

Closest Friend Willed Bulk of Hoover Estate

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Except for a few minor bequests to name sakes and faithful employees, J. Edgar Hoover has willed his entire estate of \$551,500 to the man who was his closest friend, companion and law enforcement associate for more than 40 years.

Clyde A. Tolson, the 72-year-old associate director of the FBI who resigned almost immediately after Hoover's death on May 2, is both the beneficiary and executor of a will filed for probate last Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The document was made public yesterday.

Tolson, who inherited

Hoover's \$100,000 house and antique furnishings at 4936 30th Pl. NW., has reportedly already moved out of his own apartment and is now occupying the dwelling. He gave that address as his own on court records.

Tolson, falling in health, automatically became acting director of the FBI after the 77-year-old Hoover was found dead in bed three weeks ago.

Grief-stricken, he sent a one-sentence letter of resignation to the bureau and declined even to take a telephone call of condolence from the man appointed to act as Hoover's temporary replacement, Assistant At-

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torney General L. Patrick Gray III.

Tolson, recruited into the FBI by Hoover in 1928, became the person closest to him over the years. The two bachelors lunched and dined together almost every day and had dinner together in Tolson's home the night that Hoover died peacefully in his sleep.

Hoover would pick up Tolson en route to the office every morning in his bullet-proof limousine and drop him off again in the evening.

They took vacations together.

When Tolson reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 two years ago, Hoover encountered criticism for finding a loophole to keep his old friend on the payroll despite ill health.

In addition to Hoover's home, Tolson was also bequeathed "approximately 40 oil, gas and mineral leases (or parts thereof) for interests in Texas and Louisiana". The estimated value of those holdings was given as approximately \$125,000.

Hoover's personal property, estimated in value at \$326,500, consisted of the following.

- Stocks and bonds: \$122,000.
- Cash in banks and loan associations: \$84,000.
- Insurance payable to estate: \$45,000.
- Contributions to Civil Service retirement: \$45,000.
- Unpaid salary and annual leave: \$18,000.
- Household effects: \$7,500.
- Jewelry: \$5,000.

According to the petition for probate filed by Tolson, Hoover left no unpaid debts except funeral expenses of approximately \$5,000 and miscellaneous current expenses of approximately \$1,000.

In leaving his estate to Tolson and "his heirs, executors, administrators and assignees forever", Hoover asked in his will that Tolson "keep, or arrange for a good home, or homes, for my two dogs".

Seven other persons were

remembered by Hoover in the following bequests:

His longtime secretary, Helen W. Gandy, was left \$5,000.

His chauffeur, James E. Crawford, is to be paid \$2,000 over a period of three years. Also, Crawford and an FBI messenger, W. Samuel Noisette, were left "equal distribution of all personal wearing apparel."

Annie Fields, the housekeeper who found Hoover's body, is to receive \$3,000.

One namesake, John Edgar Nichols of Leesburg, son of another longtime Hoover friend and associate, Lou Nichols, was bequeathed a small star sapphire ring and two pairs of cuff links.

Another namesake, John Edgar Ruch, was left a platinum watch and two other pairs of cuff links.

Hoover left nothing to four nieces and two nephews, listed as his "heirs-at-law." The children of his deceased sister and brother, they are his next of kin.

The six are:

Fred G. Robinette, Lanham, Md., a former FBI agent who served under his uncle for 10 years; Mrs. Dorothy Robinette, Delano, Calif.; Mrs. Marjorie A. Stromme, Costa Mesa, Calif.; Mrs. Anna Hoover Klenast, Mitchellville, Md.; Mrs. Margaret Hoover Fennell, Bowie, Md., and Dickerson N. Hoover Jr., Charles Town, W. Va.

If Tolson had preceded Hoover in death or died simultaneously, the estate was to have been divided equally between the Boys Club of America and the Damon Runyon Memorial Fund for Cancer Research, Inc.