

# HUGHES MINE CLAIMS TO BE SOLD OR LEASED

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Late Billionaire's Company Says  
He Paid Nearly \$20 Million for  
Famed Property in Nevada

TONOPAH, Nev., Jan. 7 (AP)—The late Howard R. Hughes's Summa Corporation wants to sell about 1,500 claims to Nevada mines, many of them famed gold producers. Mr. Hughes spent nearly \$20 million on the claims, the company said.

Arlo Sederberg, a Summa spokesman, said yesterday that the company's Land Exploration and Mining Division was closing and the claims were "up for sale or lease to potential bidders." He also said that Summa had "some leads" and added, "This isn't a mining company."

Many of the claims are on mines that made this central Nevada town famous at the turn of the century, producing more than \$110 million in gold and silver.

When Mr. Hughes bought the claims in 1968 and 1969, residents predicted a new boom. It never materialized, and the excitement has long since waned.

The mining claims are caught in the web of litigation that followed Mr. Hughes's death last April 5. After the eccentric billionaire bought the claims, Summa, then called the Hughes Tool Company, filed suit contending that Mr. Hughes had been bilked and had paid too much for them.

Mr. Hughes's cousin and administrator, William R. Lummis, who has questioned the legality of interest rates on some of the loans, also testified that he thought Mr. Hughes signed the notes.

Judge Gregory delayed ruling on whether the estate could immediately repay the notes owed to the Texas Commerce Bank and \$5 million additional owed to the Bank of the Southwest.

Mr. Hughes's associates testified that most of the money was used to purchase The Sands, a Las Vegas hotel Mr. Hughes bought in 1967, and to gain control of Hughes Air West.

## Ex-Hughes Aide Testifies

HOUSTON, Jan. 7 (UPI)—A former aide to Mr. Hughes testified yesterday that the billionaire personally signed a renewal note for \$28.2 million in loans from the Texas Commerce Bank.

Clarence Waldron, seldom seen and previously reluctant to be questioned, was one of a few close assistants who lived with Mr. Hughes at various hotels around the world.

"We always discussed what he was signing," Mr. Waldron told Probate Judge Pat Gregory, who is evaluating Mr. Hughes's indebtedness. "He put a lot of time into thinking about signing anything."