

The full article, sans photos, is posted on the SFGate site at: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2001/06/10/MN170988.DTL#ixzz170PF0IC>



Pickard was arrested Nov. 7, 2000, on charges of conspiring to operate a massive LSD lab.

# William Pickard's long, strange trip

Suspected LSD trail leads from the Bay Area's psychedelics era to a missile silo in Kansas

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CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

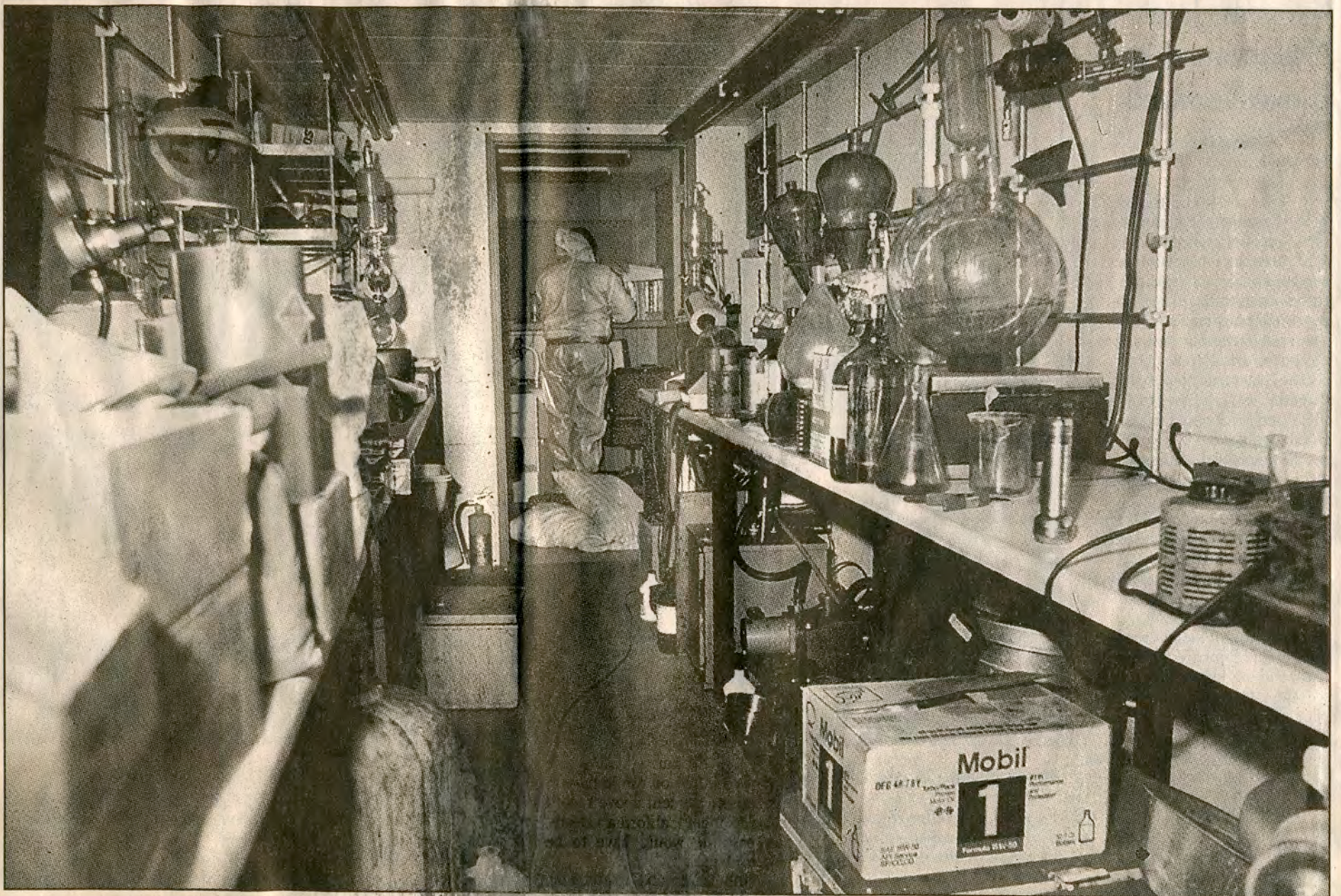
WAMEGO, Kan. — On a cold afternoon last November, federal drug agents staked out a decommissioned nuclear missile silo in the gently rolling fields and watched as a tall, thin San Francisco man in black clothing and long silver hair tried to get in. Oblivious to the trap, William L. Pickard Jr., a University of California at Los Angeles researcher who studies psychoactive drugs of the future, took several aluminum

canisters from a silo shed, put them in his rented Buick and merged into traffic. Minutes later, red lights and sirens pulsing, Kansas Highway Patrol officers stopped Pickard and a friend following him in a van. Clyde Apperson, a Mountain View business consultant, was arrested. But Pickard bolted from his Buick, which rolled into a ditch as the marathon-running vegetarian vanished into the heartland dusk. Inside the vehicles, agents found sophisticated laboratory equipment and what they allege is

enough raw material to make 16 million doses of LSD. Pickard, they say, was poised to use the missile base, built during the Cold War to defend the American way of life, to make the drug that helped launch the 1960s counter-culture and inspired Timothy Leary's exhortations to "turn on, tune in and drop out." This is the story about the life and times of Pickard, a brilliant chemist who was deputy director of UCLA's Drug Policy Research Program, and how he came to be accused of conspiring to run one of the nation's largest LSD labs. The tale unfolds amid a budding psychedelic renaissance rooted in the Bay Area. Hallucinogens have turned up at raves where they

are used to party, at psychiatrists' offices where they have been part of therapy and at universities where scientists are conducting the first authorized human tests on them in decades. The case highlights law enforcement suspicions that since the hippie era, Northern California has been a haven for elusive, close-knit groups who supply most of the nation's "acid" in the belief that it fosters enlightenment. The Chronicle has learned that the Drug Enforcement Administration has investigated whether a surreal assortment of other people played a part in the alleged conspiracy — including women from

► LSD: Page A18 Col. 1



In 1988, William Pickard's lab in Mountain View was busted after a neighbor called police to complain about the smell. Agents seized more than 200,000 doses of LSD. California Department of Justice



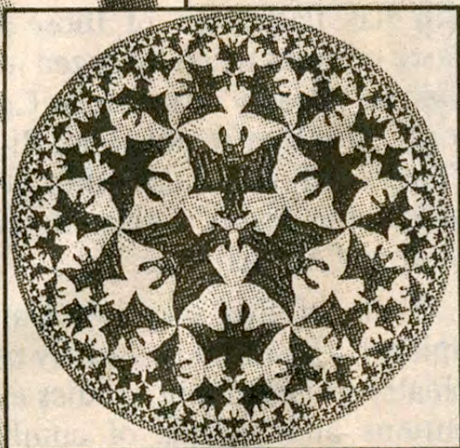
In his 1963 high school yearbook, Pickard (center with tie) was featured as member of the science club. O'Keefe High School 1963 yearbook



William Leonard Pickard, Jr.: Atlanta high school to Kansas silo.



The DEA staked out this former nuclear missile silo in Kansas. The Wamego Times 2000



Pickard visited Tim Scully, left, during Scully's San Francisco trial for making LSD and later bought a print, inset, from him.

Courtesy of Tim Scully



"I'd like to think it's the beginning of a renaissance (in the study of psychedelics)."

DAVID NICHOLS  
President of Hefter Research Institute



Pickard confided that he had taken "more LSD than anyone on the planet."

JOHN HALPERN  
Harvard psychiatric resident in a statement to the DEA