

Secret courier for Hughes 'will' named

HOUSTON (AP) — A secret courier for Howard Hughes, acting on instructions from the late billionaire, delivered Hughes' will to a Utah gas station attendant, a Houston lawyer said yesterday.

Attorney George Parnham said the courier was LeVane Forsythe, a partner in an Anchorage, Alaska, construction firm. Parnham works with Harold Rhoden, attorney for former Hughes aide Noah Dietrich who was named executor in the purported will.

However, Jim Dilworth, a Houston attorney representing the Hughes estate here, said the will in question was a phony. He called Forsythe a publicity seeker. "I've got a thousand envelopes in my office right now, with stories just as good as Forsythe's and even better," Dilworth added.

Las Vegas District Judge Keith Hayes, after meeting with Rhoden on Friday, said a sworn statement will be taken from Forsythe on March 9 in Las Vegas.

The purported will left one-sixteenth of Hughes' fortune to Melvin Dummar, who claims he once gave a ride to an old man who said he was Hughes.

Hughes died April 5, 1976. Dummar said a stranger delivered an envelope containing the purported will to his service station in Willard, Utah, on April 27.

Parnham claimed that Forsythe worked for 20 years as a secret courier for Hughes under various code names.