

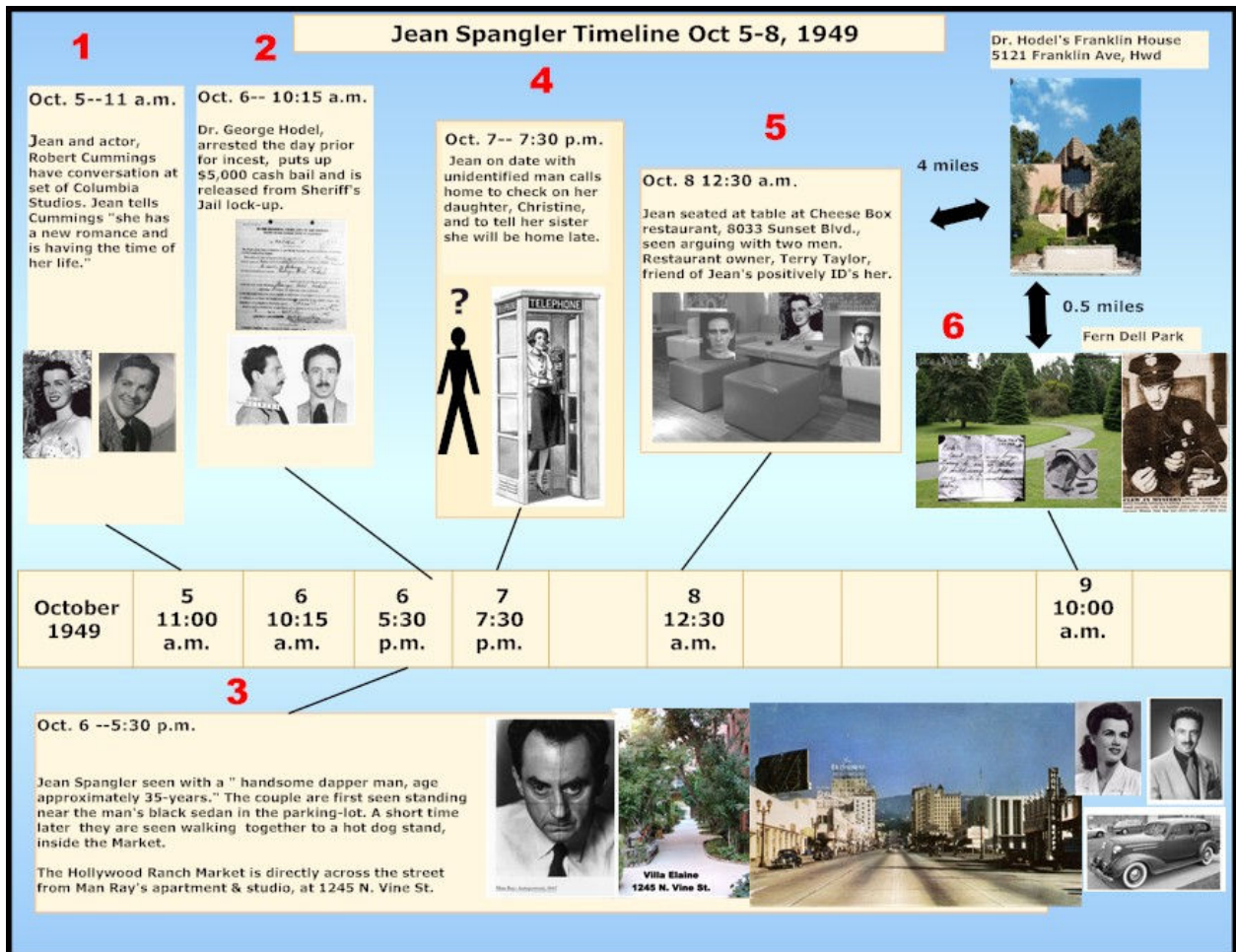
FAQ 31
(December 16, 2006)

31.1

Q: Has there been any new information on the other serial killings? Personally, I found your investigation into the murder of actress, Jean Spangler very interesting. Any new evidence?

Yes and no. To date, LAPD has not examined or reviewed any of the seven (7) Category I murders that I believe are definitely related and connected to the same suspect—George Hodel.

Below are two charts providing a quick visual summary of Jean Spangler’s known movements in the four days preceding her “disappearance” and murder.



