

'Man in Hughes' Will Once Had to Face Trial

Hawthorne, Nev.

Melvin Dummar, listed as a beneficiary in the purported will of Howard Hughes, was arrested here and tried for forgery in 1969, it was learned yesterday.

Records show that Dummar, 31, was arrested for allegedly forging his name to a payroll check from Basic Refractories, Inc., a mining company in Gabbs, Nev. He was tried, but the jury was unable to reach a verdict.

The charge was later dismissed instead of being brought to a second trial.

"I realize that since this all happened, people are going to dig up anything about me from the time I was born until today. I'm only human. That's all I can say. I was not convicted," Dummar said when asked yesterday for comment on the arrest record.

The check was allegedly cashed in November, 1968, about ten months after Dummar said he met Hughes.

He also declined further comment on court records in Utah that showed he was charged in Ogden, Utah, on January 14 with receiving stolen property, a deer rifle. Charges of receiving stolen property were dismissed February 11 in Utah on the ground the court lacked jurisdiction because Dummar was living in another county at the time.

Dummar and his wife said the media reports were a "gross injustice" and said attorney Roger Dutton of Ogden would have to make any further comment on the subject.

Dummar of Willard, Utah, could receive about \$125 million if the will is legal.

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