

FAQ 1

1.1

Q: New information presented in the past few weeks claims that Elizabeth Short was pregnant and this was the motive for her murder. "That the killer removed her uterus post-mortem. " Is this true?

NO! DA FILES CLEARLY DOCUMENT THAT ELIZABETH SHORT WAS NOT PREGNANT. HER UTERUS AND OVARIES WERE INTACT, AND NOT REMOVED.

I addressed this question/answer two years ago. No, she was not pregnant. The DA files contain autopsy information (see below) wherein Chief Medical Coroner, Dr. Frederick Newbarr assisted by Assistant Coroner, Dr. Cefalu, definitely states at the time he performed the autopsy on January 16, 1947, that the Jane Doe No. 1 victim, "is not pregnant and her uterus and ovaries are intact." (Elizabeth Short's identity would not be learned until later that afternoon. At the time of the autopsy virtually nothing was known about her background.) Also present at the autopsy were LAPD Det. Harry Hansen, and LAPD criminalist, Ray Pinker.

As documented in BDA, there was an incision on the body from the umbilicus to the supra-pubic region, consistent with where a then schooled medical doctor (1947) would perform a hysterectomy procedure. However, thanks to the 2003 access given me by DA Steve Cooley, which allowed me to review and copy the DA Files, we now know that her killer did not remove her reproductive glands or organs.

Unaltered copy of D.A. Dahlia File L.A.P.D. Summary - page 4

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"There is no evidence of trauma to the hyoid bone. There is a small area of ecchymosis in the soft tissues of the right neck at the level of the upper tracheal rings. There is no obstruction in the laryngotracheal passage.

"There is an irregular laceration with superficial tissue loss in the skin of the right breast. The tissue loss is more or less square in outline and measures 3 1/2" transversely and 2 1/2" longitudinally, extending toward the axilla from this irregular laceration are several superficial lacerations in the skin. There is an elliptical opening in the skin located 3/4" to the left of the left nipple. The opening measures 2-3/4" in a transverse direction and 1 1/2" in a longitudinal direction in its disposition. The margins of these wounds show no appreciable discoloration. There are multiple superficial scratches in the skin of the left chest on the anterior wall. There are four small superficial lacerations in the skin of the lower chest on the left side close to the midline. There is no discoloration at the margins. There are superficial linear lacerations in the skin of the left upper arm on its external aspect. There is a single ridge around the left wrist close to the hand. The fingernails of the right hand are very short, the thumb nail measuring 1/16" in length and the fingernails measuring 1/16". There are superficial lacerations and scratches in the skin of the external surface of the right forearm. There is a double ridge depressed around the right wrist. The fingernails of the left hand are very short, the thumb nail measuring 1/16" in length and the others 1/16" in length. The palmar surfaces of both hands are somewhat roughened but no firm calluses are seen.

"The trunk is completely severed by an incision which is almost straight through the abdomen, severing the intestine at the duodenum and through the soft tissues of the abdomen, passing through the intervertebral disc between the 2nd and 3rd lumbar vertebrae. There is very little ecchymosis along the tract of the incision. There is a girdle laceration, 18" long, which extends longitudinally from the umbilicus to the supra-pubic area. On both sides of this laceration there are multiple superficial lacerations. There are multiple cross-groove lacerations in the supra-pubic area which extend through the skin and soft tissues. No ecchymosis is seen.

"There is a square pattern of superficial cross-groove lacerations in the skin of the right hip. The organs of the abdomen are entirely exposed. There are lacerations of the intestine and into both kidneys. The uterus is small and no pregnancy is apparent. The tubes, ovaries, and cul de sac are intact. The labia major and half of the labia minor and the margin show some slight discoloration. Within the vagina and higher up there is lying loose a piece of skin with fat and subcutaneous tissues attached. On this piece of loose skin there are several cross-groove lacerations. Smears for spermatozoa have been taken. (NOTE: The result of all smears for spermatozoa was negative.)

