

Howard Hughes Has All It Takes To Make Him One Of America's Top Attractions

Editor's Note—He's eccentric. He's controversial. He shuns the limelight, yet keeps making news. He's Howard Hughes, who has enough money to do what he wants, and does it—with the Hughes flair. In five stories, of which this is the first, an AP writer goes behind the scenes to tell you what Hughes is really like.

By JAMES BACON
HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Houston, Hollywood and Las Vegas are three fabulous places. And the most fabulous citizen of each may well be Howard Hughes.

All unwillingly, if you listen to the friends who paint him as the shy, retiring type. Yet he's always doing things that get him in the papers.

What kind of man is this phantom, who sometimes acts like a throwback to the rugged individualism of another century?

Is he genius? Or an overgrown boy who toys with movie studios, and oil wells, and airplanes? Is he shrewd, ruthless, gentle all at once? Does he pinch pennies and toss away millions? Is he Hollywood's greatest off-screen lover? Is he, or isn't he, supercentric in the Hollywood world where normal behavior is eccentric?

Let's try to smash through that small army of high-paid public relations men and executives who run interference for him.

No executive in the country, including the President, is harder to get to than Hughes via normal channels. It's amazing how many in Hollywood, including some of his high-priced help, never have seen the man.

Yet once you get to talk with him, he's easy-going, charming and courteous. And not too hard to

find if you keep late hours. Hughes, first of all, is a mechanical genius. It's not difficult to understand why. He is the son of a man who did almost as much as Henry Ford to roll America into the motor age.

His father invented the famous rock bit oil well drill with 166 cutting edges that chews through flint as easily as mud. With it, drillers all over the world first were able to strike the 16,000-foot depths that tapped unknown petroleum riches.

Howard was born in Houston but spent much of his childhood in Dallas. Serious, shy even then, his favorite toys were tools. Before he entered high school, he had invented a practical muffler for motorcycles, constructed his own hot rod of parts from automobile graveyard and moped around with a steam automobile.

He was 19 when his father died in 1923. Hughes says that the government appraised the business at \$650,000.

By 1949, when 75 per cent of the world's oil wells were drilled with Hughes equipment, it was worth better than 140 million. That's the price, according to the New York Times, that a Wall Street syndicate offered Hughes then. He didn't sell, for it's the fountain of income, estimated at better than three million yearly that juices Hughes' other enterprises—such as Trans World Airline, a Texas brewery, RKO Pictures, Hughes aircraft and others.

Hughes was educated at fashionable prep schools in Boston and Ojai, Calif., studied at California Institute of Technology and Rice Institute.

Pilots and mechanics around early California airfields recall Hughes as a reticent, boyish flier who never laughed much. In the air, he was a hell-on-wheels daredevil.

His interest in flying—and his millions—led to the filming in 1928 of "Hell's Angels," with air sequences which probably are the finest the screen has seen.

Hughes' passion for speed led to the founding of Hughes Aircraft in 1931, so he could design and fly his own ships. Long-time friends estimate he has made 30,000 take-offs and landings in every describable type of craft. His design included the first twin-boom fighter, later known as the Lockheed Lightning, and the big Constellation.

He first won international air prominence in 1935 when, with no advance farefare, he wreathed the ground speed record from France, going 352 m.p.h.

Two years later he took the same ship across country for a transcontinental record of 7 hours and 28 minutes. It stood until late in World War II.

The Russian government offered him big money for the plane but Hughes refused. A friend explains: "Howard was and still is Hollywood's most violent anti-Communist."

Hughes' greatest air feat was the 1938 round-the-world flight. He and his crew made the trip in 81 hours, bettering by half the record of the late Wiley Post.

It was a typical Hughes operation, without fanfare. His scientific devotion almost killed him in 1946 on the first flight of his XP11, a highly experimental plane reputed at that time to be the fastest long-range craft built.

He knew for 25 minutes ahead of time that the ship was going to crash but with a designer's curiosity he loosened his safety belt, inspected the plane and convinced himself that the right propeller was causing the trouble. Then he tried to pancake it on a golf course. Instead, he hit three homes and a garage.

His chest and left lung crushed, skull fractured, nine ribs broken, burned, bruised, shocked, he was given little chance to live.

The next day he summoned two aides to the hospital and wanted to conduct business as usual. A horrified doctor stationed a deputy sheriff outside his door with orders to admit no one but doctors and nurses.

Hovering between life and death, Hughes asked the doctor to deliver a message to the military that the propeller caused the crash. "Tell them to study it," Hughes gasped. "I don't want this to happen to anyone else."

