, dirty and hungry, were taken into state care Feb. 4 after their two adult companions were arrested in a Tallahassee park on child abuse charges. The men identified themselves as Douglas Edward Ammerman and James Michael Houlihan.

The group, and the five women, have been linked to the Finders, a Washington-based communal organization. Houlihan and Ammerman are currently being held in Leon County Jail on \$100,000 bond, awaiting trials on March 30 and March 31.

Ruggles did not have the names of the women involved. A copyright story Press (return) to continue...->

published by the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper on Sunday identified four of the women as Kristin Knauth, Judy Evans, Paula Arico and Carolyn Said.

Ruggles said Awad told the five women they would have to conclusively prove they are the mothers as the first step in gaining custody of the children. She said HRS would call in law enforcement officials to evaluate any proof presented by the women.

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Heading # 39

0336212

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 16, 1987

TIME: 14:03ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0413

Five women claiming to be members of the Finders organization met with state officials Monday in an attempt to gain custody of six children found dirty and hungry in a park with two other members of the group.

The women met with John Awad, chief administrator of the Health and Rehabilitative Services District Two, and discussed what the women needed to do to regain custody of the children, HRS spokeswoman Connie Ruggles said.

Ruggles did not have the names of the women involved. A copywright 'y in Sunday's Tallahassee Democrat identified four of the women as tin Knauth, Judy Evans, Paula Arico and Carolyn Said.

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The six, children were taken into state care or eb. 4 after their two adult companions were arrested in a Tallahassee park on child abuse charges. The men who have identified themselves as Douglas Edward Ammerman and James Michael Houlihan were arrested because the children were dirty hungry and the men could not explain who the children belonged to.

The group has since been linked to the Finders, a Washington, D.C.-based communal organization. Houlihan and Ammerman were being held in Leon County Jail on \$100,000 bond. The children were in a foster care facility undergoing evaluation by HRS psychologists.

Awad told the five women they would have to prove conclusively that they are the mothers as the first step in gaining custody of the children, Ruggles said. She said HRS would call in law enforcement officials to evaluate any evidence presented by the women.

"It's not that we necessarily disbelieve these people are the mothers, but we need them to prove that," Ruggles said. "Anybody could just walk in here and claim to be the parents."

The women will have a chance to claim the children in a juvenile court Press (return) to continue...->

hearing scheduled for March 9, when Circuit Court Judge Victor Cawthon will hold an adjudication hearing on HRS request for custody of the children, Ruggles said. Cawthon could either give custudy to the mothers, to HRS, or postpone a ruling while he seeks additional information, Ruggles said.

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Heading # 40

0336164

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: finders BY: BRIENZA, JULIE

DATELINE: WASHINGTON (UPI) February 15, 1987

TIME: 12:44ps CYCLE: bc

PRIORITY: Advanced for weekend WORD COUNT: 0743

Members of a bizarre Washington commune, whose rituals were initially feared to be satanic, portray themselves as unconventional but legal, a definition that puzzled police may soon come to accept.

When two members of The Finders were arrested in a Tallahassee, Fla., park Feb. 4 and charged with child abuse, the unusual group was thrust into the national spotlight.

Police pronounced them satanic and their rural Virginia retreat was scrutinized for human remains.

The sensationalism unraveled, first with Florida police recanting their inal suspicions that the men and children were involved in satanic is (return) to continue...>

rituals. Then, District of Columbia and Virginia police said their

veven scared. But one mother in the Finders describes herself and others as "perfectly good people."

"Granted, we have an alternative lifestyle," said the woman, who refused to give her name. "We're different from Mr. and Mrs. America next in. But we love our children and we're trying to lead a healthy, happy i.e. And to have this incredible barrage of attention and negativity toward us is really an awful feeling."

Tallahassee police announced early in the investigation of the men that they were believed to be part of a Devil worshipping cult based in the nation's capital that demands that members surrender their children.

"It is our belief these kids were not kidnapped but that their parents gave them away because one of the rites of passage into this satanic organization is that you have to give up your rights to your children," the police said.

But as more became known about the group, Tallahassee police backed off Press (return) to continue...->

on the alleged satanic link. Police also said it was unclear whether initial reports that least one of the children had been sexually abused could be substantiated.

Meanwile, other law enforcement agencies came up with evidence of plenty of odd doings, but no illegality.

Finally, district Police Chief Maurice Turner, whose detectives had been investigating the group since December, said the commune members pose "- threat to themselves more than anything else."

The children, ages 2 to 7 and giving such names as Honey Bee, John Paul Pope and Benjamin Franklin, have remained in foster homes since the men were arrested. The men still face child abuse charges and the parents a custody battle over the children.

They are waiting out what has evolved into a bizarre fairytale whose chapters include white-robed men at a goat-slaying ceremony in Virginia with youngsters holding goat fetuses.

A Finders spokesman, who met with reporters while wearing a Ronald Reagan mask over the back of his head, said the investigation, from the outset, was a mixup.

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"Reasonable people ... will realize a mistake has been made and it was blown way out of proportion and that it's gone much too far," said Robert Terrell.

Asked how he would characterize the Finders, Terrell said, "We are on the cutting edge of the wit and humor movement."

Reports of satanism surfaced when police seized pictures taken of a ceremony held on what appeared to be the Etlan, Va., farm. A goat's head, iskins and a scrapbook titled "The Execution of Henrietta and Igor" were confiscated.

Some pictures showed three men wearing white robes dismembering two

Terrell, saying the ceremony was held for the children, said it was meant to be an educational experience so they could see the insides of the goats. Robes were worn to make an impression on the youngsters, he said, to bring home the seriousness of killing an animal that was slaughtered for its meat.

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0335928

SECTION: Washington news

STORY TAG: finders BY: BRIENZA, JULIE

DATELINE: WASHINGTON (UPI) February 14, 1987

TIME: 09:40ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0705

Members of a bizarre Washington commune, with rituals initially feared to be satanic, portray themselves as unconventional but legal, a definition that puzzled police may soon come to accept.

Two men, who said they were members of The Finders, were arrested in a Tallahassee, Fla., park Feb. 4 with six children. The men were charged with child abuse and police pronounced the group satanic. The group's rural Virginia retreat was scrutinized for human remains.

The sensationalism unraveled, first with Florida police recanting their original suspicions that the men and children were involved in satanic rituals. Then, District of Columbia and Virginia police said their Press (return) to continue...->

investigations would not yield any criminal charges.

Still, the group seems bizarre. But one mother in The Finders describes herself and others as "perfectly good people."

"Granted, we have an alternative lifestyle," said the woman, who refused to give her name. "We're different from Mr. and Mrs. America next door. But we love our children and we're trying to lead a healthy, happy life. And to have this incredible barrage of attention and negativity toward us is really an awful feeling."

Tallahassee police announced early in the investigation that they believed the arrested men to be part of a devil-worshipping cult based in the nation's capital that demands that members surrender their children.

"It is our belief these kids were not kidnapped but that their parents gave them away because one of the rites of passage into this satanic organization is that you have to give up your rights to your children," the police said.

But as more became known about the group, Tallahassee police backed off that statement. Police also said it was unclear whether initial reports that least one of the children had been sexually abused could be substantiated.

plenty of odd doings, but no illegality.

Finally, District Plice Chief Maurice Turner, whose detectives had been investigating the group since December, said the commune members pose "a threat to themselves more than anything else."

The children, ages 2 to 7 and given such names as Honey Bee, John Paul Pope and Benjamin Franklin, have been in foster homes since the men were arrested. The men still face child abuse charges and the parents a custody battle.

A Finders spokesman, Robert Terrell, who met with reporters while wearing a Ronald Reagan mask over the back of his head, said the police investigation, from the outset, was a mixup.

"Reasonable people ... will realize a mistake has been made and it was blown way out of proportion and that it's gone much too far," said Terrell.

Asked how he would characterize the Finders, he said, "We are on the cutting edge of the wit and humor movement."

Reports of satanism surfaced when police seized pictures taken of a ceremony held on what appeared to be the Etlan, Va., farm. A goat's head, Press (return) to continue...->

goatskins and a scrapbook titled "The Execution of Henrietta and Igor" were also confiscated.

Some pictures showed three men wearing white robes dismembering two goats. Another picture showed at least one child showing a goat fetus to someone behind a hand-held camera.

Terrell, saying the ceremony was held for the children, said it was not to be an educational experience so they could see the insides of the goats. Robes were worn to make an impression on the youngsters, he said, to bring home the seriousness of killing an animal that was slaughtered for its meat.

Former members of the group said "game-playing" was the mainstay of their philosophy. They say it was often difficult to determine if group members were serious or if they were acting out a fantasy.

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Heading # 42

0335544

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 12, 1987

TIME: 05:07ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0401

3I agents have contacted the parents of six children found in a park i two men linked to the mysterious Finders organization, but interviews revealed no illegal activity by the parents, authorities said.

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"We have, uncovered nothing that would point to a illegal activity" by the parents, Sheppard said, but he declined to discuss the interviews.

Tallahassee police ended daily briefings on the arrest last week of two who were found in a city park with six young children described by ice as filthy and covered with insect bites and scratches.

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The men, who gave their names as Doug Ammerman and Michael Houlihan, were linked to the Finders, a Washington-based group police originally characterized as a satanic cult. Police subsequently backed off that description and now refer to the Finders simply as an organization.

Parents of the children being held in Florida talked publicly in Washington about the ordeal and their lifestyle on Wednesday.

"We are perfectly good people," said one mother, who appeared on CBS but refused to give her name. "Granted, we have an alternative lifestyle. We're different from Mr. and Mrs. America next door. But we love our children and we're trying to lead a healthy, happy life. And to have this incredible barrage of attention and negativity toward us is really an awful feeling.

Ammerman and Houlihan were arraigned Wednesday on one count each of misdemeanor child abuse charges. Houlihan also was arraigned on a single count of resisting arrest without violence.

Leon County Judge George Reynolds III refused to reduce the \$100,000 bond set for the two men, but did not immediately set a trial date.

The children were turned over to the state Department of Health and abilitative Services and are being interviewed by a child psychiatrist.

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### Heading # 43

0335280

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 11, 1987

TIME: 07:58ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0550

Six children taken from followers of the Finders group remained in state custody today and two men charged with abusing them entered pleas of innocent at their arraignment.

The two men, who have given their names as Doug Ammerman and Michael Houlihan, were arrested on Feb. 4 after they were spotted in a city park with six children described by arresting officers as filthy and covered with insect bites and scratches.

They have since been tied to the Washington, D.C.-based Finders ranization.

Both men appeared in court today and were ordered held on a single Press (return) to continue...->

count of child abuse not the six counts police earlier said had been filed. Neither man would speak with reporters.

State authorities indicated they were unsure the children had been abused at all.

Dr. Nauman Greenberg of Chicago, hired by the state Health and Rehabilitative Services Department, spent four hours with the children Tuesday.

Greenberg said the children seemed troubled but that he was not immediately sure whether the problem was caused by the children's upbringing or by their current circumstances.

The children, taken a week ago, will remain in state custody at least until Feb. 26, when state officials will go before a judge to recommend what should be done with the youngsters.

"Some of their problems were the kind you might see in children who had been institutionalized," Greenberg said. "The real casual contact they would have with adults reminded me of young children who had been on a latric ward for a long, long time."

The children seemed physically healthy but showed signs of being Press (return) to continue...->

The state took custody of the children last Wednesday when police arrested Ammerman and Homihan watching over the dim youngsters in a city park.

The men were being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

Health officials could not confirm statements made by Tallahassee police that two of the children were sexually abused.

John Award, the department administrator, said a doctor's report found a possibility of sexual abuse but no conclusive evidence.

"Our information does not substantiate that or unsubstantiate that," Awad said. "We are still in the process of looking at that, but we have come to no definitive conclusions."

In a related development, police in Etlan, Va., said they found no evidence of criminal activity in a search of a farm owned by Finders leader Marion Pettie and a house owned by his apparent sons, George and David Pettie.

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Virginia police spokesman Charles Vaughan said officers seized "a computer, software, a couple of goatskins, a goat head and some papers and various documents, writing and cards."

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Heading # 44

0335123

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 11, 1987

TIME: 12:30ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0425

The \$100,000 bond for two Finders group members facing misdemeanor child abuse charges is justified by the mystery surrounding the case and six children found with the men, the prosecutor said Wednesday.

The men, who have given their names as Doug Ammerman and Michael Houlihan, were arraigned on one count each of child abuse. Houlihan also was arraigned for a single misdemeanor count of resisting arrest without violence.

Public defender Michael Minerva asked Leon County Judge George Reynolds III to reduce their bond, but Reynolds said a special hearing is required on that issue.

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"It may be an unusually high bond, but it's an unusual case," said state attorney C.L. Fordham. "The bond is based more on the questions than

lives of six children," the prosecutor said.

Reynolds' entered pas of innocent for both men and said they would receive a jury trial. The men will remain in the Leon County Jail pending a trial. No court date was set.

Houlihan and Ammerman were arrested Feb. 4 after they were spotted in a city park with six children described by police as filthy and covered with insect bites and scratches. The men have since been linked to the Finders, a Washington, D.C., group police originally called a satanic cult. Police later backed off that description and now refer to the Finders simply as an organization.

Houlihan has given several names to investigators and he was arraigned as "Michael Holwell."

Houlihan appeared before Reynolds dressed in jail-issue blue pants and shirt, white socks, sandals and leg shackles. He seemed nervous, often Press (return) to continue...->

hesitating before answering questions and speaking in clipped, strained sentences.

Scott Hunt, Tallahassee police spokesman, said Tuesday both men had been charged with six counts of child abuse, but Fordham said papers sent by police listed only the single child abuse charge, plus the resisting charge against Houlihan.

Fordham said each charge is for the abuse of all six children, rather than a single count for abuse of a specific child. The men face up to one vear in jail and up to a \$1,000 fine on each count.

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Heading # 45

0334860

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children February 10, 1987

TIME: 16:03ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0465

Health and Rehabilitative Services district administrator John Awad said a physicians report found "a possibility" of sexual abuse, but no conclusive evidence.

"Our indications does not substantiate that or unsubstantiate that," Awad said. "We have come to no definitive conclusions."

Police in ETLAN, Va., meanwhile, dug a 30-foot trench on a farm owned by Finders leader Marion Pettie looking for what an unidentified source imed were "buried remains."

Virginia State Police spokesman Charles Vaughan said no remains human or animal were found. The unidentified source told police there were two

Tallahassee police had said last week that two or more of the children taken into state custody ad been sexually abused.

HRS took custody of the children last Wednesday after police arrested two Finders watching over six filthy children in a Tallahassee city park. men, who identified themselves as Michael Houlihan and Doug Ammerman, e charged with six counts of child abuse and were being held in lieu of

\$100,000 bond.

Meanwhile, the HRS, under the supervision of Chicago child psychiatrist Nauman Greenberg, has begun interviewing the six youngsters. Greenberg said his preliminary interviews suggested the children had a living arrangement that was "probably not very healthy."

"Some of their problems were the kind you might see in children who had been institutionalized," Greenberg said. "The real casual contact they would have with adults reminded me of young children who had been on a pediatric ward for a long long time."

The children are being kept at a secret location because of phone threats.

Police in Washington raided two buildings belonging to the Finders last Thursday and found numerous pictures, including some of nude children and Press (return) to continue...->

children taking part in animal sacrifices.

Greenberg said he had not discussed animal sacrifice or sexual abuse in his initial talks with the children because he did not want to traumatize themimmediately by forcing them to deal with possibly painful subjects.

The children will remain in HRS care until at least Feb. 26, when the must go before a circuit judge to recommend what should be done with them. That recommendation could include more time in state care.

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Heading # 46

0334776

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 09, 1987

TIME: 02:42ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0490

There is evidence of sexual abuse involving more than one of the six children found hungry and dirty in a park last week with two apparent members of a mysterious cult, police said.

"We now know more than one child was abused," police spokesman Scott Hunt said Sunday. "How many we are not going to say, in what manner we are going to say and how recently we are not going to say."

The children, aged 2 to 6, are in the custody of state health officials and under police guard following the arrest last Wednesday of the two men,

ridentified himself as R. Gardner Terrell said the children were not Press (return) to contin

mistreated and received adequate care and were taken "on a vacation-camping trip to the warmer climate of Florida with the full applause and approval the children's mothers."

The letter claimed the men and the children went to Berea, Ky., to help in construction of "New Hope," a retirement community organized by Rev. Jim Wyker, but the project was not ready for their help.

Wyker and Willis B. Hunting told The Miami Herald the men and children arrived at the community last month in a van.

"The kids had lots of clothes and lots of food and they were wonderful, healthy and vigorous," Wyker told the newspaper. "They weren't dominated. They weren't reticent, but they weren't aggressive, either."

Hunting, who along with his wife Lucile runs a Montessori school near Wyker's property, said that when he asked the men about the children's parents, they told him the parents were members of "The Finders" cult.

Authorities say "The Finders" is a mysterious cult based in the Washington area that may have ties to satanism. Washington police have found pictures of the children in ceremonies involving the bloodletting of animals.

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The authenticity of the letter and its claims could not be confirmed and Washington police said they had not yet formally received a copy.

Two police detectives from Washington arrived in Tallahassee Sunday to question the children and possibly talk to the suspects, who are charged with aggravated child abuse and resisting arrest without violence. They are being held in lieu of \$100,000\$ bond each.

The children identified in the letter as Mary Arico, John Paul Arico, Max Berns, Ben Knauth, Honeybee Evans and Bebe Said are believed to be the sons and daughters of cult members and not kidnap victims, authorities said.

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Heading # 47

0334622

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 09, 1987

TIME: 14:28ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0702

ublicity surrounding six children taken from members of the Finders cult has brought a flood of questions from anxious parents of missing children, a police spokesman said Monday.

made nationwide headlines Thursday.

"What really breaks your heart is the call you get from the sincere mother from somewhere out in the Midwest saying, 'My daughter was kidnapped two years ago, I'm sure the picture I saw was her, I need to come down re, I want my daughter back,'" Hunt said. "You try not to build up any se hope in them, so that when we find out the identities of the Press (return) to continue...->

children, if it's not her daughter, then this lady isn't suffering again."

Hunt said authorities had "tentative" identifications of the children, but refused to release those names until they are confirmed. He said he believes the children eventually will be shown to be children of Finders members, and not runaways or kidnap victims.

The children have been in state care since Wednesday, when police arrested their two adult companions for child abuse after they were spotted watching over six filthy children in a city park. State officials said they determined at least two of the children had been sexually abused.

The men, who identified themselves as Michael Houlihan and Doug Ammerman, have since been linked to the Finders, a Washington D.C.-based cult. They are being held in the Leon County jail in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

Washington police, acting on information supplied by Tallahassee officers, raided two buildings belonging to Finders' members in the District of Columbia. They found numerous pictures in those raids, including pictures of nude children and children taking part in animal sacrifice.

Hunt said his office received about 450 calls from reporters between rsday and Sunday and took about 50 more by noon Monday. Calls about the LLess (return) to continue...->

children multiplied after pictures of the youngsters, supplied by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, were published in newspapers and televised.

Hunt said authorities released the pictures in hopes of finding relatives, even though it meant public exposure of sexually abused children. He noted authorities have not said which of the children had been sexually abused, and added the pictures resulted in many new leads.

Hunt said authorities also are investigating a possible Finders presence in Gainesville, Fla., but could offer no specifics.

"We believe there was a Gainesville connection, either they've traveled to there, they've stayed there or were planning to go, exactly what the connection was we don't know," Hunt said.

Hunt said two Washington police investigators were still in Tallahassee, but had not yet spoken to the children. He said Tallahassee police would concentrate on determining the children's identity, including checking all calls from potential relatives.

Hunt said the FBI would handle the investigation of a memo delivered ing the weekend to Washington police from Robert Gardner Terrell, the ss (return) to continue...->

Finders member who owns the two buildings raided by police. In the memo,

Terrell told CBS aff iate WUSA-TV the group new abused children.

"We never touch a child except with love," Terrell said. "We're allowing the children to grow up in touch with their own intuition, to rn at their own speed, to learn how to walk and to talk when they turally feel that it's time to learn to walk and talk and read."

Terrell said the children's parents had not come to claim them for fear they would be arrested.

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Heading # 48

0334524

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children February 08, 1987

TIME: 14:01ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0484

Meanwhile, a man claiming to be a member of the group, in a letter sent to news organizations in Washington, defended the two men in police custody in Florida and said the children had been properly treated.

In Tallahassee, police spokesman Scott Hunt said, "We now know more than child was abused. How many we are not going to say, in what manner we are not going to say and how recently we are not going to say."

Two police detectives from Washington arrived in Tallahassee Sunday to question the children and possibly the suspects, who are charged with aggravated child abuse and resisting arrest without violence and being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond each.

The two men, who identified themselves as Michael Houlihan, 23, and Press (return) to continue...->

Douglas Ammerman, 27, were arrested Wednesday after they were seen in a Tallahassee park with the six filthy, poorly dressed children.

Authorities said the men are members of "The Finders," a mysterious cult based in the Washington area that may have ties to satanism. Washington police have found pictures of the children in ceremonies involving the bloodletting of animals.

The letter sent to news organizations, from a man who identified himself as R. Gardner Terrell, said the children traveled with their mothers' approval from Washington to Berea, Ky., in January, and then to Florida.

The letter said the children were not mistreated and received adequate e, and were taken "on a vacation-camping trip to the warmer climate of rida with the full applause and approval of the children's mothers."

The document claimed the men and the children went to Berea to help in

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Wyker, reached by telephone in Berea, confirmed that the men and the children visited him in puary and said the youngst swere in "excellent" Press (return) to continue...->

shape. But Wyker, who said he never practiced as a minister, refused to e details about himself or his relationship with the cult members.

The authenticity of the letter and its claims could not be confirmed and Washington police said they had not yet formally received a copy.

The children identified in the letter as Mary Arico, John Paul Arico, Max Berns, Ben Knauth, Honeybee Evans and Bebe Said are believed to be the sons and daughters of cult members and not kidnap victims, authorities said.

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Heading # 49

0334457

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 07, 1987

TIME: 21:18ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0584

plice said six filthy and confused young children taken from two men charged with child abuse have been given away by their parents as part of a satanic cult ritual.

Authorities in Tallahassee and Washington were trying today to learn the identities of the six children, locate their parents and learn more about an unidentified "satanic cult" apparently based in Washington.

Meanwhile, two men who identified themselves as Michael Houlihan and Doug Ammerman names police believe are phony were being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond on child abuse charges.