"There is an irregular opening in the skin on the anterior surface of the left thigh with tissue loss. The opening measures 3 1/2" transversely on the base and 1" from the base longitudinally to the upper extremity. The laceration extends into the subcutaneous soft tissues and muscle. No ecchymosis is seen. There is a ridge in the skin of the lower right thigh, anterior surface, located

paragraph-4

"The uterus is small and no pregnancy is apparent. The tubes, ovaries, and cul de sac are intact."

...

"Smears for spermatozoa have been taken. (NOTE: The results of all smears for spermatozoa was negative.)"

1.2

Q: I have been told you had a career with L.A.P.D. Can you tell me when and where you worked?

A: I joined L.A.P.D. in 1963 and worked four (4) uniform patrol divisions: W.L.A., Wilshire, Van Nuys, and Hollywood. In 1969 I transferred to Hollywood Division detectives, where I was assigned to all the different "tables": Auto-Theft, Burglary, Juvenile, Sex Crimes, Robbery, and finally Homicide. I personally investigated over 300 separate murders during my 17 years in Hollywood, and retired as a Detective III (supervisor) in 1986.

1.3

Q: Other books about Elizabeth Short tell us she was incapable of having sex and was a prostitute. Your book doesn't mention this. Why?

A: Because the information is completely false and fabricated. I have now read all of the documentation from the coroner's report, as well as LAPD and DA investigations. Elizabeth Short did not have an "infantile vagina". She was not pregnant. She did not die as the result of a botched abortion. Further, there is no truth to the allegations that she was a prostitute and junkie and alcoholic. She rarely drank alcohol, and was a normal healthy woman in every respect.

1.4

Q:Doesn't your book just offer another theory as to who killed the Black Dahlia? Please comment.

A: No, Other books and authors talk about their "theories" because they lack evidence and proofs. A Head Deputy District Attorney of Los Angeles County has stated that based on the accumulated evidence in my book, that were Dr. George Hodel still alive, he would file two (2) separate felony counts of murder (Black Dahlia & Red Lipstick murders) and seek the death penalty. He adds that he is confident that he would win the jury trial based on the evidence documented in my book. The L.A. County D.A.'s Office has strict standards and would never consider filing a criminal complaint simply based on "theory". Professional law enforcement deals in fact not speculation.

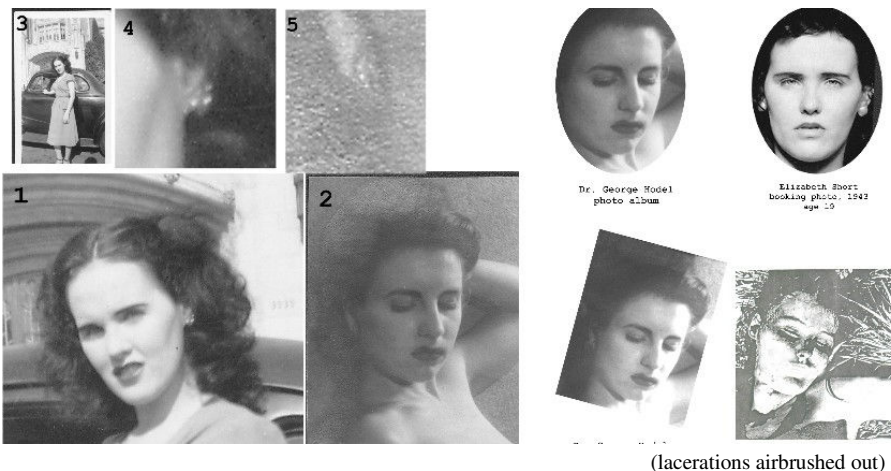
1.5

Q:Why is it that you have not posted any of the crime-scene photographs of Elizabeth Short on your website to help us better understand the crime?

A: Both as a private citizen and a professional homicide investigator, I find any public display of these crime-scene photographs, absolutely-outrageous! Veteran L.A.P.D. detectives, who like me, had been to hundreds of murder scenes, were sickened by the sight of what they found. To post these pictures on the Internet, for all to see, is a general insult to the public, and shows specific sensationalized disrespect towards the victim's family. Other Dahlia authors and theorists have shown them, I WILL NOT.

