

Hughes Will Proved Fake In FBI Tests

Las Vegas

FBI tests have determined that the so-called Mormon will attributed to the late industrialist Howard Hughes is a forgery, state Attorney General Robert List said yesterday.

List made the disclosure in Clark county District Court, saying independent tests conducted by two FBI investigators in Washington have determined that the three-page handwritten document represents "an unskilled attempt to copy or simulate the handwriting of Hughes."

However, List said, tests have failed to determine who did write the document, which turned up last April 27 in the Salt Lake City headquarters of the Mormon Church.

Hughes died last April 5, and of the more than 30 purported wills which have surfaced since then, the so-called Mormon will, dated 1968, has received the most attention.

One of the beneficiaries of the will is Melvin Dummar, a former Willard, Utah, service station operator who would have inherited a one-sixteenth share of the estate if the will were declared valid.

However, after his fingerprints were found on the outside of the envelope containing the will, Dummar admitted delivering it to the church.

Dummar claimed the document was given to him in a sealed envelope by a mysterious stranger with instructions to take it to Salt Lake City. Dummar denies he had any part in writing the will.

Dummar said his only contact with Hughes occurred nine years ago when he came upon an elderly man in the Nevada desert. He said the man identified himself as Hughes, and that he gave the man a ride to a Las Vegas hotel where Hughes was reported living at the time.

Two months ago, a 53-year-old Anchorage, Alaska, contractor named Levane Forsythe contacted Dummar's attorney and identified himself as the man who delivered the document to Dummar.

However, when brought to Las Vegas to give a deposition under oath, Forsythe declined to answer questions directly relating to his alleged relationship with the industrialist.

Forsythe claimed that he had worked as an undercover agent for Hughes for 20 years, using the code name "Ventura," and that Hughes personally gave him the will during a secret meeting in Vancouver, Canada, in 1972.