

SFChronicle

25 Cents Got Him Into 'Hughes Will'

Willard, Utah

A young gas station owner who believes he loaned Howard Hughes 25 cents in 1968 could receive more than \$100 million if a document that might be the billionaire's will proves genuine.

"I don't know whether to laugh or cry," Melvin Dumar said when told he had been named in the document filed in court in Las Vegas yesterday.

The document said one-sixteenth of Hughes' estate was to go to "Melvin Dumar of Gabbs, Nevada." Some estimates say Hughes was worth \$2 billion and on this basis Dumar could get \$156 million.

He said yesterday that in January, 1968, he was traveling to Southern California.

"I stopped on the side of the road someplace near Tonopah, Nev., near the Utah border, and saw a man lying on the side of the road bleeding.

"I asked if he wanted to be taken to a hospital. He was most

insistent he wanted to be taken to Las Vegas. I thought he was a bum. He was poorly dressed and looked very shabby. He told me he was Howard Hughes, but I didn't believe him," Dumar said.

"He kept telling me he was Howard Hughes and asking me my name," Dumar said, as he attempted to recall the only reason why he would be named in the document.

"Since he did not want to go to a hospital, I asked him where he wanted to be taken. I dropped him off behind the Sands Hotel, I think.

"He asked me for some money and I gave him a quarter. That was the last I heard about the incident until today."

Dumar did not know why Hughes was bleeding and he described the man he picked up as "a skinny man in his 60s."

Dumar, 31, operates a gas station in this farming community 50 miles north of Salt Lake City. He

lives above the station with his wife and four children.

"I don't know what I'll ever do with the money," Dumar said. "My wife is running around with the station wagon screaming and hollering."

He added that he works in the gas station 15 hours a day.

He also attends Weber State College in Ogden, Utah, where he is taking business and real estate classes and hopes to graduate next year.

Dumar was born in Cedar City, Utah, and has lived most of his life in Nevada and California. He moved here from Anaheim, California, two years ago after he could not find a good job.

"We sold our home in Southern California, saw a good deal in this gas station and bought it."

He kept repeating: "I don't know what to believe."

Reuters



MELVIN DUMAR READ THE GOOD NEWS 'I don't know whether to laugh or cry'

LPI Telephone