

# The Hughes Will Mystery — Two More Claimants Show Up

Las Vegas

Documents purporting to be wills disposing of Howard Hughes' gigantic estate kept springing up yesterday.

A sixth will was received in the mail from a Columbus, Ohio, woman by a Houston probate judge who immediately labeled it a fake.

Some steps toward clarifying the confused situation surrounding the estimated \$2.5 billion estate may be taken next Friday. That is the scheduled date for probate action in Las Vegas on the first of the purported wills — the one found mysteriously April 27 at Mormon church headquarters in Salt Lake City. That one names Noah Dietrich, former Hughes right hand man, as executor.

Dietrich, 37, swears the document appears to be in Hughes' handwriting. Others dispute this contention. Dietrich's attorney, Harold Rhoden, planned to fly to Las Vegas from Los Angeles today with an unidentified handwriting expert to examine it.

According to William A. Jones, who runs an organization called Heir Finders, Inc., in Nashville, the "Mormon will" was composed as a practical joke by five persons during a Las Vegas weekend of drinking and drug-taking.

Jones said he had a tape-recording made when an anonymous man called him from Salt Lake City to tell of the weekend in Las Vegas during which he and his friends concocted the phony paper.

However, another claimant surfaced yesterday, asserting he gave Hughes a ride in the Nevada desert and helped him compose a will.

A statement delivered to the Salt Lake county attorney's office in Utah by a man identified as

## Hughes Firm Wants His Things Back

Acapulco

The Summa Corp., the holding company of the late billionaire Howard Hughes, has filed a writ here to recover the property left here by Hughes when he boarded the plane on which he died en route to Houston April 5.

The writ asks that Mexican authorities be required to return 500 articles from the luxury hotel suite in which Hughes spent the last few weeks of his life. It also asks return of a bank account containing \$130,000.

The articles in Hughes suite and the bank account were seized by Mexican authorities after they had noted alleged irregularities in Hughes' status here.

Agence France-Presse

Jefferey Hayes said the document that was found at Mormon church headquarters was the will Hughes himself wrote in 1968 during the desert encounter.

The Hayes statement said Hughes was afraid of dying and asked for help in preparing his last testament.

The story of the desert encounter differed from the one related earlier by Melvin Dummar, 31, a service station operator at Willard, Utah, who said he found a weary and bleeding Hughes lying alongside a desert road in January of 1968 and gave him a ride in his pickup.

Dummar was named as beneficiary of one-sixteenth of the estate in the first will and would receive about \$125 million before taxes if it holds up in court.

Hayes' statement said he was driving a Volkswagen bus through Nevada in 1968, picked up the man he later identified as Hughes and later gave the hitchhiking Dummar a ride. A fourth person, also in the bus, was identified only as Martinez.

Hayes said he had some music paper in the bus, and Dummar said

he knew something about wills. Dummar wrote up a will. Hughes read it and was dissatisfied because the percentage of the billionaire's estate Dummar had allotted to himself was excessive.

Hughes then attempted successfully to write a will himself, lowering Dummar's proposed inheritance.

The statement apparently offered no explanation of why Hayes, Hughes' original benefactor, according to Hayes' version, was not named an heir.

A onetime secretary to Hughes added another element to the mystery in the pursuit of a valid will.

Eleanor Rohrbeck, 61, of Palm Springs, said she gave a codicil to a valid Hughes will in 1956 to Nadine Henley, Hughes' longtime administrative assistant.

Rohrbeck said she had typed a Hughes will in 1949 and another one in 1955.

Henley, an official of Summa Corp, Hughes' personal holding company, was not available for comment.

Summa spokesmen have cast doubt on the validity of all the wills that have turned up, and the corporation is still apparently searching for a valid one.

In view of the many purported wills, District Attorney George Holt in Las Vegas said yesterday his office would prosecute anyone who fraudulently or frivolously forged a Hughes testament.

Most of the documents were shot with internal errors of fact and crude misspellings.

The one received in Houston, for example, was dated June 20, 1961, and named Judge William Bear as executor. The judge pointed out he did not take office until 1967.

United Press