

FAQ 30

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Q: I read on another website that you have new information that DA investigator; Lt. Frank Jemison acknowledged that he knew your father was the Black Dahlia killer. Is this true?

Yes. After reading my book, Frank Jemison's nephew, a medical doctor and retired Air Force colonel, contacted me and provided the below information. His personal narrative provides us much deeper insight and a fascinating peek at his uncle and the man behind the badge. Thanks to his nephew, we can now add the voice of the 1949 Grand Jury's leading criminal investigator, Frank Jemison, to those that confirm that the "Dahlia Case was solved" and name-- Dr. George Hill Hodel, as the suspect.



Lt. Frank Jemison



ALL OF JUSTICE located at Temple Street and Broadway in Los Angeles. The entire ground floor houses the Sheriff's Department. The upper five floors and roof contain the county jail.

L.A. County Hall of Justice

"The Dahlia murder suspect was a doctor and we know who did it, but we couldn't put him away."

**Lt. Frank Jemison
Hall of Justice
Summer, 1951**

In mid-October, 2006, I was contacted by a close surviving relative of D.A. investigator Lt. Frank B. Jemison. For privacy sake I will simply use his initials-- "J.F." He advised me that he was Jemison's nephew, [Jemison's sister's son] a medical doctor and a retired Air force Colonel. Here in his own words is his description of his Uncle Frank, and one very important meeting he remembers from 1951:

Family background:

Frank was my mother's brother, the only son of a Methodist minister. He seemed a little eccentric to me. Every two years he and his wife would fly to Detroit, pick up a new Cadillac, and drive through Ohio unannounced to visit his three sisters. If they weren't home—too bad until two years later. He had not followed his father, Dave's, advice and entered the ministry and after graduation from Ohio Wesleyan College he took off for the west coast. I thought he had a Law degree. Family rumor has it that he earned a good bit of money in real estate and as a financial advisor prior to his career as a DA investigator. I know he was proud of his fortune, which was, at least in 1951, over one million dollars [he proudly told me.] While there was some family friction with Uncle Frank, he was always described as a person of impeccable personal integrity. I surmise that this integrity plus the fact that he had already made his fortune made him an excellent choice as investigator in the midst of apparent corruption. At his wife's death the estate was left to Ohio Wesleyan.

The Black Dahlia Murder Case:

When I was 12 years old in the summer of 1951, I accompanied my family to a medical convention in San Francisco and we stopped in LA for three days, my only extended contact with Uncle Frank. At dinner he asked if my father, a family physician, and I would like to see where

he worked. At that time the Hall of Justice was one of the, if not the, tallest buildings in LA. My father and Uncle Frank sat in the front seat and I sat in back. As they drove Dad turned and said "you know your Uncle Frank was the investigator for the Black Dahlia case." I liked the name but it didn't mean much to me. They explained that it was a famous murder case. I didn't listen too hard to the conversation until they said the body was cut up. Then I was all ears. Uncle Frank described the cuts etc. and asked Dad what he thought. My father said he thought it had to be the work of a surgeon. Uncle Frank agreed and said that "we know who did it but we didn't have enough to put him away." For some reason my twelve year old mind couldn't understand that. I wondered why, if they knew who did it they couldn't arrest him.

I never thought of that case from that time, but the name "Black Dahlia" remained stuck in my mind. Just thought this might be interesting to you as background information.

Really have enjoyed your book!

Sincerely Yours,

J.F. M.D. COL USAF (ret)

Dr. J.F.'s "background information" is much more than "interesting." With what we already know, his family reflections are extremely illuminating, especially because of his certainty as to *when Uncle Frank met with him and made these statements*. It was the summer of 1951!

Let us briefly review Lt. Jemison's investigative chronology:

1. Oct. 1949-Dr. George Hill Hodel becomes prime Dahlia suspect.
2. Feb. 18-Mar 27, 1950- Eighteen detectives assigned to 24-hour electronic-surveillance Franklin House.
3. Mar. 28, 1950- George Hodel tipped to surveillance, realizes he is about to be arrested and flees country. DA Lt. Jemison forced to remove surveillance equipment and shut down operation. Lt. Jemison and law enforcement never again have contact with prime suspect, Dr. George Hill Hodel.
4. February, 1951- Lt. Jemison ordered to "close Dahlia case and turn all investigation and evidence and Hodel surveillance recordings and associate interviews over to LAPD. Complies, "closes" case, and locks away a "second set of investigative files" in the DA vault, where they remain untouched and unexamined until 2003.
5. July, 1951- Lt. Jemison brings his vacationing brother-in-law, a medical doctor, and his twelve-year-old nephew, "J.F." (who will follow in his father's footsteps and grow up to become an M.D. and a U.S. Air Force Colonel) to his office at the downtown Los Angeles, Hall of Justice and informs them, that "The Dahlia murder suspect was a doctor and we know who did it, but we couldn't put him away."