1.6

Q: Some people say the photographs in the album are not Elizabeth Short. I am told even a relative said she didn't think it was her. If that is true, isn't this just a "house of cards"?



A: No. Those that claim that there is "no resemblance" are obviously people that have their own agendas to promote and theories to protect. The current L.A.P.D. detective in charge of the Dahlia case file after viewing the Hodel photograph freely admits, "I cannot say if it is Elizabeth Short or not."

Individuals that attack the investigation based on the photographs either have not read the book, or are simply trying to cloud the facts. The above photographs in my father's album were simply the catalyst that started my search for answers back in 1999. I liken it to my uniform patrol days back in 1963, when my partner and I would see three suspicious looking men driving slowly down a business district at 3:00 am. We would stop them for "no license plate illumination," a traffic infraction, and discover the backseat of their car loaded with television sets and a window smash alarm ringing down the street. They would go to jail for burglary, but we would not write them a ticket for the traffic infraction. That was simply the "probable cause" for stopping them. So too with the Elizabeth Short photographs, which were simply the catalyst that started me down the road to discovery.

From the D.A. secret files and police reports, now made public, we learn that several independent witnesses identified Elizabeth Short's photograph as being the girlfriend of Dr. George Hodel and placed her at his home on Franklin Avenue, prior to the murder, and both of them as frequenting the Biltmore Hotel. Other witnesses identify them as checking into a hotel two-days prior to the murder, and still more identify George Hodel and Elizabeth Short as being seen together in public.

1.7

Q: Another Dahlia website describes your book as “preposterous” and “ridiculous.” How do you answer your critics?

For the most part by ignoring them. I have said all along, I will not get into “pissing contests” with other theorists. Readers are intelligent and can discern for themselves the truth of things as they are. These individuals, as amateur sleuths, have fallen into a trap, which occasionally snares even the most experienced homicide detectives. That is—they develop a theory and then disregard, ignore or omit evidence that does not fit it. By not considering ALL the facts, they literally paint themselves into a corner. The key to any successful criminal investigation is that the investigators must not be restrictive, but rather, all-inclusive.

1.8

Q: Why is it that LAPD never made the connections to the suspect as a serial-killer? I understand that Elizabeth Short, the Black Dahlia, was his only victim.

Not true. More of what I call in my book—mythstakes. L.A.P.D. knew or strongly suspected they had a serial-killer working the streets of L.A. In March of 1947, L.A.P.D. homicide detectives presented their own list with “11 Points of Similarity,” and informed the public through newspaper articles, that they believed the: Elizabeth Short, (Black Dahlia) Jeanne French (Red Lipstick) and Evelyn Winters murders were connected. These three crimes occurred in close proximity to each other within an eight-week period. (Jan-March) In their “11 Points” L.A.P.D. detailed the linkage.

1.9

Q: Was a suspect car description ever obtained in the Black Dahlia or other murders that could be connected to Dr. George Hodel?

Yes. On January 15, 1947, between 6:30 and 7:00 a.m., a resident of Liemert Park, Mr. Robert Meyer, observed what he described as a possible “1936 or 1937 Ford, sedan, black in color” pull up and park at the exact location where Elizabeth Short’s body was later found. Mr. Meyer estimated the car remained at the curb-side location for “four minutes” then drove off. He was unable to provide a description of the driver as he was standing a half-block away and high weeds blocked his view. New information obtained from the secret District Attorney’s files in late 2003 provided us with additional facts establishing this was most likely the suspect vehicle, and the time is consistent with the body being transferred from the car and posed on the vacant lot. Further, we now know that the vehicle seen by witness Meyer’s closely fit the description of a car owned and driven by Dr. George Hodel during the years 1947-1950.

