

Armstrong denied OK to sell home during divorce action

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Attorneys for Herbert W. Armstrong failed yesterday to get permission for the Worldwide Church of God leader to sell his Tucson house while his divorce case is being decided.

Armstrong's wife testified at the Superior Court hearing that she left the house because she was "harassed" and "surveilled" by men she later saw with employees of her husband.

Judge Robert Hooker denied Armstrong's request to sell the five-bedroom, 1½-acre Tucson estate the couple occupied

before Armstrong filed for divorce in April.

Ramona Armstrong, 43, testified yesterday she moved out of the house in mid-August after almost six weeks of "harassment" from the men, whom she said she later saw with Pinkerton guards Armstrong hired to protect the property while it was unoccupied.

She is now renting a house in Nevada, but said she doesn't want the Tucson house sold.

The couple bought the house just before their marriage, she testified, and added a pool, a game room and a television studio

and remodeled other rooms. Court documents show the house mortgage and maintenance cost is \$2,500 a month.

"It's the house I want to live in forever," she said. "I've made the changes there I wanted."

Mrs. Armstrong testified that she began noticing cars parked around her house in early July. The same cars were there daily, she said, but would change locations. Men walked around her street at night, she said. She testified that her dogs, kept in an adobe-walled back yard, began barking furiously up to 10 times daily beginning in the

Once a car drove around her horseshoe driveway for several minutes honking the horn, and another time two men followed her into her driveway, blocked any exit and got out of their car, she said.

Mrs. Armstrong said one of the men later served her with legal papers in connection with the divorce. Another man she recognized as one who walked up and down her street was with Pinkerton detectives who were securing the house after she had left.

Hooker postponed hearing a request from Mrs. Armstrong that Armstrong be required to pay \$75,000 in attorneys' fees accumu-

As in past hearings, Armstrong did not appear in court yesterday. Although he has been twice ordered to appear, his lawyers have appealed, saying a serious heart condition makes traveling dangerous for the 90-year-old patriarch. Mrs. Armstrong's lawyers have argued that Armstrong travels on church business and is in no danger.

A ruling by Hooker that Armstrong appear at all hearings was overturned by the Court of Appeals and will be argued before the Arizona Supreme Court tomorrow. A ruling by Superior Court Judge Lillian Fisher that Armstrong appear for deposition