Jean Spangler Last Known Movements

- Oct. 5, 1949- 11:00 a.m.- Columbia Studio- Talks with actor Robert Cummings, tells him she has a new romance and is “having the time of her life.”
- Oct. 6, 1949- 10:15 a.m. George Hodel provides \$5,000 cash and bails out from lock-up at Hall of Justice, on felony charge of incest.
- Oct. 6, 1949 5:30 p.m. Jean seen by known acquaintances in parking-lot of Hollywood Ranch Market. She is with a “handsome, dapper man about 35-years of age.” They are standing by his black sedan, then seen going to a nearby hot-dog stand. (NB: This location is directly across the street from George Hodel’s good friend, Man Ray’s studio apartment at 1245 N. Vine St.)
- Oct. 7, 1949- 5:00 p.m. Jean Spangler departs her Hollywood apartment, leaving her daughter, Christine with baby-sitter. (Sophie Spangler, her sister-in-law.)
- Oct. 7, 1949 7:30 p.m. Jean calls home to check on her daughter, Christine. Informs her sister-in-law, she “will be home late.”
- Oct 8, 1949 1:30 a.m. Jean seated with a man at a front table at the Cheese Box Restaurant, 8033 Sunset Blvd. The owner of the restaurant, a personal friend of Jean’s, describes the man as, “male, 35 years, tallish, dark-hair, clean-cut.”
- Oct. 8, 1949- 2:00 a.m. Jean seated at same table is seen by entertainer, Al “the Sheik” Lazar, a radio-personality who broadcasts his show live from the Cheese Box. Lazar approached Jean for an interview, and sees she is arguing with two men seated at the table. As he continued to approach, one of the men forcefully, “waved him away”, and in The Shiek’s words, “I veered away, and did not attempt to conduct the interview.”
- Oct 8, 1949- 9:00 a.m. Jean Spangler fails to return home. Sophie Spangler, calls police and makes a formal “missing report.”
- Oct. 9, 1949- 11:00 a.m. Fern Dell Park employee, Hugh Anger, finds Jean Spangler’s purse on lawn in park. The strap is ripped from the purse, indicating a struggle. Papers and identification are found in purse, along with a handwritten note, which read:

“Kirk,

Can’t wait any longer. Going to see Dr. Scott.
Will work best this way while Mother is away.”

(NB: Fern Dell Park and the location where the Spangler purse was found are .27 miles from the Franklin House. (2 minutes driving time.) Police surmise from the note that Jean Spangler may have been pregnant and was possibly seeking an abortion from “Dr. Scott.” See BDA pages 325-332 & 345-347 for Jean Spangler investigative summary and possible abortion ring connections.) In March, 1950, DA investigators Walter Morgan & Frank Jemison simultaneous to their covert physical and electronic surveillance of Dr. Hodel,

conduct a follow-up investigation into the Jean Spangler murder and check Hollywood pharmacies for prescriptions written by all and any, "Dr. Scotts."

Jean Spangler's movements showing distance from Dr. Hodel's residence



	<u>Location</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Driving time</u>
1)	Columbia Studio-	1.26 miles	(4 mins)
2)	Spangler residence-	3.96 miles	(7 mins)
3)	Hollywood Ranch Mkt Man Ray residence-	1.52 miles	(5 mins)
4)	Cheese Box restaurant-	3.40 miles	(6 mins)
5)	Fern Dell Park-	0.27 miles	(2 mins)

31.2

Q: A witness described seeing the suspect car at the vacant lot for four minutes at said it was a 1937 black Ford, but your dad drove a 1937 black Packard. How do you explain the difference?

I have addressed this in an earlier FAQ along with showing actual vehicle comparisons of the two models. That particular witness was a half-block away, and even close-up, the two models appear quite similar.

Experienced law-enforcement officers have learned to be extremely wary of eye-witness accounts and descriptions. Though well meaning, many witnesses providing information are oftentimes- WRONG. This pertains to physical description of suspects as well as their clothing and their vehicles.

We need to look no further than the 1947 Black Dahlia investigation to provide a perfect example.

In the first days of the investigation, an acquaintance/boyfriend of Elizabeth's became an early suspect in the murder. His name was Robert "Red" Manley. San Diego witnesses provided a physical description of "Red" along with his vehicle. That description was printed in the newspapers, as well as circulated nation-wide on police teletypes and a LAPD APB. (All Points Bulletin). The witnesses were certain that the suspect car was a:

"1940 Studebaker coupe cream or light tan California license -V---"



(1940 cream Studebaker)

**Here's Police Description
of Red-Headed Death Suspect**

Here is the police bulletin describing the car and suspect sought for investigation in the Elizabeth Short mutilation murder as it went out over the State teletype system yesterday. The message went to all principal police and sheriffs' offices in this State and to Reno and Las Vegas in Nevada. The message:

"Wanted for investigation in mutilation murder of Elizabeth Short found in this city Jan. 15, 1947, the following described automobile and suspect:

"Car is described as being possibly a 1940 Studebaker coupe, cream or light tan in color, bearing California license number with one digit preceding the letter V. There is a transfer sticker on the rear window with words 'Hunfington Beach' or 'Huntington Park.' More likely it is Huntington Park.