Autopsy medical reports revealed that Elizabeth Short was slain on or about 4:00 a.m., on the morning of January 15, 1947. This was determined by the fact that when officers and detectives arrived at the scene (10:50 a.m.) they discovered that “rigor mortis had not yet set in.” Rigor mortis (a stiffening of the body) normally begins 8-12 hours after death. This would also be consistent with Meyer’s sighting of the suspect vehicle at the location, some 4-5 hours before L.A.P.D. officers arrived.

1950 D.A. investigators surveillance logs provided us with the make, model, color and license plate of the vehicle owned, driven, and garaged by Dr. George Hodel. His vehicle was a- 1936

Packard, sedan, black in color. California license plate was- 3W 49 38. Below is a photo comparison between the 1936 Ford and Packard sedans, demonstrating how easy it would be to mistake one for the other, especially when seen from a half-block away.

1936 Packard sedan



1936 Ford sedan



Type of vehicle driven by Hodel in 1947

Type of vehicle seen at Dahlia crime scene

Additionally, the suspect vehicle seen by witnesses in the 1947 kidnap-rape of victim Sylvia Horan, two-blocks from Dr. Hodel's medical office, was "a black sedan." Kidnap/murder victim, actress Jean Spangler (October 7, 1949) was also seen by witnesses' just hours before her disappearance "seated inside a black sedan with a handsome man in his 30's, at the parking-lot of the Hollywood Ranch Market." (The Hollywood Ranch Market was located 1.5 miles from the Hodel residence and was directly across the street from Dr. Hodel's close friend Man Ray's then residence apartment at 1245 N. Vine Street.)

Jeanne French "Red Lipstick Murder" suspect vehicle:

A recent review (October, 2004) of previously secreted DA files related to the Jeanne French murder, has provided new information on the suspect's vehicle description. On February 10, 1947 at 2:00a.m, just minutes before the estimated time of her murder, and only one-mile from the crime scene, the victim, Jeanne French, was positively identified as getting into a car with a "dark complexioned male". (Earlier witness descriptions state he had a moustache) The eye witness was uncertain of the exact make of vehicle, but was positive on the year, and described it as a 1936 model, dark in color. (Again, we have a vehicle consistent in description to Dr. Hodel's black, 1936 Packard sedan.)

1.10

Q: In *Black Dahlia Avenger*, you repeatedly use the term, *Thoughtprint*. Could you provide a definition and does it connote something psychic or intuitive?

First off, the term—*thoughtprint*-- has nothing at all to do with anything psychic or metaphysical. It relates to the potential identification of a specific individual through his or her own unique thinking and thoughts. In the Introduction to BDA, I define the term as follows:

Page 6:

Our thoughts connect us to one another and to our actions. Our thought patterns determine what we do each day, each hour, each minute. While our actions may appear simple, routine, and automatic, they really are not. Behind and within each of our thoughts is an aim, intent, a motive.

The motive within each thought is unique. In all of our actions each of us leaves behind traces of our self. Like our fingerprints, these traces are identifiable. I call them *thoughtprints*. They are the ridges, loops, and whorls of our mind. Like the individual "points" that a criminalist examines in a fingerprint, they mean little by themselves and remain meaningless, unconnected shapes in a jigsaw puzzle until they are pieced together to reveal a clear picture.

Most people have no reason to conceal their thoughtprints. We are, most if not all of the time, open and honest in our acts: our motives are clear, we have nothing to hide. There are other times, however, when we become covert, closeted in our actions: a secret love affair, a shady business deal, a hidden bank account or the commission of a crime. If we are careful and clever in committing our crime, we may remember to wear gloves and not leave any fingerprints behind. But, rarely are we clever enough to mask our motives and we will almost certainly leave behind our thoughtprints. A collective of our motives, a paradigm constructed from our individual thoughts, these illusive prints construct the signature that will connect or link us to a specific time, place, crime, or victim.

When an expert identifies and “makes” a suspect to a fingerprint, he or she is legally required to establish a minimum of ten (10) separate and individual points of identification... In Europe the standard is much higher and 20-30 points may be required.

