

Millionaire hermit dies in blaze

Had no relatives; charity gets fortune

By Stephanie Browner

Nathan Broude, a reclusive man who lived and died alone in a modest Los Angeles home, was a quiet millionaire who donated most of his fortune to charity.

Broude, who died Wednesday, is a fire that gutted his \$500,000 home, obliterated his fortune, drove people who found him on a church step and later disappeared.

The 59-year-old man had no close relatives and rarely went anywhere in the past decade, according to his lawyer. He left an estate worth more than \$1 million, and charred in his will that the money be donated to charity.

Broude was said by lawyer Howard Hughes to have been born in 1931, and he spent his last years with his Hughes girl — in anonymity, with few visitors and one true friend.

"His name could be a brand name with a man like Mr. Broude," said Hughes, who said Broude was an attorney who represented Broude since 1987.

"He wasn't unpleasant," Thompson said. "He just had to have his own way and wasn't a social person. He was respected with Howard Hughes as one thing and he was a recluse."

Thompson said he had represented Broude since 1987, when a court decision allowed him to represent Broude during a bankruptcy matter brought by a bank.

The bank, which managed a trust fund was established for Broude through an inheritance, alleged that Broude was incompetent and needed a conservator. Broude's court conservator was Howard Hughes.

"He had to be seen by me in order to bring his own affairs," Thompson said. "The man's incompetent and certainly wasn't mentally impaired," he said. "He didn't want to be bothered."

Broude Broude never bothered to take in his mail or get letters, Thompson said he received the mail for Broude, which he delivered to the house.

The house was in the garage of Broude's home in a Los Angeles neighborhood in the Los Angeles city of Sherman Oaks, according to Thompson, who said that he never saw Broude inside the house.

Broude was divorced from Linda Lillian Maki Broude, who died in November 1987. The couple had no children, but Mrs. Broude had a son from a previous marriage, and Broude had a son from a previous marriage, and Broude had a son from a previous marriage.

Writers said that Broude was a very quiet and modest person who was very successful in his career as a lawyer and real estate broker. He was very successful in his career as a lawyer and real estate broker.

"The more worked for a living," she said. "The Broude general does not come to him. He was not a charity collector person. He was just a recluse. That was the way he always was, even when he was married."

Thompson said that Broude showed little interest in the real estate market and that he had no relatives. He didn't try to seem to make more money and didn't try to come back in time. He said, "I never know how to be employed, he didn't need to be hired, he drove me out of a living hell."

Police said that Broude Broude died of smoke inhalation after falling while trying to leave his burning home at about 1 a.m. Wednesday.

"There was a great deal of damage and paper in the house," said Detective Eric Clark of the Los Angeles Police Department.

An autopsy was scheduled for Thursday but preliminary results were not available from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office.

Los Angeles fire officials said there are still investigators in the home, which may have been started by an electrical short.