Soon he improved enough to find fault with his hospital bed and design a new one, ordering his engineers to build it immediately. "We were amazed," said one hospital official. "If he had flown that bed out of the hospital, I wouldn't have been surprised."

Among his get-well messages was one from President Truman. Enclosed was the congressional medal awarded Hughes five years earlier for his round-the-world flight. He never had bothered to pick it up.

(Next: The Flying Lumberyard)

Tokyo Land Values Soar

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo's skyrocketing inflation in land prices reached a new high today when a downtown restaurant dealer on the busy Ginza listed his 25-by-40-foot lot for sale for \$305,000 or best offer.

He reported 20 to 30 inquiries. Although this is probably a record for Japan business property, the whopping price is in line with an inflation that has boosted land prices here as much as 10 times in three years.

In American terms, a strictly ordinary empty house lot 50 by 100 feet costs almost \$8,000 within the 30 minutes driving from the center of Tokyo.

Experts blame the spiral on the tremendous population growth since the war and on fear buying by businessmen who want land in case Japan's inflated economy collapses.

Roosevelt Asks Divorce

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—James Roosevelt, 46, who separated five months ago from his second wife, Romelle Schneider Roosevelt, 38, has sued for a decree of separate maintenance, alleging that she caused him "mental and physical anguish and distress."

They were wed in Beverly Hills, Calif., in 1941 in a civil ceremony. They met in 1938 in Rochester, Minn., when Miss Schneider, a hospital nurse, was assigned to Roosevelt's case when he had an abdominal operation. They have three children.

Roosevelt's lawyer, Samuel B. Picone, said negotiations for an amicable settlement of financial issues were started last Sept. 1 but have been unproductive. The complaint stated that Roosevelt had made numerous requests to his wife for return of such items as the late Franklin D. Roosevelt's wrist watch, cigarette holder, ring and similar articles of sentimental value.

"She has refused to deliver them and still refuses to do so," read the complaint.

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Radio Log

KFLW-1450 Kc.—PST
Tuesday Evening, Jan. 19
8:00 Johnny Dollar CBS
8:30 My Friend Irma CBS
9:00 Dick Powell CBS
9:30 Mr. & Mrs. North CBS
9:50 Two Tickets to Broadway CBS
10:00 Lowell Thomas CBS
10:15 Lum & Abner ABC
10:30 Sam's Office Show CBS
10:45 Home News Summary CBS
11:15 Sign Off

KFLW-1450 Kc.—PST
Wednesday, Jan. 20
8:00 Early Bird News
8:30 Alarm Clock Club
8:45 Harter's Almanac
9:00 News—Breakfast Edition
9:15 Charlie's Roundup
9:30 Home News Summary
9:45 Betty Crocker ABC
9:55 Harry Rabbitt's Second Cup at 7:45

8:00 Breakfast Club ABC
8:30 Blue Kites
8:45 Bert Hunterley ABC
9:00 Helen Trent CBS
9:30 Home News Summary CBS
10:00 Tune Time
10:15 Ma Perkins CBS
10:30 Young Dr. Malone CBS
10:45 Stop & Shop
10:55 Whispering Streets ABC
11:15 Perry Mason ABC
11:30 Nora Drake CBS
11:45 Brighter Day CBS
12:05 Brighter Day News
12:15 Payless Sidelight Show
12:30 Home News Summary
1:00 Sam Hayes ABC
1:15 Arthur Godfrey CBS
1:30 Young Dr. Malone CBS
1:45 Art Godfrey CBS
2:00 Ted Malone ABC
2:15 Home News Summary CBS
2:30 Ruth Ashton CBS
2:45 Brighter Day ABC
3:05 Ralph Story's Backyard CBS
3:15 Hank Henry Show
3:45 Home News Summary
4:25 Basin Briefs
4:45 Western Jambores
4:55 When a Man Marries ABC
5:00 Edward Murrow CBS
5:15 Perry Mason ABC
5:30 Today's Sports Highlights
5:45 Frank Goss CBS
6:00 Home News Summary
6:00 Crime Photographer CBS
6:30 That's Rich CBS
6:45 Home News Summary
7:35 Les Griffin, News ABC
7:50 Longline Symphonette CBS
8:15 Perry Mason ABC
8:30 Lowell Thomas CBS
8:45 Family Skeleton CBS
8:55 Home News Summary
9:15 Mary Ford & Les Paul CBS
9:30 Home News Summary
9:50 Radio Jamboree ABC
10:00 16 p.m. Headlines
10:15 Home News Summary
10:30 Sam's Office Show
10:45 Kitecycle Club
11:15 Home News Summary
11:15 Sign Off