Thoughtprint linkage, like the points, in a fingerprint, cannot stand alone. Nor can they be used to substitute traditional hard evidence. Thoughtprints should be viewed merely as supportive evidence, which tends to link an individual to a specific crime, location, or relevant action.

1.11

Q: I found reading the L.A.P.D. and District Attorney Transcripts of their bugging of the 1950 Franklin House conversations--fascinating. Can you tell me how that was done and are any of the cast of characters, heard on the tapes, such as Baron Herringer, the Beat Generation poet, Kenneth Rexroth, or your maid, Ellen, still alive? Are these bugging tapes available?

The detectives abbreviated “Hodel File” runs 148 typed pages. Eighteen (18) detectives were assigned to the surveillance in single 4-6 hours shifts. The home telephones were not bugged, but rather, two separate microphones were installed in rooms, inside our residence, and a hard line ran to the basement, then to the outside, where Bell Telephone lines were leased and strung to the basement of Hollywood Police station, a distance of approximately 2.4 miles from the Franklin House. Both L.A.P.D. and District Attorney Investigators then monitored over one-thousand hours of surveillance, from February 15 through March 28, 1950, and selectively recorded pertinent conversations on 40 spools of wire. (1950, technology was wire recording, not tape.) D.A. follow-up reports seem to indicate that these spools, documenting the complete conversations, were given to L.A.P.D. along with the other connecting evidence, however, it is not known if they still exist. Today’s L.A.P.D., previous to the 2003 discovery of the files in the D.A.’s locked vault, claim to have had no knowledge of the covert Hodel surveillance, the existence of a Hodel File, or the recorded conversations. .

As to some of the “cast of characters” whose statements were recorded and transcribed: San Francisco poet and family friend, Kenneth Rexroth, died in 1982. Our maid, Ellen, became a “homeless bag lady” on the streets of Los Angeles, and on at least one documented occasion, in the 1970s, returned to the Franklin House and informed the then current owner that “this is a house of evil.” In the decades preceding her death, Ellen, in looking back on the 1940s, and her life and times at the Franklin House, claimed to have slept with many of L.A.’s politicians, and the “movers and shakers” of that time, however, due to her eccentric appearance and homelessness, she was for the most part—discredited and ignored. George Hodel’s confidant, “Baron Herringer” remains unidentified, and nothing further is currently known of his life or activities.



Kenneth Rexroth



Ellen (live-in maid) & George Hodel
Franklin House 1949

1.12 Q: In your book you speak of the close relationship between Dr. George Hodel and the Surrealist, Man Ray. Was it personal or professional?

Personal. At the time my mother was married to John Huston and while they were living in Greenwich Village, she became friends with George and Ira Gershwin, Sam Jaffe, and the renowned bacteriologist and “microbe hunter” Paul DeKruif. Another, close personal friend of my mother’s was the early film maker, Dudley Murphy, who worked with Man Ray on some experimental films in Paris in the 1920s. Dudley and Jenny Murphy, remained life long friends of Dorothy’s and later owned and operated the famous Holiday House restaurant, a gathering place for Hollywood’s rich and famous, located on a high bluff, overlooking the sea at Malibu, California.. I suspect that my parents originally met Man Ray through some of these early mutual acquaintances.

My parents could have met Man Ray during his trip from Paris to New York in December, 1936. On that visit, a West Fifty-third Street museum displayed Man Ray’s latest works. One of the most prominent pieces being-- *The Lips*. (According to Man Ray biographer, Neil Baldwin, “fifty thousand people came to the show during its three month run.”) Both Man Ray’s *Minotaur* and *The Lovers* were familiar, works, having been published in a number of Surrealist magazines in France, England, and America.

Man Ray’s “Hollywood Years” were from 1940-1951, and it was in that decade (1946) that he married Juliet Browner, and they both became regulars to parties at our Hollywood Franklin House. Some of the Man Ray Hodel family photographs I have included in the book, others have been omitted. I will here share some of the photographs and a Man Ray sculpture, given to my father, due to their historical and artistic interest.



