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Former Aide Says Hughes Wrote Will And Put It in Bank

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LOS ANGELES, April 15 (AP) —Howard R. Hughes, intending to leave his fortune to a medical foundation, wrote a will with "alternate" versions for each page, put it together in secret and placed it in a Hollywood safe deposit box, a former assistant said today.

"That will is in existence," said the assistant, Noah Dietrich, who left Mr. Hughes's employ in 1957 after 35 years of service. "I don't know what happened to it."

Hughes spokesmen say that no will has been found, but that the search is continuing. An elderly aunt and her son were named yesterday as temporary administrators of his estate—estimated to be worth $1.5 billion.

Mr. Dietrich said that Mr. Hughes had written the will himself, basing part of it on sample paragraphs solicited from his attorneys. Its final form, however, was known only to Mr. Hughes, Mr. Dietrich said.

"About 1955, he made out the will," Mr. Dietrich recalled. "It was a long, intricate process he went into, as usual.

"There were five alternate pages for every page. He selected the final ones he wanted to use, stapled a blue back on them, sealed them in an envelope and gave it to Nadine Henley."

Mrs. Henley is an officer of the Summa Corporation, the holding company for Mr. Hughes's vast enterprises, and was a trusted associate of Mr. Hughes.

She could not be reached for comment immediately.

Mr. Dietrich said that Mr. Hughes gave the will to Mrs. Henley and "told her to put it in a safety deposit box at the South Hollywood Bank of America and give him the keys."

Enzo Provenza, the current manager of the bank, said, "I don't know anything about it."