

## **FURTHER INVESTIGATING THE ZODIAC’S HALLOWEEN WISHES**

I had expected to close this 2014 updated investigation with the good Dr. Frischholz’s fascinating analysis and findings on his facial recognition biometrics.

However, in late April, a new investigative door unexpectedly swung open.

During a routine check of the Internet, I noticed there was some new buzz both on Tom Voigt’s website, [www.zodiackiller.com](http://www.zodiackiller.com) which I have referred to in earlier chapters as, “Zodiac Central” as well as on the [www.reddit.com](http://www.reddit.com) *Unresolved Mysteries* blog site.

At the reddit site, a blogger known as “septicman” presented new information and publicly asked, “*Was a 1950s comic book a source of inspiration for the Zodiac Killer ‘Halloween Card’?*”

Voigt’s message board then examined the topic under a heading entitled, “*Found it! By Fire, By Gun, By Knife, By Rope.*”

These new discoveries, combined with material I presented in the earlier *Chapter 10, Hollywood Roomers* provide us with additional circumstantial evidence pointing to the possibility that Dr. George Hill Hodel reinvented himself in 1969-70 San Francisco as the sadistic killer known as ZODIAC. Here is the 2014 updated evidence:

## **RED MASK, LADY DOOM AND “THE DEATH WHEEL”—THE TIM HOLT-ZODIAC CONNECTIONS**

In the summer of 1952, comic book Volume 30 was published featuring the well-known “RKO Western Star,” Tim Holt. It was one in a long series of stories featuring Tim Holt as the hero “Red Mask.” This volume was entitled, “**Red Mask Meets LADY DOOM and THE DEATH WHEEL.**”

On the cover below, we see Red Mask (Holt) bound with ropes as Lady Doom prepares to spin her death wheel, admonishing the gamblers to, “Place your bets gentlemen, you’re playing for Red Mask.” On the wheel behind him, we read the various potential manners of his death, to be determined by the spin: “By Rope, By Gun, By Knife, By Fire.”



The Death Wheel cover featuring RKO's western star Tim Holt as Red Mask with Lady Doom. Vol. 30, published June-July 1952. "Manners of Death" on wheel read, "By Rope, By Gun, By Knife, By Fire." (Published by Magazine Enterprises)



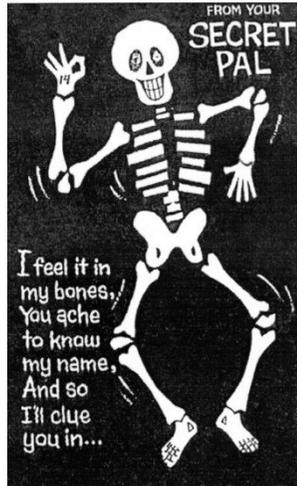
Here we are introduced to LADY DOOM.

Now let's re-examine the 1970 Halloween card mailed to San Francisco reporter Paul Avery by Zodiac in light of this new information. The envelope with the strange Z symbol as a return address is postmarked "San Francisco on October 27, 1970" and addressed to "Paul Averly," a deliberate misspelling of the actual reporter's name. Reporter Avery had just written an extensive article on Zodiac which was published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* just two weeks prior, on October 12, 1970.



*The envelope*

On the front of the card Zodiac promises a clue to his name. The only visible alteration to the card is the number “14” seen written in black on the skeleton’s right hand.



*The front of Zodiac's Halloween Card*



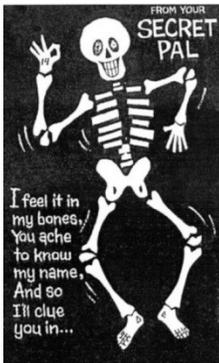
*Full interior of card*

Inside, Zodiac used a white marking pen and wrote mixed messages. On the left he wrote, “Peek-A-Boo, you are DOOMED!” He inserted the 13 “Spellbound Eyes” that we examined in *Chapter 21, A Surrealist Signature*. He repeated the “4-Teen” along with his signature zodiac sign, the letter Z, and repeated the strange symbol

used as his return address on the envelope. (Also, note the spider web in the upper right portion of the card. I am unaware if this was part of the original card or inserted by Zodiac, but either way, I will consider its potential relevance as “a clue” in subsequent pages.)

By P By  
 FIRE AR GUN  
 SLAVES  
 BY D By  
 KNIFE ICE ROPE

*Backs of card with promised “clue”*



**Front**



**Interior**

By P By  
 FIRE AR GUN  
 SLAVES  
 BY D By  
 KNIFE ICE ROPE

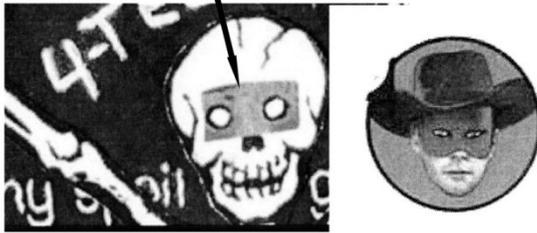
**Back**

*Full Zodiac Halloween card showing front, interior and back*

Now let’s reexamine the card based on the 2014 information we have from the Tim Holt/Red Mask comic book published in 1952.

1. The card was mailed by Zodiac as a direct personal threat to crime reporter Paul Avery, informing him “You are doomed.” I believe this is Zodiac’s singular use of that word in all of his several dozen mailings, and I would suggest when all the additional factors are considered, it is a subtle reference and “clue” dating back to its use in the original comic book and to LADY DOOM.
2. In the original Halloween card, Zodiac drew a mask on the skeleton using *red ink*. Enlarged below we see the red mask in comparison to Tim Holt as the original Red Mask comic book hero. Again, a direct reference to the original comic book.

