

Utah Beneficiary Reported to Admit Lying About Role in Hughes 'Will'

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RENO, Nev., Jan. 13—Melvin Dummar, the Utah service station operator who said that he had known Howard R. Hughes, has admitted that he lied about his role in the so-called "Mormon will" under which he would be a beneficiary of the late billionaire, two lawyers who questioned him said today.

The assertion of Mr. Dummar's admission came in Los Angeles at a news conference held by Harold Rhoden, an attorney representing Noah Dietrich, who was named executor of the purported will. Mr. Rhoden's account was confirmed in a telephone interview by Roger Dutson, an Ogden, Utah, lawyer who represents Mr. Dummar.

The lawyers said that they questioned Mr. Dummar almost all yesterday. Mr. Dummar was not available for comment today.

Under the will Mr. Dummar stood to receive one-sixteenth of the Hughes estate, and Mr. Dietrich would have received 4 percent of it as the executor's fee. Mr. Hughes left hundreds of millions of dollars in an estate so mammoth that it has not yet been appraised. His associates believe he may have left no signed will when he died last April 5.

Warning to Lawyer Described

Mr. Dummar was confronted most of yesterday in Mr. Dutson's Ogden offices by the two lawyers, Mr. Rhoden said today. Mr. Rhoden said that he had been invited to talk to Mr. Dummar and had warned Mr. Dutson that if Mr. Dummar "admits anything, I must tell the court." Mr. Rhoden added: "They all knew I was going to try to break him."

Mr. Rhoden said that Mr. Dummar still insisted last night that he had no role in forging the will and that he did not know if it had been forged. Mr. Rhoden said, "I think we'll keep getting fanciful

versions. There were tears. He wants to tell the truth, I think.

"If it is a forgery, I wish he'd open up and tell us about it."

Mr. Rhoden said that he intended to pursue his attempts to validate the will because his handwriting experts have assured him that it is in Mr. Hughes's hand. The same experts, he said, told him a month ago that Mr. Dummar had written the note inside the package that contained the will.

The two lawyers said that Mr. Dummar had made the following admissions:

¶He delivered the will to a receptionist. He did not know how it got to the vacant office in the world headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City.

¶He read the will before delivering it. He wrote notes and addresses that were with the will when it was found. He sealed all this and the two-envelope package. (This account conflicts with the accounts Mr. Dummar gave until yesterday.)

When found on April 27, the will was in an envelope sealed with a note and inside another envelope. The envelopes were under a box of material that had been placed on the office desk. The outer envelope was the sort given to tourists by a church information office on Temple Square in Salt Lake City. On that envelope was the address "President Spencer Kimball," the president of the Mormon Church.

Inside was another envelope and a sheet of paper that said, "This was found by Joseph F. Smith's house in 1972. Thought you would be interested."

On the second envelope, which was yellowed as with age, was written, "Dear Mr. McKay. Please see that this will is



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Melvin Dummar

delivered after my death to Clark County Courthouse, Las Vegas, Nev., Howard R. Hughes."

David O. McKay was an earlier president of the church. Inside that envelope was the will.

Mr. Rhoden said that Mr. Dummar had admitted writing all of this and sealing the package after having read the will, "but denied forging the will."

According to Mr. Rhoden, Mr. Dummar told various stories, all of which the lawyer labeled as deception, about where he got the will, which is in longhand and is dated March 19, 1968.

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