The men were arrested in a city park Wednesday after someone called Press (return) to continue...->

police about two well-dressed men in a blue van watching over  $\operatorname{six}$  "filthy" children.

"It is our belief these kids were not kidnapped, but that their parents gave them away because one of the rites of passage into this satanic organization is that you have to give up your rights to your children, and that the leaders of this organization can do what they want to with your children," police spokesman Scott Hunt said Friday.

"I believe what you're going to find when this all shakes down is that kids' parents belong to this organization."

"Until we can figure out where everything is, we can't say a whole lot," said Walt Ferguson, a police spokesman in Washington.

D.C.' warehouse linked to the group include those of children engaged in what appeared to be "cultivituals."

The newspaper said the group was known as "The Finders" and was made up of about 40 people who lived in the District of Columbia and a farm in al Virginia, the remains of a popular 1960s hippie refuge that evolved as (return) to continue...->

into a satanist society.

Hunt said a 6-year-old girl in the group showed signs of sexual abuse.

The children four boys and two girls raning in age from 2 to 6 were put in state custody.

Merrill Moody of the state health department said the youngsters were "confused," but were doing well and will remain in state care until relatives can found who are able to provide "a safe and healthy home."

Hunt said the children, who had not bathed in days and were covered with scratches and insect bites, told police they had not eaten in 24 hours. He said they had "bizarre" names like "Benjamin Franklin," "Honey Bee" and "B.B."

Police also believe the two men gave false names. A check of the Virginia license plate on their van showed it belonged to a man matching Houlihan's description, but with a different name, Hunt said.

The men initially told police they were taking the youths to Mexico to begin a school for "brilliant" children. When they could not explain the c'ildren's condition or name their parents, Hunt said, the men refused to 3s (return) to continue...->

answer further questions.

The children told police they had not seen their mothers since before Christmas. One girl said the men fed them mostly fruit and all of them had been sleeping in the van or in a tent.

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Heading # 50

0334358

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: children-finders

DATELINE: WASHINGTON (UPI) February 07, 1987

TIME: 22:17ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0456

An investigation into the alleged abuse of six children found with two men in a Tallahasse, Fla. park appears to be leading authorities toward a tanic organization based in and around the nation's capital.

The men, identifying themselves as Michael Houlihan and Doug Ammerman, were arrested Wednesday in a city park after an anonymous caller told

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"The children are suspected of being victims of a cult that requires members to give away the children, police spokesma Scott Hunt said.

"It 'is our belief these kids were not kidnapped but that their parents dave them away because one of the rites of passage into this satanic 'ss (return) to continue...->

organization is that you have to give up your rights to your children, and that the leaders of this organization can do what they want to with your children," Hunt said.

District of Columbia police, based on information found in the van, have searched a house on W Street, NW, and a warehouse on Fourth Street, NE., linked to a group called "the Finders," a 1960s-style commune described in a court document as a "cult" that allegedly conducted "brainwashing" and used children "in rituals."

A Washington Post report Saturday quotes police sources as saying some of the items seized from the two district locations showed pictures of children engaged in what appeared to be "cult rituals."

U.S. Customs Service officials, called in to aid in the investigation, said the material seized includes photos showing children involved in bloodletting ceremonies of animals and one photograph of a child in chains.

Customs officials said they were investigating whether a child pornography operation was being conducted.

The Finders are the remains of a popular 1960s hippie refuge that evolved into a satanist group dedicated to communalism and to studying the press (return) to continue...->

\_.cure, according to court documents.

The leader of the group is Marion Pettie, a retired military man, according to U.S. District Court documents in Washington.

In addition to the Washington locations, the group is also linked to a farm in Etlan, Va.

FBI agents and Virginia State police Friday night were expected to get search warrants for two cabins on the farm allegedly used by the group to forcibly separate children from their parents who were members of the cult.

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0334357

SECTION: General news STORY TAG: children Y: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

ATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 07, 1987

TIME: 13:47ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Urgent WORD COUNT: 0521

to another location and place them under guard.

A half dozen threats were received Thursday evening at the police department and the foster home where two of the children were being kept, police spokesman Scott Hunt said. The location of that foster home had been ret and Hunt said he did not know how the caller got the phone number.

At the request of the FBI, Hunt refused to elaborate on the calls. But he said the calls dealt with the children's safety.

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Hunt also refused to discuss the measures taken to protect the children. He said tapes of the calls to the police station were being evaluated, and that police did not know if the calls came from a "local crackpot" or were tied to "The Finders."

"You never underestimate the power of somebody who wants to do damage to young children," Hunt said. "That we have had threats has put us on alert."

The six children, ages 2 to 6, are in the custody of state health officials following the arrest of their two adult companions Wednesday. State health officials, police and the FBI are all attempting to determine the children's real names and relatives.

The two men, who identified themselves as Michael Houlihan and Douglas Ammerman, were arrested after they were seen in a park with the six filthy, poorly dressed children. Both are being held on \$100,000 bond.

Police said one of the children, a 6-year-old girl, had been sexually sed. The two men and the youngsters have been linked to "The Finders," a ..., sterious cult in Washington D.C. Police suspect the children were turned over to the cult as part of their parents' initiation.

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Virginia State Police and Madison County, Va., sheriff's officers served five search warrants early Saturday in the area of the Pettie Farm, a 90-acre property near the Shenandoah National Park. Owner Marion Pettie is reported to be the founder of "The Finders."

Evidence was seized and would be analyzed, but, "no obvious new evidence of criminal activity was found," Virginia State Police Lt. J.P. Henries said.

The Washington Post reported a police search of a Washington warehouse linked to the group turned up large numbers of photographs, slides, and photographic contact sheets. Some of the photos, the Post reported, were of children, some of them nude.

The Post cited police sources who said some of the pictures were of children engaged in what appeared to be "cult rituals." U.S. Customs officials said the confiscated material included pictures of children involved in bloodletting ceremonies of animals and there was one photograph of a child in chains.

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Total charges thus far: \$205.00

## Charges:

Database Charges:

2 Searches: \$18.00 70 Additional Citations: \$63.00 13 Full Text: \$117.00 1 Scans: \$1.00 Surcharges \$6.00

Total Charges: \$205.00

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Thank you for using IQuest



Police Department 234 Fast Seventh Average Tallohassee, Florida 32303

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COMPLAINT/ARREST AFFIDAVIT — CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT — LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
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Police Deputien 62234 East Seventh Avenual Tallohossee, Florido 32303

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Police Depo ent.
234 East Seventh Avenual
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Fort Seventh Avenue Verlaustra, Floride, 12301

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POLICE DE	PARTMENT - TALLAHA	SSEE, FLA.
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PD-139-B

BALLAND & CONTRACTOR CO. Sec. TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE/PROPERTY RECEIPT STATE 1. Cox Number - 3990 STATE OF STA 6. Address Where Property Lychide Impounded ICINe exact location property located 234 E, 17th AVE, TALL: POLICE. DEAT. R = REPORTING PERSON P = DISCOVERING PERSON 0 - DWXER S - SUSPECT 9.8200 10 Sex 11, D.U.R. Name flast First Missie CODES 4/M <u>:</u>-16. 🗆 Venicle Boat 15, 🗌 N/A 18 State 19, XXX 22. Style 17, UKENSE/CF NO. 20. ¥00d 21, Year 25.Color/ISI Suspect
Noom ☐ Motortycle INFORMATION 24. SPECIAL FEATURES EXTENSIVE DAMAGE COOPS 20 DRIVER'S SIDE 1 BOOY DANGE \_ \_\_ 6 TIMTED CLASS 21 PASSENCER'S SIDE 2 BOOY PARTS MISSING \_ 7 RUST/PRIMER . 22 FRONT 8 STRIPES/SCENES . 3 WINDOW DAMACE \_ 23 REAR 4 WINDOW MISSING \_\_ 24 ENTIRE BOOT 5 DECUMPULUESTICKER 10 CURTARS 1 25 ALL WINDOWS ۰۰۰ و ۱۰ یا تقانطی 25. Yehlde Secured 26. Radio 27, Tage Deck 28 Battery 30, Hubcops 51. Nile296 29, Spare Tire 316 C.W DIS DIO CIE CIO DITE DIM CITE CINO 32. Vehicle Identification Number (VIXI) 33, If Towed, Name of Carage/Squature of Driver 34, Owner Hottheo/By Whom/Date CIES CIMO 37, Karrative/Description flockude igentifying marks, O.L. number, S.S.R.I S& Quantity Weight/Count 35. Item No. #1... RADIU SHACK CONPUTER THIS EVIDENCE MAYE RELEASED TO OWNE. 38 MCK (neck 10 Prooring Value 80 39 HUM SEDERSTED THE FI 41 5 CKALK OF CUSTODY NUMBER 43 RE PROPER SEAL L'HOLBITHEN Broken by Receives Date Time 24-18-8 EVIOENCE RESEALED 13 Tes 13 No 44. DEC PURPRISEAUCATION ) RECEIVED WITH SEAL. tok D Broken ( LANDAT SEALE V MOR BROKEN BY RECEIVER Stor In Person C Droo Box C) Other EVIDENCE RESEALED; CITIS CINO

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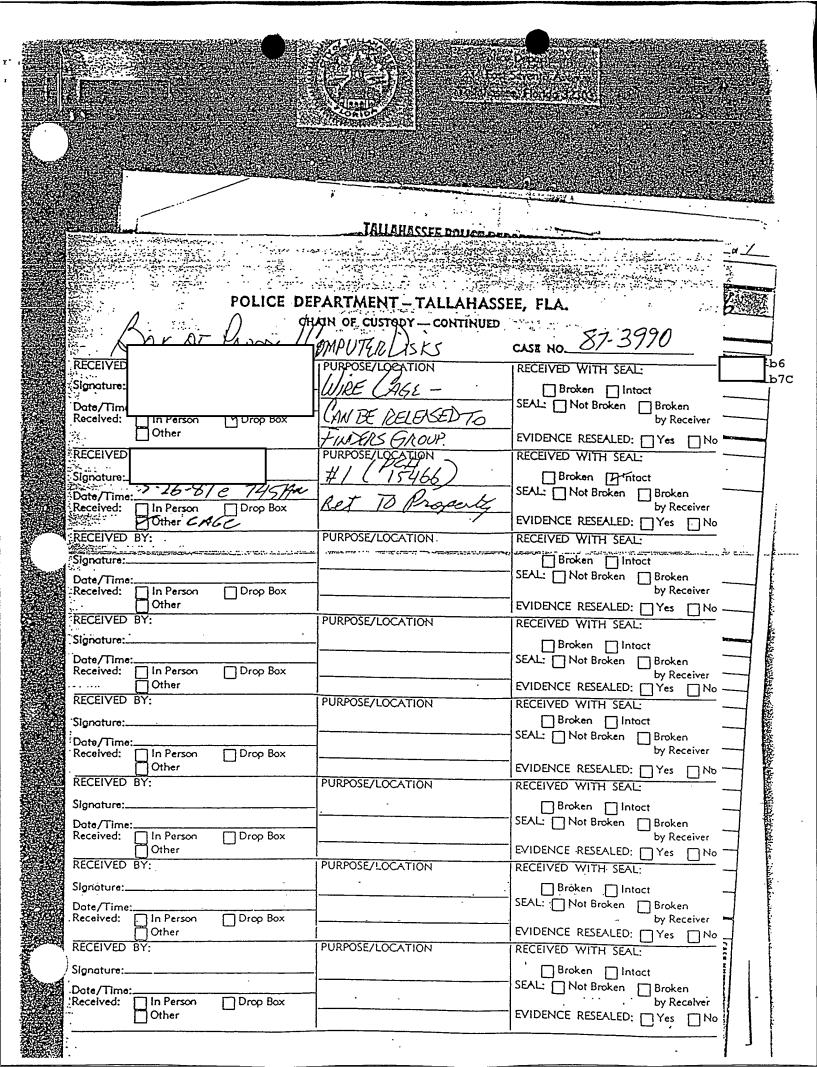


234 East Seventh Avenue Talkhassee, Florida 32303

TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT
VEHICLE/PROPERTY RECEIPT THE OF CHIME OF MODERN ABUSC bere property yeards impounded note east location property location E. SEVENT & AUE. S = SUSPECT P - DISCOVERNIC PERSON R ... REPORTING PERSON 0 - OWNER 14. Business Prione 7. COOES: 9. text 10. Ser 11. 0.0 A b6 M PERSON CODES b7C ম SΪ D 23 Colorasi 22 Style 21, Ye¥ o 20. Model R 18 State 19. Make 17 UCEOSEICE NO. 15 🗀 NA T. TE BOUL Moded Motortycle : NCDU EXTENSIVE DANKAGE (CODES 10 24. SPECIAL FEATURES 20 DRIVER'S SIDE 21 PASSENCER'S SICE \_\_\_ 6 THITED CUSS 1 900Y DAMAGE \_ 22 FRONT \_\_ 7 RUST/PRIMER . 2 BOOT PARTS MISSING \_\_\_\_ 23 KAR 8 STRIPES/SCENES 3 WONDOW DAMAGE . 24 EKTIRE BOOT 9 FOCASPOT LICHT 4 MINDOW MISSING ... SE WIT MAKOOMS 10 CURTURS S DECAUPLAQUE/STROKER \_ 31 MHeage 26, 8300 27, Tage Deck 28. BOTTETY -25, Yenkie Secured ∷ಚಕ (11ts 1 No ; 118 C2N Owner Notified By Whort/Date 32 Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) 36. Uuantity Weight/Count 35 Item No. 25 b6 36 23 30 31 77 74 39 HOID REQUESTED ! REQUESTING PERSON ! PURPO 10 SE MCK (Dect THE FOLLOWING HAVED INDIVIDUALS HAVE HAD CUSTOOT OF THE LIEU'S LISTED ABOVE CASE 15 PCYTING OLGADA GERATO 150A DEST TO YUNES 41 -SKNATURE OF SEIZHE OFFICER はひゃれん じょいううつ PURPOSE-LOCATION TKIRE CYPTS PYPC∉107 /432 43 RECEIVED RY No Broken Dr. Brimser ENICENCE SESEMED Dubb gos TK NIM 03/13)33 M. RECEIVED BY SEAT HOT BLOKED DOM Broken by Received Signature GENERAL BENEAUS Date/Dime . Duco Box : Other 10 PHT500 Received COCDEXSOO-OMOSCALGERS DILLS PHIX-Special Operations CANARY-MCI

MHILE-SARRECLE CARRETT SACOURT

P D 139



PD-139-B-1000 Artaroft

TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE/PROPERTY RECEIPT 87 The vehicle towed in the above listed case report was released on to the owner or legal representative of the owner, according Attached is an itemized receipt listing the charges paid ٠٠٠. · Ŋ., .... . . . . . . THE PARTY STORESTON OF THE . . . 4 . mana at a construction and marketiness and 2611-D Spring Hill Rd, P.O. Box 6014 Tallahassee, Fla. 32304 Tallahassee, Fla. 32314 (904) 575-3045 or 576-2363 19 8 : <u>: : :</u> . ...... 421  $\mathcal{C}$ Havis CASE NUMBER □ ∞~ RECEMED BY

D 270 844

CONTINUATION C TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFENSE REPORTING FORM JUVENILE INVOLVED D ĝb6 CASE STATUS (STATUS MUST BE INDICATED FOR ALL CASES INCLUDING HON CRIMINAL INCIDENTS) ₿ь7с C) 3 SUSPENCED 1 OPEY (PENDING) CIOSED 2 CASE DISPOSITION (DISPOSITION OF CRIMINAL CASES MAY SE INDICATED AS APPROPRIATE)

On the dounded of the control WHITE-Central Records CAKARY-NCI PD 105 Period 1/84



## CEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

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### CASE CHRONOLOGY & REVIEW FORM

(		, 4200-01 (37), P&PM (Special Agent Handbook)	
DATE	TIME EXPENDED	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	
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# PARTMENT OF THE TREASURY FED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE



CASE NUMBER
TL09MS7TL004

### SUBJECT INDEX

4200-01 (37), P&PM (Special Agent Handbook)

SUBJECT	IDENTIFYING DATA (Aḍdress, PMV Data, Personal ID Data)	DATE INDEXED
"FINDERS" The	Washington, D.C.	021287
	W/M	021287 b6 b7C
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DEPARTM UNITED ST	ENT (	OF THE TE	REA SEI
CLASS			

	T OF THE TRE	ERVICE				
		CA	ASE ASSIGNA	MENT RECORD		
CLASS I	I		(SEE INSTRUC	TIONS BELOW)		
1. DATE ASSIGNED (Mo., Day, Yr.)	2. CASE DISPOS (Check One)	ITION	3. CASE NUMBER			
021287	XXOpen	Trans- ferred				
4. CASE ASSIGNED TO	(Agents Name & S	oc. Sec. No.)	:	5. CASE TRANSFERRED FROM (Agents	: Name & Soc. Sec. No.)	
6. PERSON/FIRM "FINDERS"				7. ADDRESS (No., Street, City, State, Zip	code)	
8. SOURCE: ŢPD/TL						
9. NATURE OF CASE	9. NATURE OF CASE  Assistance to TPD reference poss. child porno/abuse					
	instructions Closed 021287					
1. Date will be in numeric form, e.g., March 29, 1971 will be entered: 03 29 71.			oc 4	4. Enter name and social security number of agent the case is being assigned to.  This will apply to new cases or transferred cases. (Use stamp)		
2. Check appropriate bo	x.		5	i. If case is being transferred, enter name ar	nd social security number of agent	
3. Case number format is cited on pages 13-34 o		•	les	the case is being transferred from. (Use s	tamp)	
DISTRIBUTION: 1.	Office Copy	2	. Data Input Copy	3. Utility Copy	4. Case Agent Copy	
					Customs Form 9 (6-26-74)	

1. SAC'S COPY

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LASE INITIATION	*
ASSIGN CASE NO	CASE TITLE
ASSIGN TO	FINDERS b6
CLASS	b7E
PROGRAM CODE	+
RECORD ACCESS <u> </u>	
SOURCE TALLAHASSEE P.D	
NATURE OF CASE Assistance To Tilla. PD  RE Poss. Child BenofAbuse	
COMMENTS  Open/Close to	
	b6 b7C
SUPERVISOR	

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C.	-3	•	
. PAGE	PAG	ES	_
1	OF 3		
CASE NUM	RER		

	REPORT	OF INVESTIG	ATION	1	OF 3 .
		•		3 CASE	NUMBER
	4200-01	(37), P&PM (Special Agent Handb	ook)		
4. TITLE			·		· ·
"FI	NDERS"				
5: CASE STATUS					b7E
Initial Report	Interim Report	Disp. Pending	X Open & Close	Index & File	- Closing Report
6. REPORT DATE	7. DATE ASSIGNED	8, CLASS	9. PROGRAM CODE	10. REPORT NO.	
021287	021287			one	
11. RELATED CASE FILE NUM	BERS			•	
12. UNDEVELOPED LEADS TO	<u></u>				
None					
13. TYPE OF REPORT					
Tort	Search Warrant Executions	Penalty Case Report	Memorandum of Interview	Initial Source Documentation	Source Debrief
Investigative		Surveillance		Request for	X other assistance
Findings 14. SYNOPSIS	Subpoena Service	Report	Background	Collateral	LAU to local I
This agent requested police der were a Vin about livi	se, were being ed of them put to contacted Stelephone nupartments in reginia licensing in a Wash edy, this off poolitan Poli	sylvery evasive of the character of the	RAC/Resolves of police of follow-up of that the children and the children at the children and the children at the	th multiple ce in the quesheir condition ton, Virginia persons in an two leads we ldren had compate the menwith each oth	tions on.  , and b6 rea b7c hich mented  Washington, and children.
SAC/RAC	STRIBUTION AC/TA; RAC/DC	Special A	gent		
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CPPU	FILE	18. ORIGIN OFFICE			PHONE NUMBER
отнев	Original		Enforcement	20. TYPI	ST'S INITIALS
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<u> </u>		Tallanass	ee, Fl 32301	<u> </u>	

THIS DOCUMENT IS LOANED TO YOU FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY AND REMAINS THE PROPERTY OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE, ANY FURTHER REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE OF THIS DOCUMENT OR INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN SHOULD BE REFERRED TO HEADQUARTERS, U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE, TOGETHER WITH A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT.



### DEPART T OF THE TREASURY UNITED TES CUSTOMS SERVICE

# REPORT OF INVESTIGATION CONTINUATION

4200-01 (37), P&PM (Special Agent Handbook)

1, PAGE		PAGES	
2	OF	. 3	
2. CASE NUI	MBER		
			b7E
3, REPORT	NUMBER	•	
one			

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION:	
On Thursday, February 5, 1987, this office was contacted via telephone, by sergeant, of the Tallahassee Police Department, Juvenile Division. Sgt requested assistance in identifying two adult males and six minor children ages	
The adult males were tentatively identified by TPD as b6 per and both of Washington, D.C., who were arrested the b7C previous day on charges of child abuse.	
rri ini dia ang ang balang laban dagarihad	b6 b7C
The children were covered with insect bites, were very dirty, most of ne children were not wearing underwear and all the children had not ween bathed in many days.	
The men were arrested and charged with multiple counts of child abuse and lodges in the Leon County Jail. Once in custody the men were somewhat evasive in their answers to the police regarding the children and stated only that they both were the children's teachers and that all were enroute to Mexico to establish a school for brilliant children.	
The children tentatively were identified as	
b3 per F b6 per I b7C	
This office contacted the Office of the RAC/DC and spoke with SS/A  This agent requested telephone numbers and names of police persons in area departments that might be aware of said activities described by the children and to follow-up on the leads which were the Virginia license number and a check on the men's names with local law enforcement.	