Zodiac using red ink, drew and inserted "red mask" on his card.



Zodiac Red Mask skeleton compared to Tim Holt as Red Mask

- The "clues" left by Zodiac, to my mind, establish beyond any reasonable doubt that *the source and inspiration for Zodiac's 1970 threat came from this specific Tim Holt/Red Mask comic book*. The combination of his use of the red mask, "you are doomed," and the distinct phrase "By Rope, By Gun, By Knife, By Fire" seal the deal.



Red Mask and Lady Doom Death Wheel reproduced on Zodiac card

## GEORGE HODEL-TIM HOLT—ZERO DEGREES OF SEPARATION

When I initially introduced the fact that actress Carol Forman and her boyfriend, actor Tim Holt, were close friends of my father, and that Carol resided with us at the Franklin House in 1948-1949, I had no idea that Holt, a regular visitor to our home, would be later tied directly to evidence from the 1970 killer known as Zodiac.

Based on this new evidence, let's reread the original Tim Holt anecdote I presented in Chapter 10, originally published back in 2012.

Here, it is:

### Carol, Tim Holt, and my Bro

My younger brother, Kelvin "Kelly" Hodel, was born in October 1942, just eleven months after the birth of my twin John and me. He would be Dorothy and George's fourth and final son. From an early age, Kelly "loved the girls," and believe me, the girls loved him. This 1949 Franklin house anecdote is appropriate:

At the time Carol was living with us at the Franklin house, she was dating film star Tim Holt. The two actors had worked together in a number of B-westerns, including the 1947 *Under the Tonto Rim* and again in 1948 on *Brothers in the Saddle*. Holt, who had just received huge critical acclaim for his role as the down-on-his-luck drifter Bob Curtin in John Huston's *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, naturally visited Carol at the house regularly.

Brother Kelly, then six or seven, had a terrible crush on Carol. And whenever Holt showed up to take her on a date, Kelly would object, informing him in no uncertain terms, "She's my girlfriend." Finally, Holt could take it no longer and took Kelly into the center courtyard, *mano a mano*, and made the following suggestion:

"Look Kelly. You're too young to be with Carol now. I will date her only until you get old enough. And then you and Carol can get married. And I will get on my horse and ride off. Fair enough?"

Kelly agreed. Holt and Hodel shook hands, and the battle for Carol's heart was ended—without having to fire a shot to find out which was the fastest gun alive.

As we have learned, in the 1940s and early '50s Tim Holt was not just a top Western movie star, but was also featured in various comic book publications for many years preceding his introduction as "Red Mask."

So, too, with Carol Forman, Holt's then-girlfriend, who lived for several years with us at the Sowden/Franklin House as "part of the family."

In addition to appearing in several Western films with Tim Holt, Carol also had her own independent career and was considered one of the top box office draws due to her multiple roles as a villainess. She starred as: *The Black Widow*, *Spider Woman*, and then in 1952, as the slinky foreign spy Laska in the comic book strip, *Blackhawk*, starring Kirk Alyn as "the Fearless Champion of Freedom." (Carol was also Alyn's co-star in his *Superman* series on film and in comics in the late '40s and early '50s.)

Here is Carol's short obituary from the *Los Angeles Times* in the summer of 1997 (<http://articles.latimes.com/1997/jul/18>).

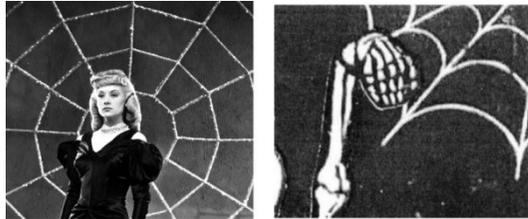
### **Carol Forman; Actress in Movies, TV Series**

*July 18, 1997*

Carol Forman, 78, a movie and television actress. She joined RKO Pictures in 1946 and played opposite Raymond Burr in the film "San Quentin." She also played Burr's girlfriend in his first film, "Code of the West." Other credits included "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" with Doris Day, as well as several westerns with Tim Holt. She appeared in the "Charlie Chan" series, was the Spider Lady in the "Superman" series and was perhaps best known as the lead in the "Black Widow" series. She is survived by three

daughters, Lee Dennis, Suzy Dennis and Debbie Geiger. In Burbank on July 9 of natural causes.

Seen below is a clip from a Superman serial in which Carol is playing the part of the villainess, Spider Lady, said to be “as cunning as Moriarty and as venomous as a spider.” Here, I have compared it to Zodiac’s spider web, inserted in the 1970 Halloween card. Was George Hodel, in his role as Zodiac, leaving us another clue to his past? This time, not just to his friend, Tim Holt, but also to Holt’s girlfriend, Spider Lady?



*Carol Forman (1948) as Spider Lady. This film was made at the same time she was living in residence with the Hodel family at the Hollywood Sowden House, which we now know was the original crime scene where Elizabeth “Black Dahlia” Short was murdered, just one year before Carol moved to the residence.*

This latest Zodiac linkage has most of the hardcore Zodiac researchers and armchair detectives scratching their heads. While most recognize the 1952 *Red Mask* comic book connection is undeniable, they remain confused about the how and why of it. In their chat rooms, on their blogs and message boards, they ask, “Why would Zodiac use a seemingly random 1952 cover of a Western comic book, as the inspiration for, and a “clue” to solving his serial murders some eighteen years later?”

I believe the information contained in my foregoing overview has provided THE ANSWER.

With Zodiac, nothing is random. The link to Tim Holt and his Red Mask character has *zero degrees of separation*. It is direct and personal. As I’ve said many times, the key to understanding Dr. George Hill Hodel and his many crimes are revealed through a knowledge of his past