"Suspect is described as a white male American, approximately 25 years, 6 feet, 175 pounds, red hair, blue eyes and light-complexioned. He is known as 'Red' or 'Bob.' If car is located, hold for fingerprints and all occupants. Notify Homicide Division, Los Angeles Police Department.

"C. B. HORRALL,
"Chief of Police."

January, 1947 article describing vehicle as "tan or light colored vehicle"

Three days later, Robert "Red" Manley and his car were apprehended. Witnesses were correct on the model, it was a Studebaker, but it was not tan or light-colored—it was **BLACK**. (Also no letter V in the license plate)

"Red" Manley's vehicle pictured below:

2 Part I—MONDAY, JAN. 20, 1947 Los Angeles Times 2*

Suspect Detained for Questioning in 'Black Dahlia' Mutilation Murder

Drove Girl Here but Then Left Her, Salesman Asserts

Climaxing three days of intense search, homicide detectives last night took 25-year-old Robert Manley, salesman of 8010 Mountain View Ave., South Gate, into custody for questioning in the mutilation murder of Elizabeth Short, 22, sometimes called the "Black Dahlia."

Manley, a slender, neatly dressed man with chestnut hair, was taken into custody at the home of Harry Palmer, 5048 Mt. Royal Drive, with whom he had just returned from San Francisco. Police said that Manley put his automobile, a Studebaker, in Palmer's garage when the pair left for the Bay City last Friday.

Meeting Admitted

According to investigators, Manley admitted meeting Miss Short in San Diego two weeks before last Christmas, but insisted that he had not seen the young woman since he drove her to a downtown hotel from the southern city on Jan. 9.

The suspect sent Miss Short a telegram saying he would drive to San Diego for her, detectives said. Then, on Jan. 8, Manley picked up the girl and spent the night in a Pacific Beach motel before bringing her to Los Angeles, the investigators quoted him as saying.

He told officers that he did not connect Miss Short with the murder until last Friday, when he saw several newspaper reproductions of her photograph in San Francisco. He steadfastly denied any connection with her brutal slaying last Wednesday.

Resemblance Seen

Brought face to face with Manley, William E. Sullivan, Railway Express clerk at Union Station, said the red-haired suspect closely resembles the man who accompanied a young woman answering the victim's description into the express office shortly before noon on Jan. 14, detectives reported.

Manley voluntarily submitted to a lie detector test, but proved to be so fatigued by the long drive from San Francisco and later hours of continuous questioning by police and homicide investigators that he repeatedly fell asleep and the test was inconclusive, according to police.

HELD—Robert Manley, detained for questioning in girl's mutilation murder.

Manley said to herself and gave the name of Elizabeth Short, the clerk stated. She did not have the luggage with her and left after shipping the rates for shipment, he said.

A trunk and other luggage which Miss Short had shipped here from Chicago had previously been recovered by investigators at another office of the same agency.

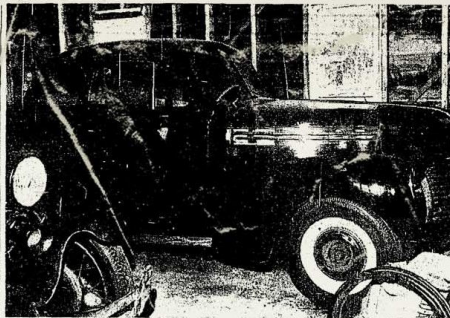


Although this report placed the slain girl in Los Angeles at noon of the day prior to her brutal murder, she was reportedly seen with the same red-haired companion in a San Diego cafe at 5 p.m. of the same day by a waitress, Jaded Gray.

Another waitress, Mrs. Adelaide McSwain, recalled Miss Short's visit to the Pacific Highway and Balboa St. cafe the evening before her murder, and added details to the description of her red-haired companion, the

'DAHLIA' FATE THREATENED IN ROBBERY

Bound and threatened with the face of Elizabeth Short, butcher murder victim, if she made an outcry, Mrs. Jane Lane, night club operator of 450 Hartford Ave., was robbed yesterday in her home by two bandits, one of whom was armed with a knife.

According to Mrs. Lane's report to the police, the men tied her up and released her several times during the robbery, finally threatening her with death if she persisted in screaming. The loot amounted to \$114 in clothing, jewelry and luggage, she said. She was


Witness description

Actual vehicle

This is why eye-witness identifications, while always an important part of criminal investigations, must be backed by a wealth of corroborating and physical evidence. **(75% of all proven wrongful convictions are the result of a misidentification of the "suspect" by an eye-witness.)**

(Robert "Red" Manley was quickly eliminated as a suspect in the Elizabeth Short murder.)