#### T OF THE TREASURY .res customs service DEPART REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

## CONTINUATION

4200-01 (37), P&PM (Special Agent Handbook)

1. PAGE	PAGES	
. 3 OF	. 3	
2. CASE NUMBER		
		b7E
3. REPORT NUMBER		
one		

A short time later this office was contacted by Detective, of the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department. indicated that the case here in Tallahassee appeared to be strongly related to a case he was currently working in the Washington, D.C. area.	b6 b7C
He stated that the actions of the two men in custody in Tallahassee relative the children just might give his case enough probable cause for search warrants to search premises occupied by a cult group called the FINDERS.	
This agent directed to telephone TPD and discuss with police directly any activities forthcoming relative the instant case.	ь6 ь70
At this time it was determined that there was no Customs violations found to exist and therefore, this case is being closed pending receipt of additional information.	
ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY	
IDENTIFYING DATA QUERIES:	b7E
SUBSTANTIATED  :F-23B attached)	
SUBSTANTIATED (CF-23B attached)	
"FINDERS" ALLEGED (CF-23B attached)	





#### IDENTIFYING DATA WORKSHEET

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### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SCRVICE

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# DEPARTMENT OF THE THEASURY UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

## REPORT OF INVESTIGATION CONTINUATION

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#### DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION:

On March 31, 1987, I contacted Detective of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). I was to meet with Detective to review the documents seized pursuant to two search warrants executed in February 1987. The meeting was to take place on April 2 or 3, 1987.	<b>b</b> 6
On April 2, 1987, I arrived at MPD at approximately 9:00 a.m. Detective was not available. I spoke to a third party who was willing to discuss the case with me on a strictly "off the record" basis.	ь70
I was advised that all the passport data had been turned over to the State Department for their investigation. The State Department in turn, advised MPD that all travel and use of the passports by the holders of the passports was within the law and no action would be taken. This included travel to Moscow, North Korea, and North Vietnam from the late 1950's to mid 1970's.	
The individual further advised me of circumstances which indicated that the investigation into the activity of the FINDERS  The MPD report has been classified secret and was not available for review. I was advised that the FBI had withdrawn from the investigation several weeks prior and that the FBI had directed MPD not to advise the FBI Washington Field Office of anything that had transpired.	b7E
No further information will be available. No further action will be taken.  ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY	I per FB
No action to be taken on the basis of this report.	

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# Officials Weigh Future of Finders' Children

#### Two Members Plead Not Guilty to Misdemeanor Neglect Charges in Florida

By Marc Fisher and Victoria Churchville

As police wind down their investigations of the Washington-based Finders commune, the process begins to determine the future of the six children found unkempt and hungry in a van with two Finders members in Florida last week—a process that experts said yesterday is likely to be long and complex.

The children, who range in age from 2 to 7, will remain in emergency shelters until a March 9 hearing at which child advocates will argue that the youngsters should be declared dependents of the state, said Connie Ruggles, spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services in Tallahassee.

While Florida law requires that the state try to reunite families, the state's neglect law may prevent that. And cases in other states provide precedent for dramatic state intervention in child-rearing by religious or communal groups.

The two Finders members found with the children, Douglas Ammerman, 27, and Michael Holwell, 23, pleaded not guilty yesterday to a misdemeanor charge of child neglect in Tallahassee.

Prosecutor C.L. Fordham told Leon County Judge George Reynolds III that the \$100,000 bond set for each of the two Finders members is justified by the mystery surrounding the case. Reynolds appointed a public defender to represent the men, who previously said they had a private attorney. Ammerman and Holwell have refused to answer questions.

The Finders, a secretive group of about 20 people who lived communally, generally refuse to talk about the group to outsiders. Their leader, Marion Pettie, advocates a philosophy of "falling limp," both physically and mentally, in the face of opposition. During his arrest last week, Holwell pretended to faint and had to be carried to a police car, police said.

The Finders' failure to seek custody of the children has puzzled Florida authorities. While spokesmen for the group in Washington say the mothers want their children back, no one from the Finders has contacted state officials, Ruggles said.

"We don't even know who the parents are." she said.

But a spokeswoman for the group said last night that the five mothers were already on their way to Tallahassee to reclaim their children.

"They waited to finish the FBI interviews first before they went to Tallahassee," said Diane Sherwood, who said the women were

in San Francisco Feb. 4 when the men were arrested.

"The mothers wanted to go right to Tallahassee, their first instinct was to go right, for the children . . . [but] the FBI was asking them to come to Washington, so it seemed like the thing to do. We thought there'd be papers here, a subpoena or something. We didn't really know where to go first."

Sherwood said the mothers were not aware of the arrests until two days later. A Finders spokesman said previously that communication among group members had been fragmented by police seizures here of sophisticated computer hookups and long-distance telephone numbers.

A Finders member reached at the group's warehouse yesterday said the "father of record" of each child is not necessarily that child's biological father.

"We don't consider fatherhood to be a healthy concept," said the man, who spoke on condition that he not be named. "We're all fathers of all the kids and any man who has a good relationship with the child is the father."

Sherwood ridiculed the accusations of abuse. "A hundred thousand dollars bond for a misdemeanor? What were the charges—dirty faces and mismatched clothes? . . . If

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there was a mistake in judgment, it was a mistake in judgment; it's not shild abuse."

Nevertheless, Sherwood said, the mothers felt that if they had been left in charge of the children, there would have been no allegations of abuse.

Despite the Finders' unorthodox child-rearing philosophy, Ruggles said "an alternative life style is not automatically neglect. But if the parents come forward and object to state custody, we would investigate

the home situation."

Under Florida's neglect law, children can be taken by the state if the parents deprive children—or "allow children to be deprived"—of food, clothing, shelter or medical treatment. The Finders say children should be weaned from their mothers and reared by the group with lit-

Te adult supervision.

Similar cases have pitted governments against groups with unusual beliefs. In 1984, police and welfare authorities in Vermont raided the Kingdom Community Church and rounded up 112 children after an investigation found that children were sometimes whipped with branches or rods for crying, daydreaming or fibbing. Criminal abuse tharges were eventually dropped and prosecutors are now seeking a ruling on whether church members must send their children to school. said Vermont Attorney General Jeff Amestoy.

In another case, involving a radical New York commune called the Fourth Wall Repertory Company, member Marice Pappo said commune leaders took her infant from her because she and the child had grown too attached. Harold Mayerson, Pappo's lawyer in a custody ouit, said the group denied children their right to bond with parents. But Martin Stolar, attorney for Pappo's husband, said the state "has to be very careful about what it determines is a fit environment."

Some psychiatrists argue for state protection of children living in cults and cult-like settings. David Halperin, a psychiatry professor at Mount Sinai Medical School in New York City, said members of some such groups often profess to take tare of their children, but in fact ignore them.

"Within these groups, the parents tend to focus on their own state of being and children tend to be seen as an impediment," he said. "A group cannot relate to a child the same way a parent can relate to a

child."

This is not the first time the Finders' child rearing has attracted government attention. A grandmother of one of the children now in Florida said her grandson and other Finders' children have been sheltered by the District twice in recent years. In October 1985, D.C. police picked up two children they found wandering "cold and hungry" near the group's warehouse, the grandmother said. A D.C. government source confirmed that the children were held "for several days" before being released.

One year earlier, District police detained a Finders member who relused to leave the house where she lived with her mother, the grand-mother said. That woman's child also was placed in a city shelter

temporarily.

Finders spokesman Robert Gardher Terrell confirmed both incitients, explaining that Finders children are allowed to roam freely in the country but are supervised in the city.

Staff writer Ed Bruske contributed to this report.

# No evidence found of wrongdoing by Finders' group

By Matt Neufeld and Linda Miller Terman THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Police in Virginia and the District said yesterday they have uncovered no evidence of satanic practices, cult rituals, child pornography or any other criminal wrongdoing associated with the communal group known as the Finders.

The statements by police appear to clear the Finders of several allegations that were raised against the group in a Metropolitan Police affidavit filed Thursday in support of two search warrants.

The warrants were served and two properties owned by the Finders in the District were searched Thursday. Papers, passports, computers, photographs, computer software, tapes, film and a telephoneanswering machine belonging to the group were seized by police.

The seizures followed the arrest Wednesday in Tallahassee, Fla., of two male members of the group on charges of felony child abuse. The six children, ranging in age from 2 to 7 years old, were reportedly dirty and hungry when they were found by Florida police. They now are in fos-

At this point, the Metropolitan Police Department has not found any materials among the seized documents or records that would initially corroborate allegations made by an informant that the organization is a cult and that its activities involve satanic rituals," said police Chief Maurice T. Turner Jr. at an afternoon press conference.

A Virginia State Police spokesman said yesterday that officers had found no evidence of any criminal activity among the materials seized at rural Madison County properties owned by Finders member G. Marion Pettie.

"My information at this point is that there isn't anything [criminal]," Charles Vaughan, a State Police spokesman, said yesterday. Police were continuing to sift through the material taken from the rural properties where Finders members are known to have lived, he said.

Meanwhile, Tallahassee Police spokesman Scott Hunt said yesterday that "more than one" of the Finders children taken into custody last week "showed evidence of sexual abuse," but that police had no evidence linking the alleged sexual abuse to the men in custody. Mr. Hunt declined to elaborate.

The two men, identified as Douglas Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Holwell, also known as Michael Houlihan, 23, are being held in jail in lieu of posting \$100,000 bonds each on the child abuse charges. No hearing dates have been set for ei-

ther man, he said.

Tallahassee police had not confirmed the identities of the children or any of the claims made by hundreds of people who have called in the past few days saying they were related to the children, Mr. Hunt

🗠 FBI spokeswoman Sue Schnitzer said yesterday the bureau is continuing to investigate whether any federal crimes weré committed in relation to the six children taken into custody in Florida, but refused to discuss further details of the probe.

Ms. Schnitzer did say the FBI, like Florida police, had received hundreds of calls on Friday from people claiming to be relatives of the children. The FBI had not determined whether anyone was in fact related to them, she said.

Chief Turner said police began surveillance of two Finders' residences - a warehouse in the 1300 block of Fourth Street NE and an apartment building in the 3900 block of W Street NW - in December after receiving a tip from an anonymous source that satanic rituals were being practiced by group members and children were being

He defended the police investigation and the subsequent seizures of property owned by the Finders, saying it was justified by the seriousness of the allegations made against the group.

"We were investigating to find if

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there was child abuse of exual abuse," Chief Turner said. "We will continue to do that until we assure ourselves that is not the case."

Metropolitan Police Inspector David Faison, head of the department's intelligence division, said seized pictures that showed children watching the slaughtering of animals on a Madison County, Va., farm were not part of a satanic ritual or pornography. He also said police have found no pictures in the Finders' residences that would be considered pornographic.

David Hoover, a spokesman for the U.S. Customs Service, said yesterday his agency was called into the investigation of the Finders by Metropolitan Police because it was suspected that some of the material confiscated during Thursday's raids might be pornographic. Customs agents have expertise in child pornography investigations, Mr. Hoover said.

Mr. Hoover said he understood that Metropolitan Police had not finished analyzing the material seized in last week's raids. Customs agents could not complete their own probe until the District police did, Mr. Hoover said.

"There has been an awful lot of material seized. It's going to take a number of days to sift through this. I think it would be premature to think we're [Customs] out of it [the investigation]," Mr. Hoover said.

"The lifestyle of the so-called Finders organization may differ from the societal norm, but so far the Metropolitan Police Department has not uncovered any evidence of criminal wrongdoing by members of the group," Chief Turner said. "However, we are still involved in an extensive and detailed review process of the documents and records seized."

Chief Turner said he does not consider the Finders a threat to society or a dangerous group. He said three or four members of the Finders have agreed to grant interviews to investigators and that police were seeking the assistance of other Finders members.

Yesterday afternoon R. Gardner Terrell, a senior member of the Finders, said in an interview at the Finders' Northeast Washington warehouse that he was "exhilarated" at "the good news we're not a satanic cult." In an interview with reported Mr. Terrell wore a plastic Ronald Reagan mask on the back of his head and said he had been chosen to be the "leader" of the Finders for yesterday. He also denied that the seven child members of the Finders have ever been abused by the 21 adult group members.

Mr. Terrell denied the six children recovered in Tallahassee were abused in any way by the two men taken into custody. He said in the hierarchy of the Finders, children are first, women are second and men are third.

"These children always had food available," he said. "The children were not hungry. There was food in the van [used to transport the children that was recovered by police]."

Mr. Terrell said the mothers of the six children were in the District yesterday and had talked to police.

He also explained why police found photos of children watching animals being slaughtered. The Finders bought two goats last spring and kept them through the summer, he said. As winter approached, the animals were slaughtered in front of the children and other Finders members as a "learning experience."

"We butchered them and ate them, like you would on any farm. We did it when the children were present and thought it would be a good learning experience."

A tour of the Finders' warehouse yesterday afternoon revealed rooms that resembled the average college dormitory room. Most of the rooms in two second-story lofts contained blankets, pillows, cushions, televisions, radios, magazines, books and newspapers. On the first level was an extensive library, with hundreds of books, magazines and newspapers. Also on the first floor was a hot tub room, a meeting room, a living room and a kitchen.

"We're just a group of people who like to practice the art of living," Mr. Terrell said. "We look at the past and the future. We try to live a zesty and adventurous life. We're on the cutting edge of the wit and humor movement."

Mr. Terrell said the Finders' first priority is to get their children back in their custody. But according to a Florida social services official, it may be some time before the group can regain their children.

On Sunday, Merrill Moody, a district administrator for Florida's Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, said Florida and District officials, along with a behavioral psychologist from the FBI, will conduct videotaped interviews with each of the children to try to clarify their identities, and determine how they have been cared for in the past.

The interviews will be conducted by one person, while the others watch from behind two-way mirrors, Mr. Moody said.

Under Florida's child dependency laws, the six youngsters can continue to be held in protective custody for an indefinite time pending an investigation by the state and D.C. Child and Family Service Administration officials into their background, Mr. Moody said.

Even if guardians do come forward, the state cannot release the children into their custody without a court order, he said. A court order cannot be obtained until the probe into the children's background in the District is complete, he said.

"Until we know they have a safe and healthy environment to return to, they will remain in our custody." Mr. Moody said.

# Cult Member Defends 2 in Child Abuse Case

By Victoria Churchville and Martin Weil Washington Post Staff Writers

A man identifying himself as a member of the group that includes the two men arrested in Florida last week on child abuse charges came forward last night to identify the children with whom the men were found and to defend the men against the charges.

In a printed statement and a telephone interview, Robert Gardner Terrell, 50, who said he owned the Washington house said to be a base for the Finders, the group to which the two belong, gave detailed explanations for the group's practices and activities, which have been characterized as unusual or bizarre.

Asserting that the six children found in Tallahassee with the men had been formally placed in the care of at least one of the men by the denied that the children had been abused or neglected. Tallahassee police said six disheveled and hungry children were found in a downtown park with the men.

Affidavits filed in U.S. District Court here in support of search warrants executed last week at a Northwest duplex and a Northeast warehouse owned by Terrell described "satanism" and "rituals" associated with the "cult."

"We are all in a state right now where we are afraid. We've been made almost dysfunctional by the reports," Terrell said in a lengthy telephone interview last night. He said he released the statement to police and news organizations "to establish some kind of credibility that we are rational people, not devil worshipers or child molesters."

"Certainly anything we've done is based on the desire for the children to have the richest life they could have," Terrell continued. "Children always come first in our organiza-

Terrell's statement was delivered last night to The Washington Post only hours after police seized materials at five rural Virginia locations as part of an expanding investigation touched off by the arrests of the two men in Tallahassee on Wednesday.

In addition, authorities were searching throughout the Southeast yesterday for a van believed to bel carrying associates of the two men. Law enforcement officials were also sifting through mountains of materials previously seized in raids on Washington locations linked to the group.

In his typed statement, Terrell, a private accountant and former employe of the Internal Revenue Service, said two men and six children from the group left Washington early last month for Berea, Ky., where they were to work on a retirement community. After finding that the site was not ready for ground-breaking, the men took the children on a vacation and camping trip to Florida with the children's mothers' approval, he said.

Other men went to Florida to help care for the children, and three had left for the day to look for accommodations when two of the men were arrested, the statement said.

"I consider that the authorities have mistakenly incarcerated these men and children," Terrell said in the statement, which he said he circulated last night "in the hope that it will clear up some misunderstanding...."

Of the six children taken into custody by authorities Wednesday, when the investigation began, one shawed signs of sexual abuse, Tallakissee police said, but none provided a full account of what was believed to be their journey from Washington to Florida.

In response to the suggestion of sexual abuse, the man who identified himself as Terrell said last night that it might have occurred after the children were taken from those assigned to care for them. It "might have happened after she was out of our control," he said. He said the children were healthy and well nourished.

Police said they received several calls from grandparents and other relatives claiming some of the children. One Washington area man told the FBI he was on his way to Tallahassee to claim his grandson. But police said they will not release any of the children without a court order.

The discovery of the children and the arrest of the two men led D.C. authorities to search a Northeast Washington warehouse and a Glover Park apartment building where several Finders members lived. D.C. police yesterday sifted through extensive computer records and color slides and photographic contact sheets removed by authorities.

U.S. Customs agents who saw some of the photos Friday said they appeared to involve sexual activities between adults and children, according to Customs spokesman David Hoover. "We're not saying that it's pornography, but it has all the earmarks," Hoover said.

However, D.C. police sources characterized the pictures as "ritualistic" and not pornographic. One police source said that the photos were "no more pornographic than what you find in the average home." They said the pictures of naked children were innocent, but there were some showing children in "ritualistic" ceremonies including the bloodletting of animals.

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In the telephone interview late last night, Terrell described the so-called bloodletting as the slaughter of two goats kept on a farm in Virginia "for the kids to play with."

e end of the summer, he said, members decided it would be note humane to slaughter and eat the animals rather than to let them starve in their pen.

He said the slaughter was intended as an educational experience. "I don't see why it's so bizarre," he added, "but it's been seized on by the authorities."

Based on interviews and on items seized in the raids, law enforcement sources said that the group does not appear to be engaged in the child pornography industry or in kidnap-

ing and said they do not fully understand the group.

"These people are not into hurting the children physically," said one law enforcement source. "They're into molding them men-

Among the items seized in the Friday raids were computerized messages concerning what the group called the proper "programming" of the children, and how they are "demagnetized," the law enforcement source said.

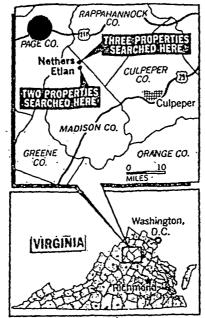
Other items seized included fincial records indicating that the group has substantial assets, including bank accounts, the source said.

Other seized documents include files showing the organization has researched numerous industries, such as the fast food industry, and papers suggesting that the group operates a wide network of corporations, the source said.

Other files seized showed that some members of the group have worked in low-level jobs in the federal and District governments, the source said.

In Etlan, Va., about 100 miles southwest of Washington, state police said they found "several items of evidentiary nature" after yesterday's 2:30 a.m. search of properties reportedly owned by Marion Pettie, leader of the Finders.

Virginia and Madison County authorities would not describe what they found at two farms, one near,



BY DAVID ZUCKERHAAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Etlan and the other a few miles away in a hamles called Nethers. A house and at least three cabins on the land were unoccupied, and police said much of the property appeared not to have been inhabited for some time.

The door of one cabin was open yesterday, revealing large amounts of food, clothing, sleeping bags, books and pamphlets from groups such as the World Future Society. A plastic bag containing hundreds of neckties and several pairs of panty hose were on the floor, along with boxes of diapers.

In the woods outside the cabin, badly weathered tents and sleeping bags were scattered on the ground next to a swing set made of rope and milk cases. Neighbors in the remote farming community have said they routinely saw as many as several dozen people, including large groups of children, riding to the farms and hiking and camping in the nude during the summer. Some neighbors spoke highly of Pettie, saying he traveled often and was often helpful to local residents.

Meanwhile, the FBI and Tallahas-

nesses said was with the blue van that police and Wednesday. Police said the two vans may have been in radio contact. Witnesses told police that the white van was occupied by two well-dressed men and two children. It has not been seen since.

Law enforcement agencies throughout the Southeast United States were asked yesterday to look for the white van, and Tallahassee police said they were examining leads reported by Miami and Gainesville, Fla., police.

Miami police searching computer intelligence files reported two vehicles, a white 1985 Dodge with Virginia tags and a white 1982 Dodge van with Virginia tags. Gainesville police reported a sighting two days ago of an older model—late '60s or '70s—green Chevy Suburban or Chevy International van occupied by several well dressed men and several children. Hunt would not comment further on the sightings.

Hunt said police do not know when the two men and six children in the blue van left the Washington area or how long they had been on the road. One of the youngsters told police that the children last saw their parents in Washington around Christmas and that while traveling they had been camping out in tents at campgrounds. Police said they found no bedding or camping equipment in the van. The van was heavy with the smell of unwashed clothes and rotting fruit and vegetables, police said.

The two men arrested Wednesday, identified as Douglas Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Holwell or Michael Houlihan, 23, have been charged with aggravated child abuse and resisting arrest without violence, both misdemeanors in Florida. They were each being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

Houlihan is the father of one of the children and stepfather of another, according to police and former members of the Finders. Houlihan told police late Friday that he wanted to talk to a detective, but when police sent an investigator, Houlihan had changed his mind, police said, Police said that this could

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be another of the games that the Finders are said to play.

Authorities said they have not interviewed the children since they were found Wednesday. Lt. Michael Langston said last night that social workers are awaiting the arrival of counselors from the FBI. No timetable has been set for the interview, which will be videotaped.

Meanwhile, District police theorize that members of the commune were tipped off to the impending raid on their Washington bases when Tallahassee police called the W Street house sometime Wednesday, seeking information about the children. "That alerted them to what was going on," a District police source said. "That's why we didn't find anything anywhere."

Former members of the group said the Finders routinely practiced leaving their house on short notice.

In his printed statement, Terrell said that Ammerman was one of the two men who originally left Washington with the six children. He listed in the statement names for all six children, and identified their mothers. At least five of the women have been identified by other sources as members of the Finders.

Terrell said that Ammerman and another man took the children to Florida and that afterward, Michael Holwell, also known as Michael Houlihan, and four other men, including Terrell himself, went to Florida to care for the children.

Terrell said that he and another man left Florida after being satisfied that the children were well cared for.

He said the children's mothers are in San Francisco, "working in business offices" to earn money to help pay for the Kentucky project.

Identifying himself as the owner of both the Glover Park apartment building and the Northeast Washington warehouse used by the Finders, Terrell said he could not return home because he feared that based on news reports "the police would arrest me."

Staff writers John Ward Anderson, Ed Bruske, Marc Fisher, John F. Harris, John Mintz and Linda Wheeler contributed to this report.

# Officials Describe 'Cult Rituals' in Child Abuse Case

Photos of Youngsters Seized At D.C. Warehouse, Probers Say

By Saundra Saperstein and Victoria Churchville Washington Post Staff Writers

Authorities investigating the alleged abuse of six children found with two men in a Tallahassee, Fla., park discovered materials yesterday in the Washington area that they say points to a 1960s-style commune called the Finders, described in a court document as a "cult" that allegedly conducted "brainwashing" and used children "in rituals."