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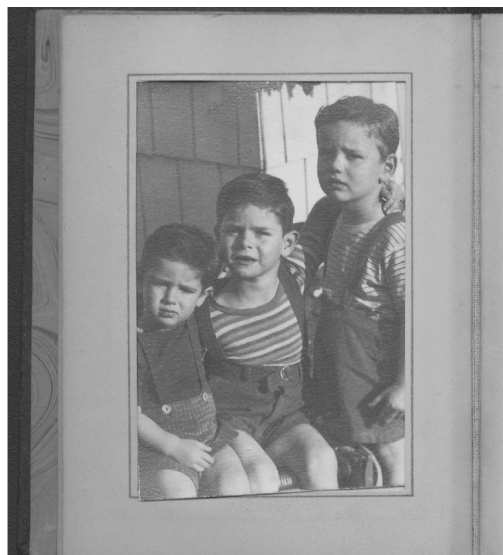
- 1) Juliet and Dorero (Dorothy Hodel) dated, Nov.1944
- 2) Man Ray self-portrait dated 1946- personally inscribed by Man Ray to my parents. It reads:

**To Dorero and George—and my homage as I am pleased when I am asked for my phiz—
So much more than when I am asked for a portrait of a greater celebrity. I celebrate you.**

Man

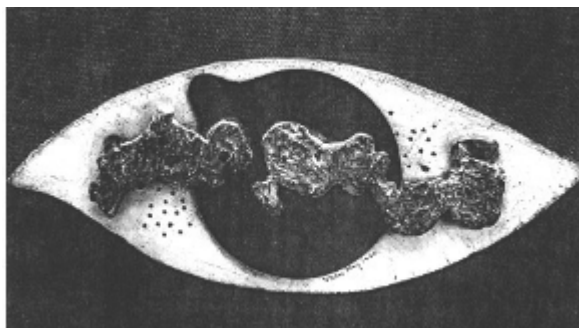
- 3) Postcard from Juliet and Man Ray, mailed from Paris, to my father, circa 1951-52
Handwritten note on reverse reads:

**2 bis rue Ferou (6) Paris 19, Dear George, so nice to hear from you.
We're settled here indefinitely, shall we meet again some time? Send us a couple
of pounds of smoky tea! What do you want from Paris besides a cocotte?
Love, Julie & Man**



4

- 4) Man Ray family photograph taken circa 1944 (pre-Franklin House) of the author (extreme right) and his two brothers, Michael (center) and Kelvin (left)



5

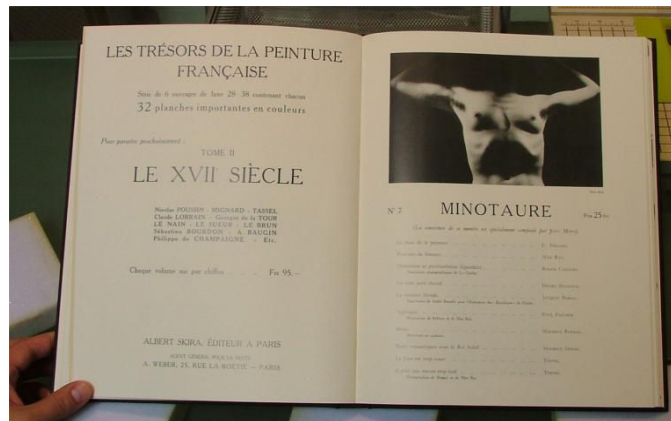
“L’oculiste” Gift from Man Ray to George Hodel in 1948

- 5) In 1944, Man Ray created the above wooden sculpture, which he named, “L’oculiste”. It is made from fragments of lead and a rubber sink stopper, attached to a curved piece of wood, mounted on a board. My father retained the gift for over fifty-years. After his death in 1999, his widow sold it in auction for an undisclosed amount. The auction house appraised the work at --\$30,000/\$50,000.

1.13

Q: Others have attacked your credibility relating to your theory that the posing of the body was meant to mimic Man Ray’s MINOTAUR which shows the body of a nude woman, cut in half. They question how your father could have seen the Man Ray photograph before the murder?

