

Times editor David Marr in April 1982. 'Bobby! The racing killed him. He was like a rabbit running around. I remember he was having a crap and I was in his office and he called out, "Can't you make that radio louder, I can't hear the race." It was Kembla Grange or something!'

Mollie Askin died in March 1984, leaving an enormous personal estate of \$3,724,879—including nearly all Sir Robert's \$1,957,995. In the weeks before probate was eventually granted, the *Sun-Herald* newspaper reported that some delay had been due to the Taxation Department's curiosity about a considerable portion of the Askin fortune allegedly being derived from 'race winnings'.

Lady Askin left cash gifts totalling \$1,255,000 to relatives, friends, charities and other organisations: among them were family friend John Ivan Charody \$100,000, Manly Art Gallery \$50,000, Sir Robert's driver Russell Ferguson \$10,000, her grand-nephew Neil Peter Underhill \$250,000, one Lucy Clarke \$200,000. Half the remainder of the estate went to establish a perpetual fund for the welfare of animals.

Hickie's assessment of the estate was at best a careless representation of the facts.

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Taking up the story mentioned in *Sydney Noir: the Golden Years*, p.252, Askin aimed to get the final say with his friend John Charody, the executor of his estate, by gifting him a \$100,000 in his will.

However, as the "last man standing" and member of the "Hungarian Mafia", Charody got the final say by returning the \$100,000 to the estate.

The term "Hungarian Mafia" has often been used as a derogatory term. In fact it was coined in jest by Charody and his cohort of successful and not so successful Hungarians who migrated to Australia because of the rise of Nazi Germany, or in the wake of war torn Europe.

It is noteworthy that in 2017, 33 years later, John Charody is still trustee for the Askin charitable trusts.

Reuters profile for John Charody here:

<http://www.reuters.com/finance/stocks/officerProfile?symbol=MOLBq.L&officerId=381459>