D.C. police, who searched a Northeast Washington warehouse linked to the group, removed large plastic bags filled with color slides, photographs and photographic contact sheets. Some photos visible through a bag carried from the warehouse at 1307 Fourth St. NE were wallet-sized pictures of children, similar to school photos, and some were of naked children.

D.C. police sources said some of the items seized yesterday showed pictures of children engaged in what appeared to be "cult rituals." Officials of the U.S. Customs Service, called in to aid in the investigation, said that the material seized yesterday includes photos showing children involved in bloodletting ceremonies of animals and one photograph of a child in chains. Customs officials said they were looking into whether a child pornography operation was being conducted.

According to court documents, computers and software were seized from the warehouse, from a Glover Park apartment building and from a van that was recovered in Tallahassee along with the children.

Yesterday's disclosures about the mysterious group grew out of an investigation that was set in motion Wednesday by an anonymous call to Tallahassee police about two "welldressed men" who were "supervising" six disheveled children in a neighborhood park. The men were arrested and charged with child abuse, according to Tallahassee police.

Their links to the D.C. area have led authorities into a far-reaching investigation that includes the Finders—a group of about 40 people

that court documents allege is led by a man named Marion Pettieand their various homes, including the duplex apartment building in Glover Park, the Northeast Washington warehouse and a 90-acre farm in rural Madison County, Va.

Tallahassee police, who arrested and charged men identified as Douglas E. Ammerman and Michael Houlihan with child abuse, contacted D.C. police Thursday in an attempt to establish the identities of the children. They learned that D.C. police had heard of the Finders group, according to Tallahassee po- . lice spokesman Scott Hunt.

No other member of the group had been located last night, police

sources said.

According to U.S. District Court records in Washington, a confidential police source had previously told authorities that the Finders were "a cult" that conducted "brainwashing" techniques at the warehouse and the Glover Park duplex at 3918-20 W St. NW. This source told of being recruited by the Finders with promises of "financial reward and sexual gratification" and of being invited by one member to explore "satanism" with them, according to the documents.

According to the affidavit, the source told authorities that children were-used in "rituals" by the members, and though the source had never witnessed abuse of the children, the source said the children's grandparents feared for their safety.

On Dec. 15, a D.C. police detective observed a clearing in the rear of the 3900 block of W Street NW where "several round stones had been gathered" near a circle, as well as evidence that people had gathered there, according to the document, which stated that "this practice is sometimes used in satanic rituals." Armed with that information and the report from Tallahassee police of the allegedly abused children, D.C. police sought search warrants for the Glover Park residence and the warehouse.

Meanwhile, authorities in Florida attempted to learn more about the six small children—described by a police spokesman as "hungry and ... pretty pathetic"—who had set

the investigation in motion.

The children, identified in a court document only by the first names of Honeybee, John, Franklin, BeeBee, Max and Mary, were described as "dirty, unkempt, hungry, disturbed and agitated." They had been living in the rear of the van for some time, the document said.

Yesterday, police spokesman Hunt said one of the children, a 6year-old girl, "showed signs of sexual abuse," but that an examination by a local doctor showed none of the children as being ill.

Five of the children were uncommunicative, according to police, and none seemed to recognize objects such as typewriters and staplers.

However, the oldest was able to give investigators some information. She said that the two men "were their teachers," according to Hunt. She was not sure where they had been recently or where they were going. But until recently, they had been living in the District in "a house with other children and adults." They lived mainly on a diet of raw fruit and vegetables, she said.

The girl told the police that while they were in the District, the children received instruction from "a man they called a Game Caller or a Game Leader," according to Hunt.

According to the D.C. court document, a Tallahassee police investigator identified this man as Marion Pettie, who the confidential police source "also identified as the Stroller, leader of this 'cult.' "

The children have been placed in emergency shelters in Tallahassee. according to Merrill Moody of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. He said officials were trying to identify them.

Neighbors of the W Street house last night identified the photographs of two of the children as residents

of the house.

Before their arrests in the park, Ammerman and Houlihan had told police that they were teachers from Washington "transporting these children to Mexico and a school for brilliant children," according to Hunt. When police asked the men where the children's mothers were, "they said they were being weaned from their mothers."

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Yesterday, U.S. Attorney Joseph E. diGenova said that authorities were investigating "the crime of kidnaping" but that the investigation "is not limited to that as the evidence evolves."

George Wisnowsky, spokesman for the FBI in Jacksonville, said the FBI was "checking the transportation of children across state lines for immoral purposes or kidnaping."

Authorities in Florida, who searched the van, found 20 floppy computer discs and a device Hunt said could be used to hook into a computer in another location by telephone. He said D.C. police have obtained evidence that a computer linked to the group received a call from Tallahassee late this week.

Meanwhile, authorities in Washington were busy searching the warehouse and the Glover Park residence, side-by-side brick apartment buildings that, according to neighbors, stood out in the neighborhood because of a hot tub and satellite dish on the roof. Only women and children lived there, though men visited regularly, according to neighbors.

One woman from the neighborhood said the children from the house were "easy to spot because they were so dirty," adding that adults with them "seemed not to care." She said the group from the house reminded her of "leftover hippies."

But another neighbor, college professor John Matthews, who said he had lived at 3918 W St. for a short time while looking for an apartment, said the residents were "a close-knit group" of feminists who liked to help people and were not a cult. "The neighborhood talks about them because of their life style." Matthews said.

The Fourth Street warehouse, which authorities said also was used as a residence, had windows that were boarded shut. One wall was covered with a huge map of the world, lit by floodlights. Upstairs, mattresses were flung on the floors of various rooms.

Staff writers Joseph E. Bouchard, Ed Bruske, John Harris and Linda Wheeler contributed to this report.

# Finders Group Has Roots In Popular '60s Hippie Refuge

By Marc Fisher and John Mintz Washington Piet Staff Writers

The Finders—about 40 people who lived in a Glover Park house, a Northeast Washington warehouse and a farm in rural Virginia—are what remains of a popular 1960s hippie refuge that evolved into a society dedicated to communalism and to studying the future, according to court documents, experts on cults and law enforcement officials.

A fragmentary sketch of the Finders emerged yesterday as investigators, cult experts, neighbors and social workers scrambled to figure out whether children of group members were mistreated and who the Finders are.

Wherever outsiders had contact with the Finders, they considered the group odd. There was talk of houses segregated by sex, children separated from their parents, vans that came and went, and a mysterious guru who called himself the Stroller and fancied himself a seer and a political powerhouse.

Before yesterday, police had had little contact with the group. One complaint five years ago prompted an investigation that found no evidence of criminal activity, a District police source said. And in December, District police found an ornate tombstone and round stones gathered near a circle about 70 yards behind the Glover Park house. Such stones are often used in satanic rituals, experts said.

Neighbors have complained only rarely and then simply about the noise. And some people who visited or stayed at the commune said they met intelligent, interesting people who showed no signs of odd behavior or mistreatment of children.

As long ago as 1968, hippies and peace activists in Washington often visited Pettie Farm, a 90-acre property in Madison County, Va., near Shenandoah National Park. Four people who visited The Farm, as it was known, between 1968 and 1973 said yesterday it was a place where anyone could get an organic meal without charge, without questions. They recalled a leader in his forties, a charismatic and wealthy man named Marion Pettie.

About five years ago, neighbors of the farm said, the hippie followers of Pettie were replaced by men in business suits and women in professional clothes.

Pettie and his followers to had a house at 3920 W St. NW Glover Park, where members of the group lived until recent weeks, neighbors said. The house consists of two attached red brick buildings, each with four apartments.

There, female members of the Finders lived with children in apartments with no locks on the doors. The group occasionally distributed fliers offering shared rooms for as little as \$5 a night.

"I noticed the children often went without clothes in the summer," said Gerald Salzman, a neighbor. "I thought it was cute and natural." Still, Salzman said he once called police to tell them about a child who was screaming for more than an hour.

Another neighbor, who asked hot to be identified, said she once asked the mother of a 6- or 7-year-old child who lived in the Finders house why the girl didn't go to school. "She said that [the child] was taught at home," the neighbor said.

George Pettie, son of Marion Pettie, said that the group is like an extended family largely made up of people who have dropped out of professional careers and are under his father's sway.

"The binder is they have a father now, and they get to play fun games," said George Pettie, who owns a Northern Virginia home inspection business and said he hasn't talked to his father in two years. "They're the kids, and they're obedient. They like to do what the father says to do."

George Pettie said that he doesn't know of any group members practicing satanism or abusing children. But he said the lives of the children is unpleasant because group members rear them collectively. Frequently, Marion Pettie, now 66, would assign a follower to a

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"game" or "adventure" overseas or in another city, and the group member would not see his children for months.

George Pettie said the group engaged in "constant baby sitting . . . . I wouldn't want to be a child there, without a reliable day-in-day-out parent figure." He said of the children found in the van in Florida, "I bet you a buck, you'll find their biological mothers live at W Street, and if they're not there now, they're off on some adventure."

Marion Pettie continually sent his followers on what he called "adventures" to teach them about themselves, his son said. If someone had some character weakness, the leader would send him or her away to, say, Hawaii to work, then return to describe his lesson to other members.

The members support themselves in temporary office jobs in Washington, George Pettie said.

He described his father as charismatic and perceptive, having "a keen sense of what people need that they don't even know themselves."

Marion Pettie retired from the Air Force in 1956 as a master sergeant, and has done little formal work since then, his son said. In the 1960s, he was a "student of the world" who would spend the whole day in the library near the family farm, said his son. Then around 1971 he gathered his followers in the W Street house.

"That was the beginning of a new life for him," George Pettie said. "They found in their communal life style a more adventurous life."

Marion Pettie has long had a consuming interest in the future, and futurism is a major component of the group's philosophy, according to cult experts. Originally he based his teachings on Carlos Castaneda's popular 1960s chronicles of mystic self-exploration, a precursor of the New Age movement of the 1970s.

Edwin Morse, a Wisconsin psychologist who works with cult members, said he has tracked the Finders for five years, interviewing several members. He said the members are well-educated, secretive people who have "no clear parental kind of responsibility as we know it," instead sharing responsibility for the children. He said most of the children who lived with the group were born to members.

In the summer, neighbors saw as many as a dozen children at the Madison County farm. "There was always hollering and screaming going on," said Wilma Richards: "They were always hollering about Momma and Daddy. One time I heard one say 'I want milk.' Another person said, 'Shut up, you ain't gonna get it.'"

Another neighbor of the farm said he spoke to an 11-year-old boy, who said the children didn't go to, school because no adults told them to

"They always talked '60s jargon, 'Do your own thing' stuff," the man said. He said members of the Finders appeared to hold jobs in computer businesses.

The group split its membership by sex some time ago, leaving the women to live in the Glover Park house while the men moved into the warehouse at 1307 Fourth St. NE, McArthur said.

Cult experts said the past few years they have seen increased interest among such groups in satanism and witchcraft. The circle of stone District police reported finding behind the Glover Park house ir December is typical of witchcraft ceremonies, said Richard Stephens a sociology professor at George Washington University.

Staff writers John Ward Anderson, Linda Wheeler and John F. Harris contributed to this report.

# Officials delve into mystery of found children

By Rosalind Bentley Democrat staff writer



Police in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., late Thursday were still trying to determine the identities of six children found with two men in Myers Park on Wednesday afternoon, authorities said.

The men, identified as Michael Houlihan, 28, and Douglas Edward Ammerman, 27, both of Washington, were charged with child abuse and were being held in the Leon County Jail on \$100,000 bond each, Tallahassee police spokesman Scott Hunt and jail officials said...

The children were in the custody of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

Police got an anonymous call late Wednesday afternoon about two well-dressed men standing in Myers. Park with six unkempt children, Hunt said.

When police arrived they found the men standing near a foul-smelling blue Dodge van with Virginia license plates. The children, ages 2 to 6, were playing on the playground, Hunt said.

Houlihan and Ammerman told Officer Tony Mashburn that they were the youngsters' teachers and were taking them to Mexico to establish a school for "brilliant children." Hunt said. They responded evasively when Mashburn asked them other questions, Hunt added.

Authorities said the children - a 6-year-old boy and girl, a 4-year-old boy, two 2-year-old boys and a 3year-old girl - were filthy. Insect bites and scratches covered their bodies, most were not wearing underwear and they looked as though they had not bathed in days, Hunt said. Officer Judy Suchocki tried to talk with the children but only one, the 6-year-old girl, was very responsive, Hunt said.

The girl told Suchocki that she and one of the 2year-old boys were the children of Houlihan. The girl . also told Suchocki that they all used to live together in a house in Washington, but that they had been traveling for a while.

Both Houlihan and Ammerman denied having any blood relationship to any of the children, Hunt said.

Because police have not been able to determine any legal or blood ties between the men and the children, Ammerman and Houlihan were charged with child abuse instead of child neglect, Lt. Colon Benton said.

None of the children knew where they were supposed to be going, only that they had stopped at "different places," and slept in the van and in tents in campgrounds along the way. The girl also told Suchocki that none of them have seen their mothers since before Christmas and that they were being "weaned" from them, Hunt said.

The children also said they didn't go to school but were taught by Houlihan and Ammerman. Benton said the children seemed unfamiliar with common office equipment such as telephones and staplers.

See CHILDREN, 5A

## Children

From 1A

According to police, the children said they were hungry and had not eaten since Wednesday morning. But the children said they had to work for their food by doing such tasks as cleaning the van. Even then, they were given raw fruits and vegetables to eat as "rewards," Hunt said.

Police said they found a Washington telephone number inside the van. When investigators called it, they got a recording that quoted Scriptures and had other religious

messages, Hunt said.

Detectives from the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington are conducting an investigation there to determine whether or not the children and the men were ever in the nation's capital, Metro police spokesman Capt. William White III said. Police there are also trying to determine whether the men were involved in any criminal activities, White said. He declined, however, to give any further details.
"We are still in the very early

stages of the investigation," White

said Thursday night.

But Hunt said Washington authorities have verified an address thought to be where the children and the two men were living. Local police were planning to send photographs and fingerprints of the children to Washington for tracking.

HRS officials took custody of the children Wednesday night and put them in an emergency shelter, said Debra Ervin, HRS administra-

tive-services director.

On Thursday, the six children were examined by a child-protection team to determine whether they have been abused or neglected, Ervin said. Results of the exams were not iminediately available.

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DATE:

August 2, 1988

REPLY TO ATTN OF:

Resident Agent in Charge Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT:

FOIA Request - "The Finders" (88-1053 GED)

TO:

Assistant Regional Counsel

Pursuant to your request which was routed through S/A
SAC Miami, attached is a copy of RAC/DO
Report of Investigation concerning "The
Finders."
An index search did not disclose records on any of the
individuals named in the FOIA request.

Resident Agent in Charge

Attachment

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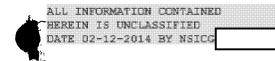
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Date 11/9/93

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Subject:

"FINDERS" GROUP;

WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;

OO: WMFO

Attached to this memo is a photocopy of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) case file concerning captioned group. This material was provided to writer and SSA on 11/09/93 by Lieutenant MPD

Intelligence Division, room 5067, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW

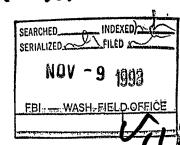
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P.D. 15 Rev. 2/90

## Metropolitan Police Department Washington, D.C.

#### Office of the Chief of Police

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"YOUR SEARCH REQUEST IS: FINDERS ORGANIZATION

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"4TH STORY of Level 1" printed in FULL format.

#### Copyright (c) 1987 Chicago Tribune Company; Chicago Tribune

February 10, 1987, Tuesday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: "NEWS; 'Pg. /2; ZONE: C

LENGTH: 384 words

HEADLINE: PROBE CAN'T PROVE CHILD ABUSE BY CULT

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#### ...BODA:

An investigation begun last year into the mysterious Finders communal group, linked to six disheveled children found in Florida, failed to substantiate allegations of child abuse. District of Columbia police said Monday.

Police Chief Maurice Turner Jr. said an anonymous informant's allegations that the Finders are "a cult and that its activities involve Satanic rituals" were not borne out by police stakeouts in December or by evidence seized at two Finders' homes last week.

Turner said "we want to assure ourselves" that the children were not abused: "We have not assured ourselves at this point in time," he said at a news conference:

"The lifestyle of the so-called Finders organization may differ from the societal norm," but no evidence of criminal wrongdoing has been uncovered, he said.

The children, ranging in age from 2 to 7, remained in temporary shelters in Tallahassee, Fla. The two men who had custody of the children when they were discovered last Wednesday are under arrest on child abuse charges.

Police in Tallahassee have said that more than one of the children showed signs of sexual abuse. They did not elaborate.

Tallahassee police spokesman Scott Hunt said Washington detectives, who traveled to Florida to interview the children, were assisting in trying to identify the children.

The FBI, the U.S. Customs Service and police in Virginia also were assisting with the investigation.

"They're doing fine," Hunt said of the children. "They've been fed well, they've been clothed well and they're eating and sleeping."

Turner said that the mothers of the children still had not come forward and that police had not yet identified them.

A spokesman for the Finders group, Robert Gardner Terrell, said Monday that the children's mothers "are here in Washington. There already have been conversations" with police. He spoke at a small news conference at the group's warehouse, sitting with his back to cameras with a Ronald Reagan mask on the back of his head.

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PAGE 3

(c) 1987 Chicago Tribune, February 10, 1987

Terrell said the organization's first priority is getting the children back.

"It's a relief and I'm exhilarated to hear we are not a Satanic cult," said Terrell. "However, we are still involved in an extensive and detailed review process of the documents and records seized."

TERMS: CULT; CHILD; ABUSE; PROBE

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5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

### Copyright 1987 The Washington Post The Washington Post

February 10, 1987, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: METRO; PAGE D1

LENGTH: 784 words

HEADLINE: D.C. Police: Finders Odd, Not Criminal;

FBI, Virginia and Florida Expand Probes

THIS DOCUMENT SHALL NOT BE DISSEMINATED OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE COMMANDING LUER, INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION, METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT. WASHINGTON, D.C.

BYLINE: Victoria Churchville, Marc Fisher, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODA:

A District police investigation begun in December into allegations of child abuse and satanic rituals involving the Finders, a group linked to six ragtag children found last week in Florida, has produced evidence that the practices of the group were odd but not criminal, D.C. Police Chief Maurice T. Turner Jr. said yesterday.

"The life style of the so-called Finders organization may differ from the societal norm, but so far the Metropolitan Police Department has not uncovered any evidence of criminal wrongdoing by members of the group." Turner said at a news conference. He added, however, that documents and records seized last week are still being reviewed.

But even as police in the District softened their statements about the Finders group, the FBI and police in Virginia and Florida widened their investigation into the activities of the Washington-based commune of 20 to 40 adults and seven children.

Two of the six children, whom police said they found dirty and hungry in a Tallahassee park with two well-dressed men, showed indications of possible sexual abuse, according to an affidavit filed in Madison County, Va., where the group has two farms.

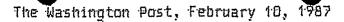
The men, Douglas E. Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Holwell, 23, who gave police the name Michael Houlihan, were arrested and charged with six counts each of child abuse. Florida authorities said yesterday that the two men, who are in jail in lieu of \$ 100,000 cash bond, have refused to talk with police.

Meanwhile, FBI agents in Washington yesterday interviewed Kristin Knauth, a woman associated with the group. She is said to be the mother of Benjamin Franklin Knauth, 4, one of the children found in Florida. Kristin Knauth could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Chief Turner said the D.C. investigation began in mid-December after an unnamed informant alleged that children were being physically and sexually abused at the group's house and that the group engaged in satanic activities.

He said those allegations have not been substantiated by police surveillance or by review of materials seized at the group's properties last week, nor has examination of those materials substantiated allegations of child pornography. No children have been at the Finders' residence since the investigation began.

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Turner said. He said that as yet police "have not assured" themselves that children in the group have not been abused.

In an interview, Robert Gardner Terrell, a key member of the group, said that the children have been traveling in Virginia, Kentucky and Florida since before Christmas with men in the group while their mothers were in San Francisco on "an earning and learning adventure." He said a seventh child, an infant, has been in Boulder, Colo.

"We've received hundreds and hundreds of calls about the children," Tallahassee police spokesman Scott Hunt said yesterday. "They're doing fine now. They're well fed and they're clothed and they're in shelter."

Virginia state police said yesterday that they found goat skins and a goat's head in their search of the Finders' rural lands over the weekend. Spokesman Charles Vaughan said police also found computer equipment and documents, but he did not comment on the significance of the material.

In an affidavit supporting the search, Virginia authorities included photographs showing three white-robed Finders men and several children dismembering two goats. The photographs were in a scrapbook titled "The Execution of Henrietta and Igor." In one picture, a crying child looked at a decapitated goat. Another photo was captioned, "Ben finds Henrietta's Womb." Three pictures showed children playing with goat fetuses.

Carl Shapley, a Washington educator who said he worked closely with Finders leader Marion Pettie during the past year, said the group's ceremonies involved the slaughter of goats, but he warned against associating such activities with satanism or pagan rites.

"They believe in games and this was just good fun, a very Alice-in-Wonderland kind of fun, dressing up in white robes or whatever," he said.

Even as Shapley and others rose to defend the Finders, calling them an odd but entirely benign group of intellectual explorers and social adventurers, former members of the group came forward to relate tales of being harassed by the finders.

A lawyer in Culpeper, Va., said the Finders sent him profane letters and slashed his car's tires when he represented a former member in a divorce case three years ago. John Davies, the lawyer, said the harassment stopped only after he obtained a court order prohibiting members of the group from contacting him.

Staff writers John F. Harris and John Mintz contributed to this report.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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6TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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February 10, 1987, Tuesday, Late City Final Edition

SECTION: Section A; Page 21, Column 1; National Desk THS DOCUMENT SHALL NOT BE DISSEMBLE

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LENGTH: 843 words

THE COMMANDING WEELCER, INVESTIGATION SERVICES DIVISION. METROPOLITAN POLITAN

HEADLINE: POLICE SAY UNIDENTIFIED CHILDREN IN FLORIDAL MET NOT Y WASAINGTON BULL

BYLINE: By PHILIP SHENON, Special to the New York Times

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Feb. 9

BODY:

Local police officials announced here today that six children found last week in Florida had apparently not been kidnapped and that there was no evidence to show that the secretive group that has been raising them is a cult involved in child abuse.

The statement from the Metropolitan Police Department conflicted with accounts from the police in Tallahassee, Fla., where the children were found, unwashed and hungry, last week. Officials there said this morning that at least two of the children had signs of sexual abuse.

But late today, the Police Chief in Washington, Maurice T. Turner Jr., said at a news conference that there was no evidence of criminal activity by the communal group known as The Finders. However, he said the investigation would continue.