As stated in my book, Man Ray’s MINOTAURE was created in 1934-35. It was one of Man Ray’s most famous works. Below we see it published in the Surrealist Magazine, LE MINOTAURE, Volume 7, in 1936. That photograph, as well as Man Ray’s LOVERS LIPS, which I also reference, both appeared as published works and were displayed in art galleries in New York and Los Angeles. During Man Ray’s “Hollywood Years” he and Juliet remained good friends to both of my parents; the photographs were on display in “retrospective” exhibits in galleries in Pasadena and Beverly Hills, a 15 minute drive from our Hollywood residence.



1936-7



1.14

Q: My question is, does James Ellroy support your claim to solving the Black Dahlia murder or not? On another website, that theorist quotes an interview from Craig McDonald and claims Ellroy's support is merely "tepid".

My suggestion to you is, always go to the original source. There is nothing "tepid" about James Ellroy's support. Both in his Foreword (read full text on my home page) and in the October, 2004 interview with Craig McDonald, he clearly and unequivocally, states his belief that the Black Dahlia crime is solved. He then restates that in his opinion "Hodel has solved the Black Dahlia murder" in a CBS national interview, televised on November 27, 2004.

As a result of CBS' *48-HOURS*, November 27, 2004, one-hour airing of *BLACK DAHLIA CONFIDENTIAL*, I have received dozens of inquiries and requests for clarification, on points brought up on that program. Here are my responses to some of those FAQ's:

1.15

Q: I found the CBS handwriting experts conclusions confusing. Are they saying that the Avenger notes were not written by George Hodel?

No. CBS' expert said his examination of the handwriting was "inconclusive." In his opinion, some of the writing varied from known samples. (Since most of the samples were disguised by the writer, this would be expected.) LAPD's expert likewise, reportedly said, that her findings were "inconclusive." She was unable to determine if the handwriting was George Hodel's, but she could not and would not eliminate him as the writer. It has now been two-years since the HW samples have been made public. To date, not one HW expert has come forward and provided an expert opinion that—the Dahlia notes were not written by George Hodel. In my book, of the dozen Dahlia samples, I personally only identify ONE note, as positively being written by my father. That being the undisguised "Turning myself in on Jan. 29th..." I additionally, identified two other murder related notes as being written by my father. They are the undisguised handwriting on the body of Jeanne French, and the long rambling undisguised note sent in on the Gladys Kern murder. (To my knowledge, neither of those notes were examined by CBS' or LAPD experts.) Handwriting expert Hannah McFarland, independent and unaware of my identifications, positively identified four or five of the Dahlia notes, as well as the French and Kern writings.

1.16

Q: The facial recognition expert doesn't believe the photographs are of Elizabeth Short, and apparently, neither does—James Ellroy. On camera, you said, "I'm 99% convinced they are." Since it no longer matters to the case, why do you insist they are her?

As part of my follow-up investigation I personally contacted two separate U.S. based companies, specializing in biometric facial recognition. (Measuring the spatial geometry of distinguishing features of the face.) Both communicated that the state of the art while improving is still not anywhere near 100% and their results could not be relied upon for complete accuracy, CBS' witness, Ms. Sunni Chapman (a composite artist, not a biometric expert) stated that it was her opinion that she is "85% certain the one photograph (nude) is not Elizabeth Short. (For unknown reasons, she did not analyze, or could not render an opinion on the second photograph.) In a follow-up telephone interview with me, Ms. Chapman confirmed that biometrics played no part in her analysis, nor is it used in her software program. Her candid off-camera statement to me was, "I would not be able to testify in court without doubt that the two photographs [George Hodel's] either were or were not her. [Elizabeth Short]." Most readers, after reviewing all the evidence, understand that the question of the photographic identification becomes a moot point. We know from other official police documents that George Hodel and Elizabeth Short were together at my father's Hollywood residence before the murder. Absent hard evidence to the contrary, it is my position that both the nude and the standing photograph are -- Elizabeth Short.