KFJJ-1150 Kc.—PST
Tuesday Evening, Jan. 19
8:00 Ladies' Home Journal
8:15 Final Edition Local News
8:30 Hollywood Highlights
8:45 Home News Summary DLBS
8:55 Sam Hayes DLBS
9:05 Bill Henry MBS
9:20 That Hammer Guy MBS
9:30 Sports Report
9:40 According to the Record
9:55 Eddie Fisher Show MBS
10:00 High Adventure MBS
10:15 Klamath High Sports Album
10:30 Klamath High Sports Album
10:45 Klamath High Sports Album
10:55 Newspaper of the Air DLBS
11:00 Moonlight Melody Time
11:15 Hank Henry Show MBS
11:30 Home News Summary
11:30 Sign Off

KFJJ-1150 Kc.—PST
Wednesday, Jan. 20
8:00 Sunrize Serenade
8:30 Farm Reporter
8:45 Home of the Pioneers
9:00 Frank Hemingway News DLBS
9:15 Breakfast Gang DLBS
9:30 Today's Buys
9:45 First Edition Local News
9:55 Something to Think About
10:00 Cecil Brown MBS
10:15 Bob Greene News DLBS
10:30 Melvin Interlude MBS
10:45 Holland Engle News MBS
10:55 Breakfast Gang DLBS
11:00 Parade in Blue
11:15 Record Ripappy DLBS
11:30 Sam Hayes MBS
11:45 Gabriel Heatter MBS
12:00 Carnation Milk Time MBS
12:15 Home News Summary
12:30 Newspaper of the Air DLBS
12:45 Tello Test DLBS
12:55 A Visit to LaPointe's
1:00 Wonderful City MBS
1:15 Home News Summary
1:30 Queen for a Day MBS
1:45 Home News Summary
12:15 Noonday Edition Local News
12:30 Best on Record
12:45 Home News Summary
1:00 The Hour of Stars

Actress On Probation

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Movie actress Gail Russell has been placed on two years probation with the condition that she refrain from intoxication, stay away from places where liquor is sold, and obtain medical treatment.

She pleaded guilty yesterday to a drunk charge and was fined \$150. Her lawyer told the court she had been under great emotional stress and strain because of her separation from her husband, actor Guy Madison, and the introduction of her name in the recent John Wayne divorce trial.

Mrs. Russell sobbed and fled from the courtroom as sentence was pronounced.

Wayne's divorced wife, Mrs. Esperanza Wayne, accused him of spending a night with Miss Russell. He and Miss Russell denied the accusation.

Adonis Caught In Untruth

HACKENSACK, N. J. (AP)—Joe Adonis, former kingpin gambler, was another step closer to deportation today after being found guilty of lying when he told a Bergen County grand jury he was born in Pressac, N. J.

Superior Court Judge Lester Drenk decided yesterday that Adonis, whose real name is Joseph Dolo, knew his Passaic birth certificate was fraudulent when he appeared before the grand jury.

The state contended that Adonis was born in Montemorano, Italy. So did the U. S. government in issuing a deportation order against him last summer.

Sentencing on yesterday's conviction is set for Feb. 2. He faces a possible maximum sentence of three years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

DIES
FONTANA, Calif. (AP)—Paul Scardon, director and actor in silent films, died yesterday of a heart attack. He was 79.

He directed more than 200 films and emerged from retirement recently to appear in "Cyrano de Bergerac."

Martin And Lewis Quiet Over English Film Award

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—It's hard to imagine Martin and Lewis being quiet about anything. But it's true. The mad comics were recently chosen the favorite box office team in a British poll. That was something of a surprise, considering last year's blowup between Dean and Jerry and their English critics, who panned their act. I asked the pair for some words about their selection as British favorites. They replied with a rare: "No comment."

They figure that their relations with the English are touchy enough, and anything they might say could be used against them. So they're holding their tongues for the present. The fact is that

the studios are no longer contract players remain. You can tell that by the Lumina Deal Arms picture, "The Long Trailer." Third and billing in the film go to Main and Keenan Wynn.

Miss Main is in the picture good minute. Wynn plays a cop at an intersection. The scene lasts no longer than 10 seconds. They are probably the best paid bit players of all

Most Wanted Nabbed By FBI

CHICAGO (AP)—Franklin James Wilson, 52-year-old former convict and one of the FBI's 10 most wanted fugitives, was seized by federal agents yesterday.

He offered no resistance as four agents arrested him in a South Side hotel. Kline E. Weatherford, special agent in charge of the FBI office in Chicago, said Wilson was wanted for jumping a \$30,000 bond in Chicago in August 1951. He was named as one of four bandits who attempted to rob the home of Mrs. Violet Bidwell Wolfner, owner of the Chicago Cardinals football team, on Aug. 4, 1951.

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