Two Men Were Arrested

Chief Turner's announcement was another confusing twist in the investigation that began last Wednesday when the children and two men were found in a Tallahassee park. According to the Tallahassee police, the children could not identify themselves and said the two men were teachers. The men were arrested and charged with child abuse.

Law-enforcement officials suggested that Chief Turner was attempting to end recent speculation that the group was involved in satanic rituals at a Washington home.

After the children were found last week, the police searched the home and a warehouse in the northwest section of Washington, and seized photographs and documents that one source in Florida originally said were ''consistent with a satanic cult.''

Statements by Finders Spokesman

The Washington police said that the children, two girls and four boys who ranged in age from 2 to 7 years, were apparently the offspring of members of the Finders, which the police said was a secretive group in which the sexes are separated and children are raised communally. Acknowledging that the group's practices were unusual, the officials said it had not engaged in criminal

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#### practices.

Robert Gardner Terrell, a spokesman for the Finders, said his group had cooperated with the police and that the mothers of the children had spoken with the authorities, according to an Associated Press report.

Mr. Terrell, who appeared at a news conference wearing a mask bearing President Reagan's image, said the organization's first priority was getting the children back.

"We've been in constant contact with the authorities," he said. "It hasn't been on the basis of interrogation. It's been in terms of cooperation. Sooner or later we knew people in Tallahassee would recognize their mistake."

#### Photographs of Goats

Officials confirmed that photographs found in buildings used by the Finders showed children watching goats being slaughtered. But they indicated that the activity was not illegal, nor did it suggest pornography.

''There was apparently the killing of goats and some type of blood,'' Chief Turner said, adding that it appeared the children did not participate in the killing. Other police officials suggested that the goats were actually butchered for meat, not for some sort of satanic animal sacrifice.

''A photograph can paint 1,001 pictures,'' Chief Turner said.

''The life style of the so-called Finders organization may differ from the societal norm,'' he added, ''but so far, the Metropolitan Police Department has not uncovered any evidence of criminal wrongdoing by members of the group.

''At this point the Metropolitan Police Department has not found any materials among the seized documents or records that would initially corroborate allegations made by an informant that the organization is a cult and that its activities involve satanic rituals.

#### Documents Being Reviewed

''However, we are still involved in an extensive and detailed review process of the documents and records seized.'' he added.

Asked if the group was dangerous, Chief Turner replied: ''I don't really believe so. If they are a danger, from what I an see, they would be a danger to themselves.''

Chief Turner said he had no evidence that any of the children had been molested and referred questions about physical abuse to the Florida officials.

Officials say the Finders apparently is a remnant of a 1940's counterculture movement created by Marion Pettie, a charismatic leader who urged his followers to study a doctrine that stressed self-exploration and futurism.

Children Allowed to Travel

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#### (c) 1987 The New York Times, February 10, 1987

''Apparently it's an organization that started in the late 60's,'' Chief Turner said. ''If you went back to that point in time there were a lot of communes and a lot of hippies, and I think it was a way of life for them. From that way of life it has escalated to what we have today as the Finders.''

Members of the group, the police said, apparently permitted their children to travel to Florida for a time while they remained behind to work.

The two men arrested in the case were identified as Douglas Ammerman, 27 years old, and James M. Holwell 23. They were charged with aggravated child neglect, a misdemeanor, and held on \$100,000 bond.

SUBJECT: CHILD ABUSE; LOST, MISSING AND RUNAWAY CHILDREN

ORGANIZATION: FINDERS (ORGN)

NAME: SHENON, PHILIP

GEOGRAPHIC: WASHINGTON (DC): FLORIDA

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7TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright (c) 1987 The Times Mirror Company; Los Angeles Times

February 8, 1987, Sunday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part 1: Page 2: Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 101 words

HEADLINE: THE NATION;

VIRGINIA CULT SITES RAIDED

BODY:

Police seized computer records, color slides and photos at five rural Virginia locations linked to the Finders, reported to be a satanic cult, as authorities searched throughout the Southeast for a van they believed was carrying associates of the two group members arrested on child abuse charges in Tallahassee, Fla. Virginia authorities searched cabins and outbuildings in the mountainous Nethers and Etlan area of Madison County. Meanwhile, the six children found dirty and hungry in the van in Tallahassee were moved out of emergency shelters after threatening phone calls were received by police.

TYPE: Brief

SUBJECT:

CULTS; FINDERS (ORGANIZATION); CHILD ABUSE; OCCULT SCIENCES

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P.D. 15 Rev. 3/86 METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT Washington, D.C.



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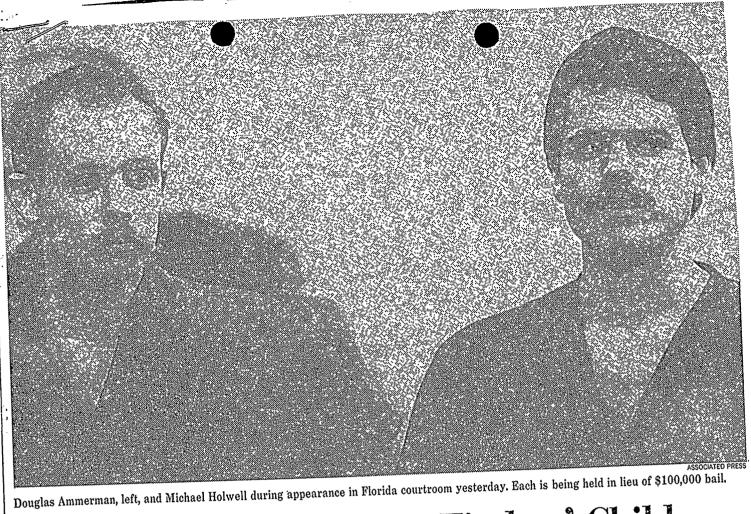
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### METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT Washington, D. C.

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# Officials Weigh Future of Finders' Children

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grandmother said. That woman she nveu .... child also was placed in a city shelter temporarily.

Finders spokesman Robert Gardher Terrell confirmed both incidents, explaining that Finders children are allowed to roam freely in the country but are supervised in the city.

Staff writer Victoria Churchville contributed to this report.

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Mhe Washington Post 2/13/87

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DATE 03-06-2014 BY



# Finders Say They Fear For Children

Five Women Seek Custody of Minors

By Victoria Churchville Washington Post Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Feb. 14— Five women who belong to the Finders group and described themselves as the mothers of six children now in Florida state custody said today they fear the children have been traumatized by their separation from the group, and they vowed to fight to win back the chil-

"I'm very concerned that the experience of being picked up by police, being interviewed by strangers, being cared for by stangers has been a very traumatic experience from the start for all the children," said Judith Evans, 31. She said her 3-year-old daughter Honey Bee "does not look happy in the media pictures I've seen. My major objective is to get all our children back."

The children were taken into state custody Feb. 4 after police here found them in a park with two members of the Finders group, a mysterious Washington area commune. The men, Douglas E. Ammerman, 27, and Michael Holwell, 23, each were charged with one count of child abuse. Authorities described the children as unkempt and hungry.

The women said they were in San Francisco at the time of the incident and that they immediately began taking steps to return. Authorities have said the women's struggle to regain custody of the children could be a protracted one.

"We started the processes as soon as we heard. It's been a very long process," said Pat Livingstone, mother of 6-year-old Max, one of the children taken into custody.

"If the FBI had said we're bad guys, everybody else would have, too. Now that they've said we're good guys, other authorities are saying they'll have to consider our case in turn," Livingstone said.

The women displayed little emo-See FINDERS, B17, Col. 1

District of Columbia Protective ervices officials have twice taken ustody of some of the Finders chilren, once in 1984 after some were llegedly found wandering cold and' ungry near the group's Northeast /arehouse, and a year later, after' ne of the mothers refused to leave er family's home, according to the randmother of one of the children, Finders spokesman and a governnent official.

In both cases, District social vorkers were swayed by how the nothers presented themselves as parents, according to the grandnother.

The Washington Post

Post

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1987 A5

# Finders Get 6 Children

#### Temporary Custody Granted to Mothers

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Feb. 27— The mothers of six children found at a city playground with two men belonging to a Washington-based communal group called the Finders have been awarded temporary custody of the children until a court hearing next week.

Leon County Judge Victor Cawthon ruled in a closed hearing today that the four boys and two girls found Feb. 4 could stay here with women Finders members who identified themselves as their mothers until a final custody hearing Friday. Until then, the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services is to exercise formal custody of the children.

The children, ranging in age from 2 to 7, were taken into protective custody when their two adult male companions were arrested on child neglect charges.

County prosecutor C.L. Fordham objected to today's ruling, arguing that it was "premature at this point to give the children back to the mothers because of the many lingering questions of impact of [the Finders'] life style on the children."

Fordham said he was not yet sure if he would object during the Friday hearing to giving the mothers full custody.

Connie Ruggles, spokeswoman for the social services agency, said state law prohibited her from commenting, and Paula Walborsky, attorney for the women, did not return a call to the Associated Press.

Meanwhile, the two men arrested Feb. 4 remained jailed on child neglect charges. Douglas Ammerman, 27, and James Holwell, 23, are being held in lieu of \$10,000 bail each on one count of child neglect. Trials are scheduled for March 30 and 31.

The Washington Post 2/28/87

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# D.C. Police: Finders Odd, Not Criminal

FBI, Virginia and Florida Expand Probes

By Victoria Churchville and Marc Fisher Washington Post Staff Writers

A District police investigation begun in December into allegations of child abuse and satanic rituals involving the Finders, a group linked to six ragtag children found last week in Florida, has produced evidence that the practices of the group were odd but not criminal, D.C. Police Chief Maurice T. Turner Jr. said yesterday.

"The life style of the so-called Finders organization may differ from the societal norm, but so far the Metropolitan Police Department has not uncovered any evidence of criminal wrongdoing by members of the group," Turner said at a news conference. He added, however, that documents and records seized last week are still being reviewed.

But even as police in the District softened their statements about the Finders group, the FBI and police in Virginia and Florida widened their investigation into the activities of the Washington-based commune of 20 to 40 adults and seven children.

Two of the six children, whom police said they found dirty and hungry in a Tallahassee park with two well-dressed men, showed indications of possible sexual abuse, according to an affidavit filed in Madison County, Va., where the group has two farms.

The men, Douglas E. Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Holwell, 23, who gave police the name Michael Houlihan, were arrested and charged with six counts each of child abuse. Florida authorities said yesterday that the two men, who are in jail in lieu of \$100,000 cash bond, have

refused to talk with police.

See CHILDREN, D5, Col. 4

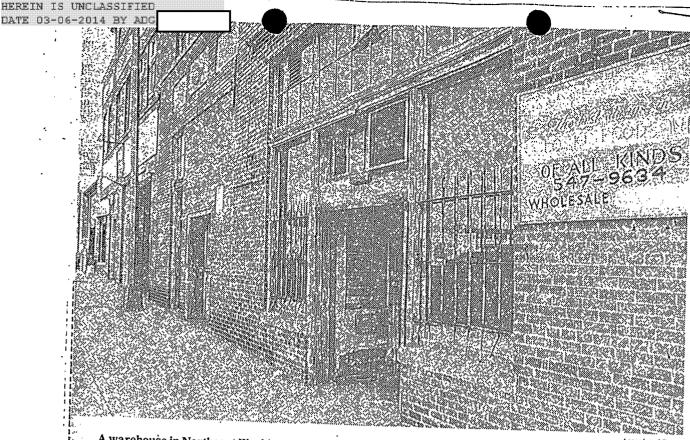
When the press tried to call him for comment, they were unable to get through to the mumbers listed

And how many of us are frustrated when a phone call takes forever to be put through and do nothing? A man in Mew Delhi had a plan. After repeated attempts and delays to place a call to Bombay, he entered the phone exchange at midnight and threatened operators with a pistol if they did not put through the urgent call for him. He also ordered his bodyguard to beat up ordered his bodyguard to beat up an operator because his call was delayed.

The Washington Post 2/10/87

Opening lead: Two of

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16 South West North East
16 S Pass 3 Pass
16. 4 Pass 3 Pass
16. 4 Pass Pass Pass



A warehouse in Northeast Washington, believed to have been occupied by the Finders, a little-known cult. Associated Press

# Inquiry Spreads on 6 Children and Cult

#### By RICHARD HALLORAN

Special to The New York Times

INFORMATION CONTAINED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 — Police offi-cials here said today that six dishev-eled children found in Tallahassee, Fla., might be the offspring of members of a little-known cult, but the officials said they had not ruled out the possibility of kidnapping.

Capt. William White 3d, a spokesman for the District of Columbia Police Department, said, "At this point, it appears that those children are the children of members of this group." He was referring to members of a cult known as the Finders, who have occupied at least two buildings here.

But Captain White added, "We have-

n't ruled out any possibilities.'

#### Children Found in Florida

He declined to speculate on what the ossibilities might be but other police officials said they included kidnapping k some type of international market or children.

The children, two girls and four boys to 6 years old, were discovered in a liallahassee playground on Thursday. Iwo men, Douglas Edward Zimmerman, 27 years old, and Michael Houlihan, 28, were arrested in the case and charged with child abuse.

Subsequently, the police here obtained warrants to search a house in Northwest Washington and a ware-house in Northeast Washington, both believed to have been occupied by the Finders. Captain White said they had seized boxes of records, documents and computer programs.

We have a very long, tedious pro-

cess of reviewing this material ahead of us," the captain said.

Detectives in the investigation said the review would require the weekend at least. The detectives said they had begun to doubt that child pornography was involved but that they had seen evidence that children were involved in rituals. They declined to comment on reports that the Finders were worshipers of the devil.

#### Pet Food Spoon Wins An Invention Contest

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (AP) — A 6-year-old Oklahoma girl has come up with a solution to a problem that has vexed some pet owners for years: how to feed a cat or dog without having to wash the messy spoon afterward.

The solution devised by the girl, Suzanna Goodin, was to shape a pet cracker into an edible spoon that could be broken up into the pet's food after serving.

Her "edible pet food server" won her a grand prize today in an invention contest sponsored by The Weekly Reader, a school publication. More than 200,000 children participated in the contest.

Suzanna, a first-grader from Hydro, Okla., was cited for the best Suzanna, idea submitted by children in kindergarten through the fourth grade.

In neighboring Virgina, the authorities said they had completed their part in the investigation by searching five places in Madison County where members of the group were said to have occupied farms and homes.

Lieut. J. P. Henries of the Madison County Sheriff's Office said, "No obvious new evidence of criminal activity was found."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has also been called into the case. Police officials here suggested that whatever legal action might arise from the case would be in Federal rather than in local courts because it appeared that the children had been transported across state lines in possible violation of Federal laws.

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Captain White said said that the district police had been unable to identify the children or their parents. "We're

trying to find the parents," he said. Captain White said that people who might be related to the children were also being sought but he declined to give details.

The Police Department spokesman said that no further arrests were expected. "At this stage," he said, "we have not uncovered anything that would cause us to anticipate arrests, at least not in the near future.'

With an air of frustration perhaps reflecting the bafflement of the police department, however, he added, "No one knows what tomorrow holds."

Police officials also raised the question of whether children other than the six found in Florida might be involved in the case.

# Police Link Cult to Case Of Unidentified Children

b6 b7C

#### By JON NORDHEIMER

Special to The New York Times

several states today sought to identify six young children who the police said were apparently taken from their parents by two Washington, D.C., men and enlisted in what was described as a bizarre cult of devil worshipers.

Known to one another by such names as "Benjamin Franklin," "John Paul Pope" and "Honeybee," the children were taken into protective custody Thursday by the police in Tallahassee Fla., after they were found, unwashed and hungry, in a city park. The children, ranging in age from 2 to 7 years, were with two men driving a van with Virginia license plates.

Acting on information supplied by detectives in Tallahassee, the police in Washington today searched a house and a warehouse in the northwest section of the District of Columbia, seizing photographs and other documents that one source described as "consistent with a satanic cult," including a photograph of a multilated animal.

#### No Clues to Their Identities

The band of children has baffled the police, who said the case resembled something more like a Pied Piper story than a tale of the occult.

Some of the children told investigators they had not seen their parents since Christmas and had been traveling with the men since then. Other children said that one of the men, Michael Houlihan, 28 years old, was their father, but Mr. Houlihan denied it without

quent visitors, both Haitians and and that, when he walks in the garden," said the guard at the gate of the villa. There are fre-"Zometimes we discuss this

Saab 900 or his red Ferrari Testaquent day trips, often to Cannes, either behind the wheel of his of time out and around, taking fre-

bile to a reporter outside the villa. But Mr. Duvalier is spends a lot from the window of his automowill give the slightest interview to anybody," Mr. Duvalier shouted La Mohamédia.
"There is no possibility that I

Cannes in a luxurious villa called village Mediterranean Duvalier, his wife, Michèle, and their two children live in this

MIAMI, Feb. 6 - The authorities in | Hunt said. "Adults are encouraged to . join this group and one of the stipulations of joining this group is that they give up the rights of their children." Police sources in Washington said

the trail of the men led to a rural Virginia community in Madison County, about two hours southwest of the nation's capital, apparently a lead provided by documents found today. "It may turn out to be one property, it may turn out to be more," said Lieut. M. G. Millner of the Virginia state police who added that the police would to check the area soon.

In the searches, police officers seized large boxes of documents, records and

The two suspects are charged with aggravated child abuse.

equipment, including computer programming material.

Twenty-seven computer' storage disks were also found, along with rotting food, in the blue 1980 Dodge van driven by the suspects when they were taken into custody in Tallahassee with the children.

Witnesses there told investigators that they saw two other men and children in a second van make contact with the first group in the park. The witnesses said they drove away before the police arrived.

#### Children Rewarded With Food

The children told investigators in Tallahassee that they had been on the road for weeks, camping out at night. The older children reported that they were rewarded with food for doing "good things" but that the nature of what was expected was not described.

Their daily ration of food consisted of oranges, bananas and raw potatoes, they told the police.

Based on information provided by the children, they were tentatively identified as Mary Houlihan, 7 years old; Max Livingstone, 6; Honeybee Evans, 3; Benjamin Franklin, 3; John Paul Pope Houlihan, 2, and B.B., a 2-year-old boy.

-17/87 Jork Times ainstar

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### 2 Held in Child Abuse Linked to Satanic Cult

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (P)—Two men arrested after being seen in a park with six children dressed in tatters were held Friday on child abuse charges, and police said the men may be part of an international satanic cult whose members give up their children.

Some of the children told police they had not seen their parents since before Christmas.

"They evidently have come from such sheltered existences that they had no concept of what a telephone was, or TV or anything like that," said Scott Hunt, a spokesman for the Tallahassee Police Department.

The children, ages 2 to 6, may have been given up by their parents so the parents could join a satanic cult in Washington, D.C., authorities in Florida said.

#### Police Tipped Off

Police were alerted Wednesday by anonymous callers concerned because the men were dressed in coats and ties while the children, unwashed and insect-bitten, were playing in tattered clothes at Myers Park, a downtown playground.

Upon questioning after their arrest Wednesday, the men said the children were being "weaned" from their mothers in Washington. They said they were taking the children to Mexico to start a school for brilliant children. They denied any blood relationship with the children and refused to answer other questions.

"We don't know what we've got. All we have is six children, and we don't know where they came from," Hunt said.

The oldest child said the children had never been to school. They had been traveling for several days or weeks, she said, although she did not know where they had been.

Medical exams showed that one child had been sexually abused, Hunt said.

Police identified the men as Douglas Edward Ammerman, 27, and Michael Houlihan, 28, and said they were believed to be from the Washington area. The two were charged Thursday with one count of child abuse. They appeared in court Friday and were jailed on \$100,000 bail each.



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The Los Ongeles Times D/7/87

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# 2 Men Arrested Traveling in Van With 6 Children

By John Ward Anderson and Victoria Churchville
Washington Post Staff Writers

Two men believed to have Washingtonarea ties who were traveling with six hungry and disheveled children in a van with Virginia license plates were arrested in Tallahassee, Fla., and charged with child abuse, police in the Florida capital reported last night.

D.C. police, armed with search warrants, seized documents and records from two locations in the city last night as part of the investigation of the incident, which involves six children—two girls and four boys—whose ages range from 2 to 6. The children have not identified themselves.

Based on information obtained from Tallahassee authorities, a D.C. police spokesman told a news conference last night that "the children are in doubt as to who they are."

However, D.C. police said last night that no children of the ages listed are listed as missing from the District.

Police in Tallahassee said the two men, picked up in a city park there Wednesday, carried homemade identification cards that listed them as Doug Ammerman and Michael Houlihan.

Little other information was available about the men. Tallahassee police Lt. George Creamer said the two have refused to talk to police. They were ordered held under \$100,000 bond each after a hearing vesterday.

An Associated Press report said that no record of the Virginia tags on the van could be found.

In addition to being unable to identify themselves, the children apparently were See CHILDREN, B9, Col. 3

alyzed.

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White said, however, that police have not been able to determine where the two suspects were from, and have not been able to tell whether they are from the Washington metropolitan area.

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	MENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATIVE FILE REPORT	ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 02-12-2014 BY ADG
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	Intelligence	Domestic Security-
FILE TITLE	I. D. NO.	ARREST NO.
FINDERS	COMPLAINT NO.	CASE NO. 99-205
ACTIVE CLOSED REQUESTED ACTION COMPLETED OTHER STREET OTHER STREET STREE	OTHER OFFICERS	CROSS RELATED FILES FILE
Statement of	on 2/9/87 at 1:45 PM t	o 3:15 PM
On February 9, 1987 at 1:45 PM		DOB

w/m, POB who has been in Washington, D.C. for approximatly and is employed as a	
was interviewed at WFO/FBI by Det.  The interview was conducted in regards to the six children in Tallahassee, Florida, commonly known as	
the "Finders Case".	b6
Since this interview was in regards to finding the parents of the children and attempting to resolve how the children ended up in Florida and was not pursuing any criminal aspect of he was not advised of his constitutional rights.	ь7с
gave the following information regarding the children along with the following account of the trip to Florida.	b3
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### METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMEN. MORALS DIVISION FILE REPORT

MORALS DIVISION FILE REPORT P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74 DATE BRANCH REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (Continuation) Feb. 9, 1987 Domestic Security FILE TITLE I. D. NUMBER Statement of b3 b6 b7C left approximately one month ago with the According to stayed with the kids children to go to Kentucky. Approximatley 3 weeks ago they left Kentucky at the in Berea. to Florida town called Archer and stayed with a and went drove the six children to Florida. Again b6 b7C drove the while Tand in drove the This was about I week after the two other subjects and the children Archer, Fla. were in Archer The approximate date of arrival by et al was on Jan, stated that left around the same time to go to San Francisco, Calf. to work.

