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# Cousin Says Hughes Sent a Will To Bank in '38, but It's Missing

By ROBERT LINDSEY

LOS ANGELES, April 26—A cousin of the late Howard R. Hughes asserted today that he had found evidence that Mr. Hughes prepared a will in 1938, but said a worldwide search has failed so far to locate it.

The cousin, Richard C. Gano Jr., offered a typewritten, unsigned letter that he said had been written by Mr. Hughes to the First National Bank in Houston that purported to accompany his will to be held by the bank until his death.

However, Mr. Gano's lawyers said the bank had not been able to find a will.

Whether or not Mr. Hughes died on April 5 without a valid will has become a vital factor in determining the fate of his fortune, which has been estimated at \$1.5-billion.

Mr. Gano submitted the typewritten letter ascribed to Mr. Hughes in court documents filed as part of an effort to block attempts by the Los Angeles County administrator, Bruce Altman, to take over administration of the billionaire's

estate on the ground that he did not leave a will.

The court documents said Mr. Gano (pronounced gan-oo) had also found "evidence" of the possibility of a second will or codicil executed after 1938, but gave no details.

Arlo Sederberg, a spokesman here for the Summa Corporation, the umbrella holding company for most of Mr. Hughes's properties, said that no will executed by Mr. Hughes had been found, either signed or unsigned.

Mr. Gano, one of the 12 living first cousins of Mr. Hughes, was appointed temporary administrator of the estate in California on April 14 by Superior Court Judge Neil Lake.

Mr. Altman said today that the 1938 letter ascribed to Mr. Hughes would have no effect on his drive to seek public administration of the Hughes estate.

"Until a will is produced, we intend to continue; it behooves the special administrator [Mr. Gano] to produce a will," he said.