

ROUND IN FIGHT FOR RICHES WON

Cousin of Slain Man Seeks \$4,000,000 Estate

Ruling of Court Here Aids Her in Battle

Los Angeles Declared Legal Home of Casaurang

Miss Marie Lees, housekeeper for her eccentric 67-year-old millionaire cousin, Jean Casaurang, who was slain in Tonopah, Nev., June 15, won the first round in her fight to be recognized his legal heir when Superior Judge Crail late yesterday decided that Casaurang's legal residence was at 2207 Trinity street, Los Angeles, and not in Escondido, as asserted by his estranged wife, who is contesting Miss Lees's claims to the decedent's \$4,000,000 estate.

THREE WILLS SHOW UP


Two wills purporting to bequeath Casaurang's estate to his wife, Mrs. Marie Casaurang, 46, and other heirs, including his attorney, Robert P. Carrey, were filed for probate in San Diego county, and a special administrator appointed. Miss Lees's attorneys, Alfred E. Fourness and Charles A. Buly, immediately filed a contest, which is pending. Meanwhile they offered for probate a third will in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. This instrument, dated June 11, 1927, and brought to date by a codicil of February 2, 1929, leaves 90 per cent of the estate to Miss Lees, who had served as his housekeeper since Mrs. Casaurang left her husband in 1926, and the remainder of the estate to children of the testator's two sisters.

The first San Diego will dated in April, 1928, left one-half of Casaurang's estate to his wife, and the other half to other relatives. The second will, dated March 5, 1929, leaves one-half the estate to Mrs. Casaurang, who died soon for divorce in September, 1927, and the other half to Attorney Carrey.

MURDER PLOT CHARGED

Judge Crail will consider next Friday the appointment of an administrator. At the request of Miss Lees, her attorneys have nominated Dr. Henri Laurin, dentist, 224 North Main street.

Casaurang's estate consisted of 17,000 acres near San Diego, valuable interests in a silver mine in France, a ranch and mining property in Nevada, and \$43,000 in trust deeds. He was shot to death at his Tonopah ranch June 15 by his foreman, Augusto Orisco, who now is awaiting trial in the Tonopah jail. Orisco says he shot in self-defense after an argument over back salary. The prosecution attacks this theory of the case, and Tonopah detectives are investigating reports that Orisco was acting in the interests of certain powerful enemies of Casaurang.



MARIE LEES

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