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PAGE 2 OF 7 PAGES

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#### MMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMEN MORALS DIVISION FILE REPORT

P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (Continuation)  Feb. 9, 1987  Domestic Securi  I. D. NUMBER  On the morning of	<u>ty</u>
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On Feb. 3, 1987, and drove toward Tallahassee	_
staying outside of the town at a rest area.	—Ц
On Feb. 4, 1987. in Wh	nile ,
the others went to work in Tallahassee.	┷
could r	not
explain why the subjects did not go to the Police to try to rectify the previous	
arrest.	b70

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# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTME MORALS DIVISION FILE REPORT

P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	DATE	BRANCH
(Continuation)	Feb. 9, 1987	Domestic Security
ILE TITLE	5	I. D. NUMBER
Statement of	•	
stated that he has no kno He stated that the children	wledge n were in good health, a	b3 lthough thev did have b7C
some bug bites and were probably dirty.  He stated	He has no knowledge of that the Radio Shack mod	el 100 computer was
left accidently bynear a p Florida. He has no other statements to	hone booth on the campus make at this time pretai	of the U. of ning to the incident.

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PAGE 4 OF 4 PAGES

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### Sell D.C. Property, Move to Florida,

A member of the Finders has announced the communal group is selling its Washington properties. which include two apartment buildings and a warehouse, and moving to Tallahassee, Fla., where authorities are holding two men linked to the group.

The men were arrested Feb. 4 and charged with child abuse after they were found in a Florida park

with six children, whom Tallahassee police described as dirty, hungry and insect-bitten.

Douglas E. Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Howell, 23, remain in a Tallahassee jail in lieu of \$10,-000 bond each. A judge has reduced. the bond for the misdemeanor charges from \$100,000 for Ammerman and from \$101,000 for Holwell.

One of the children remains in full custody of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. A judge ordered the agency to share custody of the five other children with four members of the group who say they are the children's mothers.

"We look for signs and symbols, and Florida's sending us signs that they want us here," R. Gardner HAILMAN, EUGENE F.
On Tuesday, March 3,
EUGENE F. HAILMAN
beloved husband of Mi
falher of Melva Cooper
F. Hailman Jr. of Cr.
Hailman of Spotsyvani
While-Hurst of North Cr.
Florida. Also survived
Memorial services will b
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20N FUNERAL HOMES
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ARALSON, POLLY G.

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Two members of the Finders organization, Doug Ammerman, left, and James Holwell, leave courthouse in Tallahassee, Fla,

yesterday after their bond was reduced to \$5,000. They are charged with child abuse after being arrested in the company of six unkempt children in a Tallahassee park.

The Washington Post 3/6/87

### Mothers Win Custody of 3

Older Children in Finders Case Remain in Fla. Care

By Lawrence Feinberg
Washington Post Staff Writer

A Florida judge yesterday awarded full custody of three children, found last month in a van in a Tallahassee park to their mothers, who are members of the Washington-based Finders commune, but ruled that three older children should remain under state supervision.

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Only hours later, one of the Finders' leaders released a statement saying the futurist group was dissolving, possibly as a result of the custody battle.

Ruling after four days of testimony, Leon County Circuit. Judge Victor Cawthon rejected a state motion that the three children, aged 2 and 3, should be declared "dependent" because they had been "abused, neglected, or abandoned" by their parents, according to a lawyer for three of the women.

Cawthon ruled that the three others, aged 4 to 7, were dependent, primarily because their education was being neglected, but he allowed two of them to remain temporarily with their mothers in Tallahassee.

The sixth child, whose mother has not stayed in Tallahassee to seek his return, remains in foster care. Cawthon said he would make a final ruling on arrangements for the three dependent children at a hearing March 23.

The decisions, announced in a closed court session, were disclosed by Paula Walborsky, who represented three of the mothers at the hearing, and confirmed by Cawthon in a telephone interview.

"I'm absolutely delighted with the outcome," Walborsky said. "The court found there was no abuse or abandonment.

"Ultimately, the state only pressed the issue of neglect, that the Finders' life style was inherently detrimental to the psychological

See FINDERS, C2, Col. 5

id the group appardispute over tactics learing. She said two n involved dismissed rney just before the on Friday, saying it ir principles to take :sarial proceeding." two, Pat Livingie mother of 6-yearista Knauth, mother en, did not cross-ex/ s or testify at the gh they made brief nts to the court. ed that both children ed state supervision. nilar ruling about 7.daughter of Paula 1 he granted Arico ier son, John Paul. 2. ) awarded Judith Evly of her 3-year-old / Bee, and gave Car dy of her 3-year-old-

n with the children, nerman and James arrested on misdeses of child neglect in in jail in lieu of ach. They are sched-larch 30.

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### Fla. Judge Sends 2 Finders Children To Foster Homes

A Florida judge has declared two children of members of the Finders commune to be dependents of the state. Judge Victor Cawthon last week ordered two children who grew up in the Washington-based Finders group placed in foster homes.

The judge's ruling was the final act in the state's attempt to sort through the affairs of the secretive group that found itself the subject of intense public scrutiny in February, when police in Tallahassee received an anonymous phone call about two well-dressed men and six disheveled children in a local park.

Within hours, police in Florida, Virginia and the District, joined by the FBI and even Interpol, were on the case. Authorities raided the Finders' homes, confiscated records and photographs, and publicly speculated whether the group was involved in satanism, child abuse or pornography. While none of the more lurid possibilities was confirmed, the Finders proved to be an avowedly private and elusive group of about 20 people, many of whom had lived together since the late 1960s.

. Public interest in the Finders quickly centered on their unusual child-rearing philosophy, in which youngsters were raised communally and were left largely to their own devices.

The two Finders in Florida with children of other group members were held in jail for six weeks, then released when a judge dismissed child abuse charges. In March, another judge returned four of the children to their mothers, who had retained a Florida lawyer.

But at the direction of Marion Pettie, the group's founder and intellectual leader, two mothers, Kristin Knauth and Pat Livingston, refused to hire a lawyer, argue for the return of their children or even remain in Florida.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

James Madison University professor J. Barkley Rosser and his wife, Marina Vchershnaya, share a toast after being married May 24 in an outdoor ceremony in Rockingham County, Va. The two met in the Soviet Union in 1984, fell in love, but were separated in August of that year after registering with the Soviet government to be married. This year Soviet officials allowed Vchershnaya to leave the U.S.S.R.

They said Pettie told them that since the court had the best interests of the children in mind, they should not participate in the judicial process, according to Paula Walborsky, a Tallahassee lawyer who represented the other Finders mothers.

"Those children should have been returned to their mothers, but they didn't go through the system," Walborsky said. "The state felt these mothers had abandoned their children when they returned to Washington. I saw them with their children, and I know all these women love their children."

Connie Ruggles, spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services; confirmed that the two children, Ben Knauth, 4, and Max Livingston, 6, are in foster homes. She said their cases will be reviewed every six months. "The judge felt circumstances

were not right to reunite them with their family," Ruggles said.

Cawthon had closed the hearing to the public, as is his option in Leon County.

Walborsky said the state presented no evidence that the children were abused or neglected, and the judge declared the children wards of the state for "educational reasons." Ruggles declined to comment on the hearing.

George Wisnovsky of the Jacksonville FBI office said the agency "is no longer investigating the Finders."

The Finders, who announced the dissolution of their group in March, are still together and living in California, according to several people who were in contact with them in Florida. Neither Walborsky nor Ruggles has spoken to group members in recent weeks.

- Marc Fisher

Was 14 Post 6/1/87

# wo Finders Released; ouse Charges Dropped

By Douglas Stevenson Washington Post Staff Writer

Two members of a Washingtonbased communal group known as the Finders, arrested last month on child abuse charges in Florida, were released from jail yesterday after the charges were dismissed.

Douglas Edward Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Holwell, 23, were released after a Leon County Circuit Court hearing. A move for dismissal of the charges on the grounds of insufficient evidence had been filed by their counsel, authorities said.

Ammerman and Holwell were arrested Feb. 4 in Tallahassee after police there received an anonymous telephone call reporting that two "well-dressed men" were "supervising" six disheveled and hungry children in a local park, Tallahassee police said at the time.

Each man was charged with one count of misdemeanor child abuse, and the children, ages 2 to 7, whose

arrest. He said police testimony indicated that Holwell "just seemed to have fainted" at the time of the arrest and that there was no way of telling if Holwell had faked the fainting spell.

Because Holwell showed "no active resistance," the prosecution could not press the charge, Fordham said.

Last week Leon County Circuit Court Judge Victor Cawthon awarded custody of three of the youngest children to the mothers. Two of the other children were declared dependent but were allowed to remain with their mothers in Tallahassee, and another child, whose mother was not present for the custody hearing; remains in foster

mothers were members of the Finders, were examined for signs of abuse and remanded to the custody of the state of Florida. Holwell was also charged with resisting arrest without violence.

The investigation involved D.C. police, .who raided a Northeast warehouse owned by the Finders, as well as Virginia and federal authorities. Initially, there were widespread reports of possible involvement by group members in child pornography and satanic rituals. Authorities later said that these reports were unfounded and were attributable in part to confusion over the group members' unusual life style. Members said recently the Finders are disbanding.

Michael Minerva, the assistant public defender who represented Ammerman and Holwell, said he made the motion to dismiss the case "on the grounds that there was not sufficient evidence" to try it. Judge George Reynolds agreed.

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Washington Post 3/18/87

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#### METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 02-26-2014 BY ADG/

February 13, 1987

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TO:

Director Moture Star 92 2/17/87
Intelligence Division

THRU:

Supervising Sergeant July 1/1/87 Intelligence Division

SUBJECT:

Result of the Investigation and Interviews

Conducted in Tallahassee, Florida, in Connection with the FINDERS Organization

This report will be a compilation of information learned while your investigator was in Tallahassee, Florida, during the week of February 8, 1987. The information contained herein was obtained from members of the City of Tallahassee (Florida) Police Department (TPD), the Tallahassee Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and two of the six children currently in the custody of the State of Florida Health and Rehabilitation System (HRS). In order to avoid unnecessary duplication items of information already reported by other members of the Metropolitan Police Department (by way of P.D. 854) will not be repeated here.

This report will be divided into the following categories: Overview of Investigation, Synopsis of Travel, Investigation, and Attachments.

#### OVERVIEW OF INVESTIGATION

authorities in Tallahassee, Florida, reflected the follopositions:	owing
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DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.G.

#### SYNOPSIS OF TRAVEL

During the evening of Saturday, February 7, 1987, your investigator was directed to report to the Baltimore-Washington International Airport for the purpose of flying to Tallahassee, Florida. This was done and your investigator embarked upon four days of fact-finding and interviews within the State of Florida.	bi bi
On the morning of Thursday, February 13, 1987, the preliminary investigation was concluded and your investigator spent the balance of the day returning to Washington, D.C.	
INVESTIGATION	
Methodology	
The interviews conducted by your investigator were designed to minimize any potential trauma to	
First Interview with  About 1800 hours on the evening of Sunday, February 8, 1987,	b3 b6 b7C
vour investigator  of the City of Tallahassee Police Department (telephone	
to a shelter home. Interviewed at this home in	
the presence of Inv. of HRS, was with possible last	
names of white female.	
Your investigator was introduced as from Washington.	_
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	b6 b70
ATTACHMENTS	
Attached to and submitted with this report are copies of the reports prepared by officers and investigators with the Tallahassee Police Department. These attachments are as follows:	
Attachment 1: Copy of a five page THP Offense Reporting form dated 2-4-87 and prepared by Officer .	
Attachment 2: Copy of a two page Supplement to THP Offense Reporting form dated 2-4-87 and prepared by Officer	b6 b7C
Attachment 3: Copy of a Complaint/Arrest Affidavit for JOHN DOE dated 2-4-87 and prepared by Officer	
Attachment 4: Copy of a three page Complaint/Arrest Affidavit for dated 2-4-87 and prepared by Officer	
Attachment 5: Copy of a two page Supplement to THP Offense Reporting Form dated 2-4-87 and prepared by Officer	
Attachment 6: Copy of a seven page Supplement to THP Offense Reporting Form dated 2-9-87 and prepared by Investigator	
Attachment 7: Copy of a four page Supplement to THP Offense Reporting Form prepared by Investigator on 2-9-87	
Attachment 8: Copy of a six page Supplement to THP Offense Reporting Form prepared by Investigator on 2-10-87	
Attachment 9: Copy of hand-written letter on "GUNG-HO TRADERS" stationary signed by a genital-graphic computer-generated letter to an envelope addressed to in Gainsville, Florida	ь6 ь7с
Attachment 10: A six page computer-generated dot-matrix report dated 2-8-87 and prepared by Investigator (with map)	
Attachment 11: A two page computer-generated dot-matrix report dated 2-9-87 and prepared by Investigator (with descriptors for the six children)	

Attachment 12: A two page computer-generated dot-matrix report dated 2-11-87 and prepared by Investigator

Attachment 13: Copy of a news released from THP dated 2-11-87 which pledges cooperation between THP and MPD

Attachment 14: Copy of the "Ballad of Ballads"

b6 b7C

Attachment 15: A two page listing of names, addresses, and telephone numbers, several of which go to CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ENGLAND, the PHILLIPPINES, and the PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

submitted

Detective II
Criminal Personality Profiler
Criminal Investigations Division

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THE EHLLAD OF PALLORMAN

OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE DESCRIPTION OF EVAL COMMAN GO OF CERTIFICATIVE SERVICES DIVISION, METROPOLICAN POLICE CEPTATIMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

b6 b7C

What were their names and what were their games?
Who are these funny persons who play the game of games?
Who are they act like nice guys or dragons raising hell,
Sometimes they act like nice guys or dragons raising hell,
But before it flips they change the game; that's why it works so well.

When I first met the players, they lived in a funky house. They had rats down in the basement and carpets full of louse. In the living room the nymphs danced; in the basement they smoked pot They had one thing in common: they needed to learn a lot.

Some went to the country and some went to Georgetown.
They scattered to the winds; they couldn't stand to hang around.
Some went across the river and got into real estate;
They started making money and thought that it was great.

The ones out in the country they smoked a lot of pot.

Their game was getting colder but they thought that it was hot.

b7c

The other one who went there moved in with

He worked all day and fucked all night and thought that it was swell.

The one who went to Georgetown was working for the temps; She had a big apartment and paid a lot of rent. Her guests weren't very helpful which made it kind of rough, But she turned it into learning and that's how she got tough.

The boys across the river, they had the best of trips.
They had five men working with them making first rate buggy whips,
But boy were they surprised when their game began to flip;
They took and old man's ticket and then they lost their zip.

The tough one down in Georgetown, she moved to Glover Park. She got together with her friends to make the new age ark. They bought themselves some buildings and filled them up with fools. Then the fools became the teachers in a topsy-turvy school.

The woman in the country got tired of all the noise;
She wished that they would stay away, except for her two boys
So she got a house with fourteen rooms; the funnies stayed away;
But she wonders what is coming next down to this very day.

The players got a warehouse over in nigger town Right next to the pool hall; no one would come around So they made it green and global and invented games to play. Now their friends sign up two months ahead to use it for one day.

They wake up one fine marring and five had disappeared. They were gone to Pennsylvania or so it did appear. Four more they say were wished away; now everyone's perplexed. They don't know what to wish for or what is coming next.

The disappearing players showed up on the West Coast;
They started in to playing all the games that they liked most.
They built themselves a magnet and started to attract.
Pretty soon a lot of persons come to get into their act.

THE BALLAD OF BALLAD THE DOCUMENT SHALL NOT BE DISSEMINATED OR RODUCED WITHOUT THE PERSON OF THE COMMANDING DEFER. INVESTIGATIVE A dozen persons gathered in the middle of SERVICES PRINCEN, METROPOLHAN POLICE They loaded up and disappeared before the motiving Washington, D.C.

Just like a tribe of nomads they drove across the land. They go to where the problems are 'cause they're the back up band. They slipped into their playhouse and quietly began To make another model according to their plan. The word leaked out that they were back; they opened a Bank Bank And all their old connections came to get a lot of \_\_\_\_\_\_.

They went to San Diego where they met another fool And then on to Hawaii where they opened up a school The gifts and games abounded; the dramas all unfurled As they went on to earn and learn their way around the world.

The returning troops were greeted by a fat Wop and a Jew So they wintered in Miami where he showed them what he knew. The Ph.D., she fell in love with a Sufi businessman. He thought she was magnetic and he bought her a used van.

	took	the	Rabbi	for	a wa:	k ar	~cund	the	blo	·ck		
And th	ney st	arte	ed up	ancithi	er ho	iuse	for	t <u>he</u>	Jewi	sh o	こってり	odox.
a man	from	Oxfo	ard jo	ined :	the d	rew	wher	·e	ı	set	the	tone;
They t	ook a	a tri	p to l	Eriglai	rid ar	ום כנ	msum	ed h	is s	st ude	erit .	lcan.

W

b6 b7C

The cabin on the mountain was the newest schools of schools With two mean kids from Arlington and other assorted fools. The Sufi and the CPA invested in the town.

Then the Sufi went to Panama and invited town.

In the midst of all the folly, the tough one led a team
That kept the Student's ship affoat 'til she ran out of steam
But before she left she asked him to elevate the game
So he started calling prayer meetings and everybody came.

left, and tried to sink the ship.

The parents and the cult watchers thought that was very hip.

But they ran into a buzz saw of the wit and humor kind.

The fat man got his ring back, but he lost his piece of mind.

They players all got married and began a hive of bees With the kids out in the country and the adults on their knees. A crew went out to China and came back to start HQ; They learned to follow orders and they solved some problems too.

The great didact departed for the school up in the sky, But first she signed some paper: for recording on the sly. The boys got legalistic, mother was distressed, When in an act of curtesy their land was repossessed.

b6 b7C

What were their names and what were their games?
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Sometimes they act like nice guys or dragons raising hell,
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINE HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 02-12-2014 BY ADG

b6

Tallahassee Police Department
Public Information Office

234 E. 7th Ave., 32303 (904) 681-4233

## NEWS RELEASE

#### MELVIN L. TUCKER CHIEF OF POLICE

THIS DOCUMENT SHALL NOT BE CONTRACTED OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE PROPERTY OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER. IN ASTROPOLICAN POLICE OFFICER, WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 11, 1987

The following is a prepared statement released by Scott Hunt, spokesman for the Tallahassee Police Department:

"There are no new developments in the case of the six missing children, nor do we anticipate any major developments in the near future. If and when such developments occur, details will be released by the proper authorities.

In response to news media reports which suggested possible differences of opinion between the Tallahassee Police Department and the Washington, D. C. authorities, the Tallahassee Police Department will not comment on information supplied by "unnamed sources". This afternoon, Tallahassee Police Department Deputy Chief William Scott spoke with Washington Chief of Police Maurice Turner and confirmed that no problems exist between the two agencies and that we continue to enjoy a good working relationship with our counterparts in Washington, D. C. The Tallahassee Police Department will not compromise the integrity of this good working relationship by giving credibility to unnamed sources.

It is important to remember that the investigation of the Finders organization was outside the jurisdiction of the Tallahassee Police Department. Our investigation continues to focus on Child Abuse charges against the two suspects in custody. These cases have been bound over to the State Attorney's Office and we will be cooperating with them to ensure successful prosecution.

Until there are further developments in the case, the Tallahassee Police Department will have no further public comment to make regarding this matter."

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This inv was also advised that both suspects were given a b6 \$100,000 cash bond at first appearence. This inv spoke to Capt. b7C at LCJ and arranged for the suspects to be placed in isolation. Due to overcrowding at the jail, the suspect's had to be placed together. This inv was also advised by  The exams on  Following another group of interviews in an unrelated case, this inv went through some items removed from the van by Inv A piece of paper titled "The Ballad of Ballads" was found. See copy in case file. The ballad made reference to the	Children in Wash. DC, and gave them the information concerning the children. They stated that they would give the information to one of their inv. in the morning. They also checked for any children currently missing that matched the descriptions given.  This inv also contacted Sgt. of Metro PD in Wash. DC. He was given the telephone number and address of the house. He stated that he would call the number, and see who was there. Sgt called this inv back and stated that the phone number had an answering machine hook-up, which had a very "weird" message on it. He did not say what the message was. He stated that he was going to send a cruiser to the house. He then be transfered this inv to desk Sgt She took information b7c from this inv in regards to the child abuse charges. She also stated that the message on the answering machine was strange. She stated the message had some kind of biblical passage on it. Sgt also stated that she would send another cruiser by the house. Metro DC did not re-contact this inv that might. This inv attempted to interview both suspect. They were read their rights per miranda, and asked to sign an acknowledgement. Both refused. Suspect asked what the charges were. He was advised of the charges of child abuse. B3 Suspect laid on the floor of the holding b6 cell and Jerked his body. He refused to open his eyes, or b7c acknowledge this inv.  The van was inventoried by patrol, and towed to Deloach's.
This inv was also advised that both suspects were given a b6 \$100,000 cash bond at first appearence. This inv spoke to Capt. b7C at LCJ and arranged for the suspects to be placed in isolation. Due to overcrowding at the jail, the suspect's had to be placed together.  This inv was also advised by  The exams on  Following another group of interviews in an unrelated case, b7C this inv went through some items removed from the van by Inv  A piece of paper titled "The Ballad of Ballads" was	h3
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warehouse, a house in the mountains, Miami, Hawall, San Dlego, and China. Computer discs were also found in the van. Inv
advised that when he ran them, they proved to be program
discs, not data bases.
Late that might Dect contacted this inv. He b6 advised that he had been on the search warrant at the warehouse.b7C He stated that they found a large amount of computer goods, a hot
tub, sauna, large TV room, a library of books (some concerning
mind control), a satellite disc on the roof, and various
stage-lik <u>e setting</u> s of rooms that were roped off.
Dect advised that there were computers at the house
and various materials. He stated that he had not had the time to
go through all the information yet.
go om owgn all one important lect
0.6.07
2-6-87
On 2-6-87, this inv met with   of the FBI. He
stated that the US ATTORMEY'S OFFICE and the FBI would be
impolated in the case
This includes to LCT to
interview suspect   Upon arrival, we were informed that
Suspect was there. We spoke to him
first
He described Su <u>spect as being</u> a loner. He stated
that he has not seen
stated that had shown up at house in
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Gainesville approx 2 weeks ago with
He stated Suspect remained at
for approx thre He told them that he was enroute to
Miami. gave this inv a letter he had recieved
The 1-11-
signed by stating that suspect was
enroute to China via Hawaii. This letter was <u>written on a piece</u>
<u>of paper wi</u> th a letter head of GUNG-HO TRADERS
The other slip of paper contained in the letter was to
It was a letter which pornographically described
suspect genitals, and thanked
It appeared to be computer generated.
The letter wasa signed by the The letter was
post dated Ma <u>y 19,1986</u> .
Suspect refused to talk to of these
inv.'s.
Suspect did speak to these inv. but only to give
basic information, and to ask questions about the children. He
did ask if the children had been seen by a doctor, and if b3
anything was found. He also asked where the chidren were. He be
~ · · · · ·
anything was <u>found. He also asked where the chidren were.</u> He b6 was advised b7c
was advised b7c
was advised b7c Several leads from other <u>areas outside</u> Talla were g <u>iven to</u>
was advised b7c  Several leads from other areas outside Talla were given to the FBI to follow up on. Agt also spoke with
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was advised b7c  Several leads from other areas outside Talla were given to the FBI to follow up on. Agt also spoke with
Several leads from other areas outside Talla were given to the FBI to follow up on. Agt also spoke with on the telephone. He is located in the NY area.

