

By Herbert E. Nass

Newman's Own Way

The famous screen actor's will is as dignified and generous as the man's life.

Legendary screen actor Paul Newman probably died a wealthy man. We can't know for sure just looking at his will. But we can see that the will was as smart and straight-forward as Newman's career.

The will, a public document that does not state the size of Newman's estate, does say that his residuary estate would go to the trustees of his trust agreement, the terms of which are not public record.

The short (14-page), well-drafted will was executed on April 11, 2008. That's two months before an explosion of rumors and public denials that the 83-year-old Newman was battling lung cancer. It's about six months before he died at his farmhouse in Westport, Conn., on Sept. 26, 2008, from lung cancer.

Under Section 1.1, Newman directed his "executors to sell any airplanes and all race cars that I own at the time of my death," with the net proceeds to be added to his residuary estate. Newman became involved with race car driving after appearing in the 1968 film *Winning*, and went on to compete in top-flight events such as the 24 Hours of Le Mans and the Baja 1000.

The remainder of his tangible personal property was bequeathed to his wife, the actress Joanne Woodward, to whom Newman was married for 50 years. In fact, the length of this Hollywood marriage was almost as legendary as Newman and Woodward themselves. There's a famous story that, when Newman was asked about infidelity, he reportedly said: "Why go out for hamburger when you have steak at home?"

Newman's only son, Scott (from his first marriage of 10 years) died of a drug overdose in 1978 when in his twenties. Newman was survived by five daughters: Susan and Stephanie (also from his first marriage), and

Nell, Melissa and Clea (from his marriage to Joanne Woodward). Newman also left behind two grandsons and his older brother, Arthur, of Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Under Section 1.2 of his will, Newman bequeathed "all Oscars and theatrical awards which I own at the time of my death to Newman's Own Foundation, a Delaware Corporation" to be used for that organization's charitable purposes. Newman retired from acting in 2006 after 50 years in the business. He was nominated for 10 Oscars and won Best Actor in 1986 for his role in *The Color of Money*, and is probably best known for his iconic appearances in *Butch Cassidy*, *The Hustler* and *Cool Hand Luke*. He won a Golden Globe award for Best Director for *Rachel, Rachel*, a 1968 film that he produced and directed and that starred his wife, Joanne



Actor Paul Newman,
January 1956
(AP Photo)



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Woodward. He received a Cecil B. DeMille award in 1984 from the Hollywood Foreign Press and an honorary Oscar in 1986 for his contributions to film. In 1992, he and Woodward were given Kennedy Center Honors. And in 2005, he won an Emmy, a Golden Globe and a Screen Actor's Guild award for his performance in the television miniseries *Empire Falls*, for which he served as executive producer and which also starred his wife.

Newman also is famous for putting all his fame to work for charity. He founded Newman's Own, a line of food products in 1982 that donated all its after-tax profits to the Newman's Own Foundation. The foundation's website quotes him as saying: "I wanted to acknowledge luck; the chance and benevolence of it in my life and the brutality of it in the lives of others." The foundation says it has given more than \$250 million to charity over the years.

In addition to his foundation, Newman in 1988 started the Hole in the Wall Camps for seriously ill children. The camps' website says that 10 camps in

the United States and Europe and a global partnership initiative in Africa and Southeast Asia have served 119,000 kids.

Newman's generosity was not limited to the charitable organizations that he'd supported during his lifetime. Under Section 2(ii) of his will, he bequeathed to his former housekeeper, Cora Casem, a promissory note (for an undisclosed amount) that she'd signed, together with all interest accrued on that note—essentially forgiving an unspecified loan that he'd made to her.

He similarly bequeathed to his daughters certain promissory notes signed by each of them (the sums of which also were undisclosed.)

Newman executed a first codicil to his last will and testament, which he signed on July 24, 2008, about two months before he died. This codicil completely revoked Section 5 of his will, which covered all of his real estate. Under the terms of the will, all of the real estate owned by Newman at the time of his death was to pass to his wife. Under the new Section 5, Newman's wife

would receive only their residence in Westport, Conn. Any other real estate owned by Newman prior to his death would flow into the residuary estate. It is not clear why Newman chose to make this eleventh hour change.

Newman was born to a Jewish father and a Catholic mother who practiced Christian Science. He described himself as Jewish, reportedly saying, "it's more of a challenge." He was raised in Shaker Heights, Ohio, briefly attended Ohio University, and served during WWII in the Navy, in the Pacific theater. He failed to become a pilot because he was color blind, but served as a radioman and gunner. After the war, he graduated from Kenyon College and studied acting first at Yale University, then under Lee Strasberg in New York at the Actor's Studio. **TE**

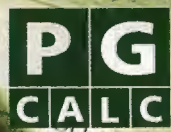
—Edward Romanello, an associate at Herb Nass & Associates, assisted in preparing this article

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