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This inv and Act	also went to be
protective custody. Agt	b'
	for use by his agency.
2-7-87	
This inv wastalso advised	bγ FBI supervisor, b3
	a seach warrant for the van, and both
would be serving it this date.	This inv advised them of the perty from the van. They advised
that they would like to have a	
came to TPD and went thr	rough the materials.
	e area were given to the FBI to
follow up onAlso.on.this date,	from the National Gauner
	assist this agency in any way
	one of his publications, this inv
felt that spoke with Inv. fro	This inv bom Montgomery PD, who advi <u>sed that</u>
	om Montgomery ru, who advis <u>ed that</u> b e picture, and stat <u>ed that b</u>
	so listed as h <u>avino</u> and and
This inv : the 35mm picture that Agt	asked that inv
office of the FBI, and have	look at it. He
stated that he would.	
This inv also spoke with	of Marshall, Ca.
He advised that he was	
112 20002 01:00	
	have. He stated that he last saw
whose name is G'vlle. He stated that he went	approx <u>5yrs ago in</u>
	o to G.Alie to Alsid
He stated that they lived in a	
met two other women;	- Can dObre and obre by last ba
	e for 48hrs, and when he left he well manipulated, and really knew
little of what was going on in	life.
went to visit in DC.	orox lyr ago he and was living there at the
time. He stated that they went	
got no answer. state	ed that as they were walking away,
he turned around and saw someon	

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OR RE THE COMMANDING OFFICER, INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION, METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ATTACHMENT 11

87-3990

SUPP JUV IHV CHILD ABUSE 600 MYERS PARK DR ST. OF FL

2-9-87 2-4-87

ado	INFO On 2-8-87,	met	with the fo	ollowing Paor Metro PD;	ole at TP	and .
	<u>On 2-8-87;</u>	this inv mes	of Wash	Jof the FBI urther inform	. We lation wa:	
Tor di	On 2-8-87;  HRS:  scussed the constant and the constant a	irrent case, gencies.	and what			

needed by all agencies advised that no evidence of a

satanic cult was found at either residence in Wash DC. He was concerned about information he received from three-separate concerned about information he received from three separate. He sources concerning the basement of the house on the walls or the indicated that there may have been a hole dug in the walls of the floor of the basement. For unbown reasons to the basement for unbown reasons. floor of the basement; for unkown reasons. He stated that their made arrangements to interview reason for being in Talla is to Agt

during the interview of evening. This inv and Dect A list of known members of the Finders was discussed. present with Nect

At approx 6pm, this inv and Dect[ She was introduced case file. From Wash DC.

and told that he was

The commune became an attraction for local residences ho would drive to the area to observe people living in plastic tents and conducting their activities in the nude. As the hippie movement diminished, Ragged Mountain Ranch also fell into obscurity. However, it came to the attention of the Virginia State **b6** Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation-Arson Unit (VSP/BCI), b7C in 1980, following a fire which destroyed a residence and barn on the Ragged Mountain Ranch premises. This property had who alleged they had been occupied by been associates of subject until a break in their relationship. They moved from Northern Virginia to Ragged Mountain Ranch where they burned them out tollowing an argument over alleged that a division of real estate. VSP/BCI conducted an extensive investigation without verifying the claim. remains in an unknown origin status. at a Washington, D.C. meeting b6 approximately The meeting was billed as a discussion b7C presided over by of various religions and philosophies. It was attended by b7D individuals described by as brilliant society drop-outs, who were probably former hippies. said he was introduced to Finders organization, which he described as a cult, He said he joined, not knowing all the activities and philosophies of the cult. said he came to learn that the cult was merely who converted the members' money to his own a front for however, all he use. said he has given Finders wants to do now is to get out of the organization and does not He feels that care how the money was spent. money to purchase he does not believe the cult to use drugs, but they advocate free love and improvement of society. **b**6 b7C loperates out of a multi-apariment b7D residence located at He has used and uses telephone numbers a number of bank accounts to hide the funds obtained from the lalso utilized a warehouse, located at This location is a front for the organization and operates as a food distribution point for the heedy. THIS DOBUMENT SHALL NOT BE DELEMBE OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE DE TO SON CE THE COMMANDING SERVER, INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION, METROPOLIZAN PULICE WASHINGTON, D.

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	is currently
RH	However, will not tolerate anyone leaving the cult.
AILE	feels his experience to date with respect to the harassing letters and threats have all been related to his attempt to leave the cult.
	also uses group members as enforcers to apply physical
	pressure as well as psychological pressure. He identified these individuals as
	individuals as b7D '
	Both individuals are violence prone. said
	harassment campaign utilizes letters to apply psychological pressure and these are followed up by personal visits from
	believes both of these individuals also perpetrate
	the arsons ordered by
	related an incident occurring in, January, 1983,
	which involved cult member Barbara Sylvester Mateja, who attempted
	to leave the group. She was physically restrained in b6 residence. Mateja subsequently became ill and required b70
	medical attention. refused to allow her to obtain this
	attention and she died on the premises. said he does not believe that there was any police investigation of the death.
	and leased an office on This space was to
	be used for a business to be known as Finders, a consultant
	service available to the community, which would match clients and
	services and provided information and assistance in any matter. In addition also purchased a residence located at
	which was used by to temporarily house bo
	members of the cult. said the business did not get started b7D when he realized what was doing to the cult members.
	when he realized what was doing to the tult members.
	As a result
	him for more money. however, continues to harass
	said Sherwood travelled to Panama in 1981 with unrecalled members of the cult. The purpose of the travel was
	to contact representatives of the off-shore banking community to set
	up a newsletter/communication service for that industrysaid b6
	he does not think the venture was successful. In this regard, it big is noted Sherwood, or some other member of the cult, initiated a big big big in the cult.
	Freedom of Information inquiry through FBIHQ following the trip. A
	copy of a page of a WFO teletype to FBIHQ, dated 1/7/82 (WFOFile 196C-
	386), believed obtained <u>by Sherwood as a result</u> of this inquiry, was mailed by her to SA Fredericksburg
	Resident Agent, to his Culpeper, Va., residence. The envelope bore
	The manual and
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	SUF AMAN WELLINGS OF

SHE COMMANDING OFFICER. INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BIVISION POLITIAN FULCE

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b6 b7C b7D

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		•
	3-665)	•
• • *	(RUC)	
Metropolitan Police Departs Barbara Sylvester Mateja d  no investigation after bei address that Mateja refuse reasons.  Information in r to Detective	ion of Alement (MPD) ied on Jan med advised d medical referenced nvestigati	exandria, records of  Washington, D.C., reveal  Nuary 23, 1982, at  Homicide Branch conducted  by occupants at that  assistance for religious  teletype was provided  ve Services Division,  tion is outstanding,
	- ·	
	OR REPRIVE CO	CUMENT SHALL NOT BE STROETANATED ODUSED WITHOUT THE ASSON OF MMANDING DEFICER WAS A TOTAL OF POLICE SENT, WASHINGTON, D.G.
ADDIOVEG:I	ransmitted	umber) (Tim

b6 b7C

FINDERS;

FINDERS TRANSNATIONAL;

RAGGED MOUNTAIN RESEARCH CENTER;

EXTORTION

00: AX

Re Alexandria airtel dated 5/12/83, to Buréau. No copy to Richmond.

Enclosed for the Richmond Division are one copy each of referenced airtel and a self-explanatory LHM pertaining to captioned matter.

For further information. subject is a white male, born approximately hippie-style commune known as Ragged Mountain Ranch at Nethers, Va., during the late 1960's. This location initially drew the interest of local police authorities and military intelligence agencies due to the subject's alleged narcotics activities and his self-proclaimed connection with

A number of surveillances were conducted jointly by Virginia State Police and the military intelligence agencies, however, no arrest were made.

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b6 b7C b7D

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 02-26-2014
ADG

her return address and name. It is believed that Sherwood mailed the teletype copy to SA following disclosure the her that and reporting harassment US Postal authorities and the FBI.  b6 b7c
said a series of letters were sent and continue  to be received by his associates and friends since  All of the letters have impugned his reputation, intimated he was deceased or subtly threatened him with death. It is belief that all of the letters were authored by
Additionally, immediately after  a small fire broke out in the residence owned by  Arson investigators were unable to determine  the origin of the fire and have closed their case the fire is related to his conflict with  b7D
identified the following individuals as current members of Finders:
is currently residing in attempting b6 to avoid further contact with As noted in returned with b7C AUSA, EDVA, Alexandria, Va., will not consider prosecution. Accordingly, Alexandria is conducting no further investigation, but
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WASHINGTON, D.G.

furnishes the above background information to those divisions
which may receive complaints arising from this matter, specifically b6
Individuals acquainted with who are the recipients of alleged b7c contacts.

OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE PERSON OF CHARLES OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER, INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION, METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

MATT

#### GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATIVE FILE REPORT

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 02-12-2014 BY ADG

P.D. 854 Rev. 7/76 DIVISION BRANCH REPORT OF INVESTIGATION Domestic Security Intelligence Div. ARREST NO. I. D. NO. FILE TITLE " Finders " CASE NO. COMPLAINT NO. ACTIVE CLOSED
ACTION REQUESTED
FROM: OTHER OFFICERS CROSS REQUESTED ACTION COMPLETED b6 OTHER b7C E.C. Obenhein Intelligence Div. UNIT 2-12-87 П DATE REPORT RE: Interview of W/F, DOB On 2-11-87, an interview was conducted with for the purpose of determining any knowledge she may have regarding sexual abuse or physical abuse of the children involved with members or associates of an organization identified as the Finders. is a member of the group. The predication for the interview is arrests of two members of the group recently in Florida who were charged with child abuse involving two children b6 who were in their custody. Additionally the purpose was to determine if any abuse or b7C child neglect occurred in the District of Columbia. was interviewed at the office of the FBI along with S/A and described the group as an "experimental advised she joined the group in community" devoted to differing lifestyles alternatives. When asked as to who the parents are of the children taken into custody in Florida she provided the following information: **h**3 b6 b7C DISTRIBUTION: b7C

21287-02 dusp 22 PO 9

THIS DOCUMENT SHALL NOT BE DISSEMINATED

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### GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMEN MORALS DIVISION FILE REPOR.

P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	DATE	BRANCH
(Continuation)	2-12-87	Domestic Security
LE TITLE Finders		I. D. NUMBER
reiterated that	m	had driven to
Kentuckey to set up a retirement vil be placed in a Montessori school. T		
stages the group of children and the		
G		·
Other members of the Finders joined	the group and she ident	ified them as:
advised she has known all of t	hese people for a minim	num of and trusts all
of them. She did not believe any of		
She advised that various members of		
they were careful that the children she said the children were in bed wh		
listening device commonly put in inf		
She advised the mothers were going t in an attempt to see their children.		
generally well taken care of and tha		
for the welfare of the children.		•
Cha admirad	- Indian consider with	
She advised	who works at	His home phone is
		T
		٠. <del></del>
advised she is	who works	s at
in Arlington, Va.		
was urged to talk among the me	mbers of the group and	
perpetrator of the sexual abuse on		She was provided
with the above investigators' names	and phone numbers if sh	ne nad additional information.
•	THIS DOCUMENT -	
·	OR REPRODUCED 1411	ALL NOT BE DISSEMINATED THOUT THE PLEMINSION OF OFFICER, INVESTIGATION
	THE COMMANDING	OFFICE PLRAGISSION OF
	BERVICES DIVISION,	THOUT THE PERMISSION OF OFFICER, INVESTIGATIVE METROPOLITAN POLICE
	GEPARTMENT, WASH	INGTON, D.C.
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· /// (	als Division, Metropolitan Police Depar	
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### GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
RALS DIVISION FILE REPORT

4	Ē.
_	

P.D. 854 Rev. 474 DATE BRANCH REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (Continuation) Domestic Security I. D. NUMBER FILE TITLE "Finders" b6 b7C b7D at a later date concerning this Detective will attempt to reinterview investigation.

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TROPOLIT	F THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  TAN POLICE DEPARTMENT  TIGATIVE FILE REPORT	ALL INFORMATION CONTAINE HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 02-12-2014 BY ADG	D
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	INTELLIGENCE	ORGANIZED CRIME	BR.
FINDERS	I. D. NO.	CASE NO.	
ACTIVEX CLOSED REQUESTED ACTION COMPLETED SOME OTHER OF COMPLETED SOME OTHER O	F		ъ6 ъ7с —
INTERVIEW/			_
This interview took place Sund P.M. Myself and DET.	day February 8,1987 a ere present.	t approximatley 12:3	
gave us a narrative said that	account regarding	past. He	ь6 1 <sup>b7C</sup>
DISTRIBUTION:			2/17
31787-01 - Elnsp D2-	THIS DOCUMENT OU	DATE  2/17/.  2_pages  ALL NOT BE PROSENNATED	_b6 b7c
mit and a state of the state of	THE DOUGHLAN OF	THE MOTI DE 11 OF A SA (ED)	

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### GOY MENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COMBINE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTME. INVESTIGATIVE FILE REPORT

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. P.D. 854 Rev. 7/76

	DIVISION	BRANCH	
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	Intelli	gence Domest	ic Security
FILE TITLE	I. D. NO.	ARREST NO	•
FINDERS	COMPLAINT NO.	CASE NO.	725
ACTIVE CLOSED REQUESTED ACTION COMPLETED OTHER  BY UNIT	OTHER OFFICERS	CROSS RELAT	b6 FILES  b7C
DATE			
2/13/87   REPORT RE:		1 /	
On 2/5/87 contact was made with with the Metropolitan Police Depreview the inside rooms of the Washe agreed.  On 2/6/87 at approximately 12 no Warehouse and advised that she wobserved.	t. ERT Unit. The wr arehouse location of on, review	iter requested that the finders on 2/6/8	tensive work 7, to which  66  67  67
On 2/11/87, the writer contacted advised the followere the outer circle, (the like were the outer circle for outside worldly and friendly). The inner insiders, members, in which they advised that the leader of the gleaving all the rest of the members of the group was not a mentally Brillant individual, who shows a elevated the woman to a domineer possibly seizing control. She group together and engineering enterest.	clowingshe felt brary area and living ters to view, which over circle revealed where would exhibit their group was possibly as pers as followers. It person. She felt anti-social behavior. Fing role, in order to stated that the leader enough change from times are and the second to the state of the second to the second t	n the surface would a at the group was about actual lifestyle.  sisted by two other in stated that t that if anything he She further felt the o keep any male follow r was exceptional in me to time to keep the	epresented a e first level appear at for the individuals, the leader e was a nat he ower from keeping the ne followers
help us establish a better under			In order to
OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER, INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION, METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.  121387-03 - Luap 94.	A.		DATE b6 b7C \$13/87

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA METOPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT MC ALS DIVISION FILE REPORT

P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74 "			
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	DATE	BRANCH	_
(Continuation)	2/13/87	Domestic Security	
FILE TITLE		I. D. NUMBER	-
FINDERS			
In closing, stated to is the alternate life style they		erence between the group	_
It is the opinion of the writer	that	still have	b3
contact with the Finders and tha			b6
children were in the care of Soc			b70
assaulted. A check with Det.	Youth Servi	ces revealed that on at	

the children in question, were in the care of

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least one occasion,

Social Services in D.C.

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METROPOLITA	THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA N POLICE DEPARTMENT ATIVE FILE REPORT	HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFI DATE 02-12-2014 BY A	ED
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	TNTELLIGENCE	ORGANIZED CRI	ME_
FILE TITLE	I. D. NO.	ARREST NO.	
FINDERS,	COMPLAINT NO.	CASE NO. 87-225	 b6
PATE FEBRUARY, 9,1987	F. AL.	CROSS RELATED FILES	<b>b7C</b>
REPORT RF	INTERVIEWS AT	FBI OFFICES	
On January 5,1987  straight to BEREA Kentucky in		drove	b6 b7c
According to			
			ь6 ь7с
THIS DOCUMENT SHALL NOT BE DECEMBATE			b6 b7C
OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE PITT (138K-8) OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER, INCOME AND SERVICES DIVISION METROPOLITICAL POLAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.G.		DAT	17/87

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# GOORNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT M. RALS DIVISION FILE REPORT

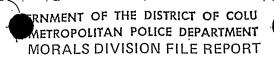
P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	DATE	BRANCH	<del></del>
(Continuation)			
FILE TITLE		I. D. NUMBER	
FINDERS . `	•		,
	****		
<u> </u>			
			<b>b</b> 6
			<b>b</b> 70
			-
INTERVIEW/			
She is			1
	s a peripheral m	ember of the group. The	_
lady is very matter of fact, and		he has no problem with	
the people that		Her feelings are	
that the group of which she is a	member is somew	hat unorthodox, but	
certainly not child abusers or cl never seen or been told of any ty	nild molesters.	She states that she has	
of the group, and the children.	ype or sexuar ac	civicy between the addits	
Her absence is explained by her	as		b3
			ь6 ь7с
is the:	re also, she is	a member of the group, but	<b>D</b> , C
The lady feels that all of this	is an attempt to	harrass the group, because	
of the way that they live, etc.			
witnessed by SPECIAL AGENT		e F.B.I	
		•	
151987-11	OFFICIAL USE ONLY	2 2 PAGES	
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#### GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

P.D. 854 Rev. 7/76	IIGATIVE FILE REPURT		
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	IMELLICENCE	ORCANIZED ORIGE	
FILE TITLE	I. D. NO.	ARREST NO.	
	COMPLAINT NO.	CASE NO. 82-118	 b6 _b7С
ACTION REQUESTED COMPLETED ACTION COMPLETED OTHER COMPLETED OTHER  BY UNIT INVOLLIZONCE  DATE  10/22/91	OFFICERS	CROSS RELATED FILES FILE  1 - 2 - 2 - 5	
REPORT RE:  Fossible child pernography			
On October 22, 1991, notification from Officer midnight section, home tel	ephone number	District Uniform, (PROTECT)	
Officer advised they believe is suspicious		ootman, Officers ed activity which ":	ь6 ь7с
The officers have obsoperate rental cars and exbuilding located at morning hours. The subject area in which this building N.E.	xpensive luxury type at 1 cts and their vehic	e models, enter the late and early les do not "fit" the	
On at least one occas males with a young male ch after the midnight section	hild enter the buil	ding. This occurred	
On another occasion, was observed leaving the last the van displayed tags who operator identified himself told Officer that he baby sat children the undersigned that the fit for baby sitting activations of the subject's story was very	ouilding in the ear ich were not listed of as a second straight of the new vity, especially af	to a van. The  He  ff". He also stated  ficer advised  ighborhood is not  ter midnight. The	b6 b7c
THIS DOCUMENT SHALL NOT BE DISSEMINATED OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE PUBLISHEN OF		10/22/91 10/22/91	
THE COMMANDING OFFICER, INV.		10-22	<u>:-9/</u>
	TIME OF OULL	PAGE 1 OFPAGES	



A/74	DATE	BRANCH	
رمرT OF INVESTIGATION (Continuation)	10/22/91	Organized Crime	
TLE		I. D. NUMBER	
The van is listed	to		
white male.		The vehicle is	
nascrinan as a			b
			b
Officer adv	ised that to the bes	t of his recollection,	
this building is the s approximately y	ame bullding which w ears ago for some ty	as raided by the police pe of child	
pornography.	carb ago non come of		
Г			
. `			
		a MÀ	
		APTI	
		10/22/91	
	Détoctive	<u> </u>	
	250000540	9,0-22-91 ". P	.2

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P.D. 854 Rev. 7/76

**INVESTIGATIVE FILE REPORT** 

DEDARE AN INCIDENTAL PROPERTY.	DIVISION	BRANCH
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	INTELLIGENCE	ORGANIZED CRIME
FILE TITLE	I. D. NO.	ARREST NO.
FINDERS		
TINDERS	COMPLAINT NO.	CASE NO.
XXACTIVE CLOSED REQUESTED ACTION OTHER OFFICE	EDS CR	OSS RELATED FILES
ACTION REQUESTED COMPLETED ACTION FROM:		.E . ]
BY DET		N.S.
UNIT INTELLIGENCE DIVISION		b7C
DATE 02/17/87		1 ]
REPORT RE:		
INTERVIEW/		
		·
		,
Responded to the residence of the	above listed couple	to intorviou them
regarding any contact they have ha		
		· .
Myself,	222242d +2 +b2 2dd	of the
FEDERAL BUREAU of INVESTIGATION, r We interviewed the couple, and lea	rned that they had	only met several of
the group, and <u>this was on two or</u>		
picnics for the		ь3
They recall that in 1985 they reci	eved a call from a	DIANE SHERWOOD, she 170
requested information regarding th	e schooling practic	es of their group.
She was advised to come to one of		
to the home schooling individuals.		three women, f the gatherings.
[	T came to one o	the gather mgs.
	was another child a	t the gathering. She
was identified as		
These people mingled with the othe	r folks, and asked	questions relating
to home education, and associated		
		1
DISTRIBUTION:		" '2/1/9
		b3
		DATE b6
,		2/17/27
2/787-115 June 194 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		1
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DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

#### NMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT MORALS DIVISION FILE REPOR.

BRANCH

P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74

who was unknown to the couple.

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

	(Continuation)	02/1//8/	INTELLIGENCE
LE TITLE	FINDERS		I. D. NUMBER
two The	next contact with any members of the was another impromptors women, one man, and two small of the women we dentity of the man was unknown complexion, with black curly because with the complexion of the curly because with the complexion of the curly because with the complexion of the curly because with the curly because	u gathering, that was children. The kids w ere n. He was described	s attended by
	re was a <u>nother mee</u> ting, attended ng with who looked so	d by omewhat disheveled ?	and another child,

During the three meetings, all informal, the couple stated that they found nothing unusual about the women, and the children seemed to be in good health, and properly dressed.

They went on to say that they have had no other contact with these people since, and never heard any further from them.

The interview took place in the home of the couple, and they appeared to be very forthright, and accomodating, in assisting us. They are approved by the local county to home school their own children, and assist in the home schooling of other children.

They were advised to give us a call, if anything came up that they may have overlooked during our interview.

This interview took place on Saturday, February 7,1987.

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#### GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

**INVESTIGATIVE FILE REPORT** 

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 02-12-2014 BY ADG

	DIVISION	BRANCH
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	INTELLIGENCE	ORGANIZED CRIME Br.
FILE TITLE	I. D. NO.	ARREST NO.
•		
FINDERS	COMPLAINT NO.	CASE NO.
D DEQUESTED ACTION OTHER OFFICE	CERS CROS	S RELATED FILES
ACTION REQUESTED COMPLETED	FILE	<b>b</b> 6
BV BV	l In	ь7с
UNIT INTELLIGENCE DIVISION		-
DATE 02/17/87		
	Local	
REPORT RE:  INTERVIEW/		
	•	
	•	
Mysslf and DET	d to the chair address.	
Myself and DET. responded to interview the above named coup	d to the above address	
and had ex <u>pressed a w</u> ish		
	<u>imed to have been as</u> so	
FINDERS, for at least the last		b6 b7С
appeared to be a well s	spoken, articulate ind	dividual, who discussed
his relationship at length regard	ding the FINDERS. He	
explaining that with assisting the homeless, and	group living for at	had been involved
with assisting the homeress, and	group riving for at	rease Tribeen years.
He told us that it was his feeling	ngs that these people	were a commune type
group, with a very hard working they have in the past shown that	type of work ethic!!	de went on to say that
for the benefit of the group, and	d that he has seen the	em take payment
ranging from cash, to potatoes, t		• •
He feels that they do have a some	owhat bizanno lifestv	le and they tend to
play games upon themselves as we		both
felt that they were not in any wa	ay involved in child	abuse, and devil
worship.		b6 b7C
They gave us background regarding	a the	and the fact that
they have not gotten along since	1	He said
that lived in Wash	ington, and that he c	ould be reached at M
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THE COMMANDING OFFICER INVESTIGATION		DATE .
CERVICES DIVISION METROPOLICAN POLICS  DEPOSITEMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.		2/17/87
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# TROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT MORALS DIVISION FILE REPOR

P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74

DEDORT OF INVESTIGATION	DATE	BRANCH	-
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (Continuation)	02/17/87	ORGANIZED CRIME	
LE TITLE FINDERS		I. D. NUMBER	-
FINDERS			_
says that some of the fam of a harrassing nature to certain the past also sent these letters t	people? He says tha	t they have in	- b6
The lifestyle that depicts the FINDERS are all about, if you no time limit to them, and that mo describe some of these, such as se fend for themselves with no money, obtain lodging, and earn enough mo on there own.	oney is no object. He ending two of the gro or return tickets.	that there is went on to up to Hawaii to They were to	<b>Ъ</b> 7С
He went on to say that there exper the last four or five years, and t in this field as we believe.	rti <b>5</b> e in computers ha chat they are not as	s occurred over sophisticated	
Information is their game, they ar it is apparent that the computers information at a much faster rate.	will enable them to	information, and store more of this	
Him and both feel that the what they themselves would conside people would not due anything to he kids at home, with mid-wives etc.	ne child raising techer proper, but they for arm their children?	eel that these	
They work to obtain funds to opera ment, and they handle a vast array		long term employ-	b6
He repeats that the behavior of th that they would injure the childre mental health, and he stated that that.??	en in any way ? I ask	ed about their	ъ7C
They told us that they were availade information that they could, and to other groups due to their refusion lifestyle? He says that they are l	that it had been thei that this group that this group all to offer any explike the F.B.I. in the	r experience over was bizarre, even anation for their	
information without disseminating I asked about the type of work tha nothing was beyond them. He said t powerful individuals over the year to clean walks and do gardening fo	at they would do, and that some of them hav rs, and that they hav	e worked for very	
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b6 b7C

P.D. 15-A Rev. 4/84

### METROPOLITAN . JLICE DEPARTMENT Washington, D. C.

### INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL ROUTING SLIP

•	DATE	April 28, 1987
	Chief Turner	
T	O: OHIOI TURNOI	
7	THRU: Assistant Chief	t:
	The second secon	Approval
χ	CHIEF OF POLICE	Approved
	FIELD OPERATIONS OFFICER	Comment
	FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU	Consideration
	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICER	Contact Writer
	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU	Expedite
	TECHNICAL SERVICES OFFICER	File
	TECHNICAL SERVICES BUREAU	Handle
	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES OFFICER	XX Information
X	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES BUREAU	Investigate & Report
. ^_		Noted
	OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL	Note & File
<b></b>		Prepare
	OFFICE OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT	Recommendation
-		Reply Direct
		XX Return
		See Me
		Signature
		Return By:
		<u> </u>
L	Signature of Sender	
	Insp	
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	DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.G.	-
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### MENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMEN

, MORALS	DIVISION FILE REPORT	
54A Rev. 4/74	DATE	BRANCH
PORT OF INVESTIGATION	}	
(Continuation)	February	12,1987 Domestic Security
Finders(Running Resume)	•	1. D. NOMBER
	.,	
<u>Interviews</u>		•
On February 12,1987 Detectiv	A	of the Intelligence
Dîvision interviewed	vei	br the interripence
Telephone number	stat	ed that she was familiar
with the Finders cuit as sno	e was first intro	duced to them in
af <u>ter</u>	sta	ted that she first went
to	were sh	e met
She was given a room by the	Finders and duri	ng th <del>e night she was</del>
summoned to the attic by one	e of the <u>female m</u>	
the nurnoses of engaging in	sex with	On another instance
stated that she spe	ent the night at	the warehouse and was sub-
Tected to watching sexual in		
and male members	s of the cult.	stated that when
she broke away from the cult		t the impression that the
cult members didn't like chi	lidren ası	
stated that a	Stam aha baaka arr	or from the gult
Stated that a	fter she broke awa	
After	told the	that they could not
	ived a call from	who alledged
to her if she did not give u	she w	ould he hurned out.
stated that one wee		
ed by	Finder's gr	oup called the communityin
<u>Virginia, again warning her</u>		to the Finders.
stated that	was burned de	
stated fhat		o overheard conversation's
between	discussing	g arson's they perpetrated
		ct insurance money for
	that she was told	
vented <u>Barbara Slyvester(sp)</u> appendix and subsequently sh		of complic-
		ld identify other members
of the cult and would testing		<del></del>
of the cult and would testing The identified members are a		
of the cult and would testing The identified members are a		
The identified members are a		
The identified members are a	as follows:	
The identified members are a	as follows:	iewed of
Interview On February 12.1987 Detective	as follows:	iewed of who stated that she
Interview On February 12.1987 Detective first met the Finders in	as follows:	iewed of who stated that she
Interview On February 12.1987 Detective	as follows:	iewed of who stated that she

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SERVICES DIVISION, METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.O.

# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT MORALS DIVISION FILE REPORT



P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74				_
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	DATE		BRANCH	
(Continuation)`	February	12,1987	Domestic Security	_
Finders (Running Resume)			I. D. NOMBER	_
Interviews continued:		,	,	
by a mutual fri several years. sta about because he ash policy and had women servin stated that she ne	ated that ked questing him lik	she had a lons about e a "Lord"	bad feelings insurance	ь6 ь7С
<u>Interview</u>				
	Agricultur work sta ninal info dn't feel call to t	ed for the  ted that  rmation at this inform he Inspect	e number  agency as a free  and  had full  that office of mation critical. or General's Office	ъ6 ъ7с
Interview				
On February 12,1987 Detects of San Francisco California Inspector had spoke was versed in a cult callin uses children in thier practical that the Finders are looses and supplied the names of	a, Telepho with ng themsel ctices.	on 2/11 ves the <u>Ra</u> state	/87 and	b6 b7C
a copy of this cata is related to the Finders.			ld send Detective mbers to see if it	
Interview				
On February 12,1987 Detect of the Los Angele	s Police D	epartment	th Detective who related that iminal history in	b6
		Calif	he received fornia ID number#	1 157C
Detective also st the names given by	ated he re	eceived an	alias for one of the who had an	
THE COMMANDING OFFICER OPENS OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER OPENS OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER OPENS OF THE COMMANDING DIVISION OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER OPENS OF THE COMMANDING DIVISION OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER OPENS OF THE COMMANDING DIVISION	Jak Li	112/-1	PAGE 7 OF PAGES	

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DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

### TROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTM TO MORALS DIVISION FILE REPORT

P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74 BRANCH REPORT OF INVESTIGATION February 12,1987 (Continuation) Domestic Security I. D. NUMBER FILE TITLE Finders (Running Resume) However stated that additional biographical information is needed to confirm the identity of the subjects. he would supply that information when it becomes availiable Interview b3 b6 On February 12,1987 Detective interviewed b7C that he has been counseling and parents of confirmed that have recieved nude photographs of and received letters describing sexual acts performed by with various members of the cult. stated that he has tried to come forth and assist the police in this to convince matter but stated that believe they can extricate believes is fruitless. from the cult, which stated he will again try to have come forward to assist this instant investigation and he will contact as to his progress. THIS DOCUMENT SHALL NOT BE DISSEMBNATED OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE PERSON OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER, INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION, METROPOLITAN FOLICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

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b6

b7C

b7D

P.D. 854 Rev. 7/76	INVESTIGATIVE FILE REPORT	DATE 02-12-2014 BY ADG,
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	Intelligence	Domestic Security
FILE TITLE	I. D. NO.	ARREST NO.
Finders Organization	COMPLAINT NO.	CASE NO. 66 87-225 670
ACTIVE CLOSED REQUESTED ACTION ACTION REQUESTED OTHER  BY Det. UNIT MATTF 2-6-87 DATE	OTHER OFFICERS	CROSS RELATED FILES
The attached repo	rts (2) were furnished by ormation on Finders Organ	and

members. On 2-6-87 the undersigned contacted the D.C Bureau of Vital Statistics in conjunction with the reference made in the attached reports, to the death of Barbara Sylvester MATEJA. of that office reports that she can find no record for MATEJAs' death on the was also funished the names of 5 of the date reported. children form the Florida incident along with their dates of birth in an attempt to determine if they were born in WDC, and who their parents may be. Results will be reported when they are received.

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#### NMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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P.D. 854 Rev. 7/76

**INVESTIGATIVE FILE REPORT** 

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	Intelligence	Domestic Security
FILE TITLE	I. D. NO.	ARREST NO.
		b6
FINDERS	COMPLAINT NO.	CASE NO. b7C
ACTIVE CLOSED REQUESTED ACTION OTHER ACTION REQUESTED OTHER	OFFICERS	CROSS RELATED FILES
Intelligence DATE 2/13/87		
REPORT RE:	•	
On 2/9/87 during the course of the it was ascertained that currently living in had left the group and effort		and is Since it appeared that her for an interview to
determine whether she might have in	nformation.	b6 b70
On 2/9/87 a call was placed to advised that she was the babysitter home. A message was left for either the call was placed identified herself as She was advised of the nature of the message.	to  advised that both pa	were not at e Intelligence Division.  who rties were not at home.
following. He stated that he was a	ted the Intelligence Div a s quite aware of the gro f the group for approxim	up finders. He stated that
returned to approximately	When she c	ame home, she was
accompanied by may leave the group, (60-40% to leave than the men and that also and advised that over the last approximately each year.	ave), was due to the fac	ould happen to the he group).
When asked questions regarding the advised that income care of Social Services from a preshim of the children that were assaudin San Francisco or enroute back to	dicated that occurred wh vious incident. NOTE# n ulted. He also stated t	ile they were under the o names were mentioned to 1 had
DISTRIBUTION: THIS DOCUMENT SHALL NOT BE DISSEMINATED OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE FEMALSSION OF		DATE
CERVICES DIV. V TO TOPOLICAN PULICE  021387-0400 Llugg Pt		2/13/87 2 PAGES
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GOV" MENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED rropolitan Police Department DATE 02-26-2014 BY ADG **INVESTIGATIVE FILE REPORT** P.D. 854 Rev:-7/76 DIVISION BRANCH b6 REPORT OF INVESTIGATION Intelligence Domestic Security b7C FILE TITLE ARREST NO. Finders COMPLAINT NO. CASE NO. YKYXXETIVE. CLOSED REQUESTED ACTION OTHER OFFICERS CROSS ACTION REQUESTED OTHER Detective Intelligence DATE February 20,1987 REPORT RE: <u>Interview of</u> On February 19.1987 Detective contacted Telephone number concerning a listing of her name and additional information contained <u>in the "Fin</u>ders" records. seemed very upset that the police were contacting her and assured her that our only interest was that her name b6 and information about her children were in the files. b7C that she needed a babysitter and contacted Georgetown University for stated that she was given the name of and interviewed her telephonically. stated that she would have hired| <u>| but she never showed up for a interview. Det ctive</u> that she was in no danger and the investigation was assured continuing and that the police department was still going through computer information and vast amounts of information and if her name surfaced again she would be reinterviewed. asked what would have happened if the "Finders" got into her residence and Detective told her that he was unsure of any motives and that anything would be speculative. On February 20,1987 Detective was contacted by stated that she was a freelance writer and that she was going to write a story for the Washington Post on Sunday concerning her involvement with the "Finders". attempted to <u>interview Detec</u>tive was given the number and name of Captain P.I.O.. Detective b6 specifically requested that any information concerning the inter- b7c

the "Finders". attempted to interview Detective and was given the number and name of Captain P.I.O.. Detective be specifically requested that any information concerning the interview with her not be used as it was a ongoing investigation. stated that she was going to write an article from the point of a mother who was duped into believing a representative of the "Finders" who stated she was from Georgetown University and working from within the framework of the University. stated she was going to use Detective name and Detective requested that she did not.

Captain PIO notified 2/20/87 1200 bes Sergeant Stitcher notified 1300

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DATE

#### GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ALL FRI INFORMATION CONTAINED METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED INVESTIGATIVE FILE REPORT DATE 02-12-2014 BY ADG P.D. 854 Rev. 7/76 BRANCH DIVISION REPORT OF INVESTIGATION Domestic Security Intelligence ARREST NO. FILE TITLE Finders Investigation CASE NO. COMPLAINT NO. **b6** b7C LXXXTIVE CLOSED ACTION REQUESTED FROM: RELATED FILES REQUESTED ACTION COMPLETED OTHER OFFICERS OTHER Detective П UNIT Intelligence DATE February 26,1987 REPORT RE: Interview with Detectives a former member of the "Finders" Cult. interviewed that he had been affiliated with the "Finders" for and was stated that he believed the "Finders" to be to find some type of ident b7D overeducated fools who sought out a man such as was a genius who held a extremely strong hold stated he felt that over the members of the cult by promising them sexual gratification, power and money. stated that was trained as a **b6** b7C stated that As to the personalites of the members of the "Finders" b7D was a homosexual and a former abused child. He also believes that if any would be a prime suspect. of the children were abused that was the former enforcer of the group and is associated with believed that the "Finders" are attempting to destroy at this time. that he identified

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/ b6 / /b7c

DATE

vehicle during

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also stated that the "Finders" cut the tires of

	TROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATIVE FILE REPORT	ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 02-12-2014 BY ADG
1.D. 654 Nev. 7/76	DIVISION	BRANCH
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	Intelligence	· Domestic Security
FILE TITLE	I. D. NO.	ARREST NO.
"Finders"	COMPLAINT NO.	CASÉ NO.
	•	187-225
XXXCTIVE CLOSED REQUESTED ACTION COMPLETED	F COLUMN TO THE PARTY OF THE PA	cross related files b6 ile b7C
☐ FROM: ☐ OTHER	1	
Detective		ä ·
имитIntellige <del>nce</del> February 27,1987		
DATE		
REPORT RE:  Information received by	the informant	
Information received by		•
0.0	noooiyo	d a letter at her
On home address,		r was postmarked
and the return	<u>-</u>	1 100 100 1100
	The letter attached hereto was a	b6
		b7C
		b7D
	information was related to AUSA	on Friday, February
27,1987 for her consideration.	· ·	
•		
		·
	. /	
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was surrainately terroringuitors, 5.5.		2/27/87 2/11/b
•		
		DATE 1
		2/27/87
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# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT OPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (Continuation)	2/9/87	Domestic Security
ILE TITLE		I. D. NUMBER
FINDERS		
·		·
	felt that they were in ex	w nothing about any sexual cellent health and well
being. Nor did he know of any t stated that he left the radio	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	any of the children. He ne booth while checking

electronic mail in Tallahassee...using the MCI system and simply forgot the machine.

b3 b6 b7C

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# OPPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT MC..ALS DIVISION FILE REPORT

P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	DATE	BRANCH	-
(Continuation)	2/9/87	Domestic Security	
ILE TITLE	[ 2/9/0]	I. D. NUMBER	-
FINDERS			
			- '
On Feb. 1, 1987 the			
., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., .			
			ь6 b7
			Б/
			7
			_
On Feb. 4, Wed., the adults decided	to split up for a day	or so,	
			<b>b</b> 6
			b7C
		1	
had left a message about	the D.C. Deline comi	ng by the house on and	
Tallahassee Police contacting him	by phone in regard	Is to the adults and the	
children. NOTE# did	state that the reason	on they did not go to the	
Tallahassee Police, was due to the			
they felt they would not be able to			
			_
Later that day.		while	b6
		ater part of the day, they	b70
called who told the	nem what had happened.	Again stated that	
they did nothing, due to the history	of harrassment, BUT w	HEN PRESSED FOR EXAMPLES HE	
COULD NOT GIVE ANY.			
On Fri. Feb. 6,			
regarding the raids or			
1 OPAI ATTIE VITO I ATAB OIL			
			•

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P.D. 854A Rev. 4/74

WENT OF THE DISTRICT OF CO	OLUMBIA
POLITAN POLICE DEPARTM	ENT
ALS DIVISION FILE REPO	DRT

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	ATSTOCK MICH		
On the morning of the 29th of Jan.,  headed west toward Texas.  campgound in Ocala National Forest  During the day hours some of the me  with the kids. According to  also stated that he and	The vans headed so and spent 3 nights a n went to Ocala to went they occupied t	s with the kids, while uth east to Juniper Springs t that location, (29-30-31). ork while the others stayed wo campsites at that location. an Irving Fiske in Ocala.	b6 b70
On the 28th of Jan., and drove down to Ocala, Fla. and re	eturned later in the	evening.	
drove down to Florida in two vehicle	es,		j
Jan. 27. 1987. they were joined in		. These subjects	ь 1
The subjects drove the six children stayed at place in Arc	cher, Flor <u>ida. Appr</u>	ne middle of Jan. 1987 and oximately one week later, on	
school, but were unable too. They children to Florida and received per	decided then, due to rmission from the mo	the cold weather to take the thers to go on the trip.	
Once in Berea,	attempted to	get the children into the a	_
			bi
According to			7
			•
			k
			1
- FINDENS		·	-
E TITLE FINDERS		I. D. NUMBER	-
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (Continuation)	2/9/87	Domestic Security	

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## COVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TETROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATIVE FILE REPORT

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P.D. 854 Rev. 7/76

	DIVISION	BRANCH	
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	Intelligence	Domestic Securi	ty
TILE TITLE	I. D. NO.	ARREST NO.	b6
	COMPLAINT NO.	CASE NO.	b7c
FINDERS .	COMPLAINI NO.	87-205	
I ACTIVE I I CINCEN I I NEGOLULO NOTION I	DFFICERS	CROSS RELATED FILES	
ACTION REQUESTED COMPLETED OTHER			
3Y			
Intelligence			
DATE 2/9/87			
REPORT RE:			
Interview of	referance to Floric		
On 2/9/87 at 1430 hours an interview was	s conducted of	w/m,	
who has been in the Wash:	ington area for	and who states his	
address is The interview	ew was conducted at the		b6
and S/A			b7
Since the interview was conducted to def	termine facts about the	children and not about	
any direct criminal activity of	the sub	ject of the interview	
was not advised of his constitutional r	ights.		
The fall with information real provided l	negarding	the children and the	
The following information was provided trip to Florida.	oy regarding	one ontrai on and one	
011p 00 11011001	(		1
			b3 b6
			b7C
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			1000
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			b7C
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	DIVISION	BRANCH	-
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	Intelligence	Domestic Secu	ritv
FILE TITLE	I. D. NO.	ARREST NO.	<u> </u>
•	1:		
	COMPLAINT NO.	CASE NO.	
		87-235	<b>b</b> 6
ACTIVE CLOSED REQUESTED ACTION OTHER OFF	ICERS	CROSS RELATED FILES	b7C
ACTION REQUESTED COMPLETED OTHER			
BY			
UNIT			•
Organized Crime Branch			
February 9, 1987			
REPORT RE:			
INTERVIEW WITH			
		_	b6 b7С
SYNOPSIS		,	D/C
the execution of the warrant, the w	e market area. riter was asked	During the course of	
DEMATIC			
DETAILS			
At 1005 am. February 6, 1987, the w		was asked to rel	
his knowledge of the people who wer	e conducting bus	iness on the premise in business in the	block
		shortly after he	
He states that there were four or f	ive white males	who he would see the	ere
regularly. Soemtimes there would b	e others but mai	nly it was just four	or
five. At one point, he got into a	discussion with	one of the regular s	ubjects
who told him that	1	He also stated that	
several ocassions he has seen two waraged and dirty at On some	nite children wh	ons, he has noticed t	.pbeared
the children were accompanied by tw	or chese ocassic	te. He stated that	he
would be able to recognize photogra	phs of the child	lren and the other pe	ersons
but that	<u>•</u>		
	•		
			1
			,// ,
			MA 3/12
		<i>_______</i>	7/1/20/12
OR REPRODUCED WITH NOT BE DISSEMINATED			·
OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE DESCRIPTION OF		-	b6
THE COMMANDING OFFICER, INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION, METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.		DAT DAT	10/87
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