1.17

Q: The program interviewed a woman by the name of Mary, who said she was a childhood friend of Elizabeth Short's. This woman said she didn't believe your theory. Is she a relative of the Black Dahlia?

No, she was not related to the Short family. The woman interviewed, claims to have grown-up in the same small town, Medford, Massachusetts, and alleges Elizabeth Short babysat her as a child. She does not subscribe to my solution, as she has written her own book on the Dahlia investigation, claiming that actor/director, Orson Welles was the actual killer.

1,18

Q: CBS' investigative reporter Erin Moriarty said that "L.A.P.D. has a credibility problem" and that apparently some important evidence in the Black Dahlia case has "disappeared." Do you know what is missing?

Yes. Basically everything. In a press briefing at L.A.P.D.'s Parker Center in late November, 2004 Robbery-Homicide detectives announced that in searching for the physical evidence they discovered that it had all "disappeared." They were at a loss to explain how that occurred, other than to speculate that perhaps someone inadvertently disposed of the evidence. At the meeting, detectives informed the *L.A. Times* and *CBS* journalists that the evidence was last signed out by L.A.P.D. criminalist Ray Pinker back in the 1950s, and apparently has not been seen since that time. (Procedurally, all physical evidence is locked in a secure Property Room, and must be signed in and out.) Detectives informed the press that since all of the evidence that could potentially yield a DNA sample is gone, no comparison can be made to attempt to link George Hodel's DNA to any crime. In a separate search detectives discovered and confirmed the Gladys Kern murder weapon ("jungle knife") has also "disappeared." While not specifically identifying the crime, we can assume all of the evidence in the Jeanne French "Red Lipstick Murder" is also gone, as they indicated "no DNA evidence exists."

When pushed by reporters to explain how critical physical evidence in L.A.'s most notorious unsolved murder could "just disappear" detectives responded that "sometimes these things happen." Speaking as a former L.A.P.D. homicide supervisor, I would, under normal circumstances, have to agree with the detectives. On a divisional level, sometimes physical evidence does, inadvertently get signed-off and disposed of when it shouldn't. Shit happens.

But, there is nothing routine about this case, and only a very few detectives had access to the files and evidence. Disposing of this evidence was not simply a divisional SNAFU. Moreover, it is not simply the physical evidence that is missing. It is much more selective. In addition to evidence missing from the Property Room, specific documents have apparently been removed from the separate locked L.A.P.D. police files. Here is a summary of what has "disappeared."

- 1) The missing evidence in the Elizabeth Short "Black Dahlia" investigation would include:
 - Original address book belonging to the victim mailed to press by the suspect.
 - Victim's identification papers and personal photos sent in by suspect.
 - Purse and shoes belonging to victim Short.
 - Original 12 hand printed notes mailed to police by "Black Dahlia Avenger" (potential DNA)
 - Black hair follicles belonging to the suspect. (victim eliminated) (potential DNA)
 - Man's "Croton military watch" found near victim's body at crime-scene.
 - Wire recordings, statements/admissions of Dr. Hodel to crimes.
 - Formal written interview/statements made by Dr. Hodel to D.A./L.A.P.D. detectives.
 - Formal written interview by witness Lillian Lenorak, identifying Dr. Hodel as boyfriend of Elizabeth Short.
 - Photograph and interview of Mr./Mrs. Johnson identifying "Mr. Barnes" as checking into hotel with victim, Elizabeth Short, two days before the murder.
 - Formal interview of Mattie Comfort, along with nude photographs of her and Dr. Hodel.
 - Fingerprint cards on Dr. George Hill Hodel from his felony arrest for incest.
 - Fingerprint cards on Dr. George Hill Hodel taken for his State Medical licensing.
 - "Promise is a promise" telegram and follow-up investigation to Washington D.C.

- 2) The missing evidence in the 1948 Gladys Kern stabbing murder would include:
- Unique one-of-a-kind Jungle Knife (ID's as taken from Hodel residence)
 - White handkerchief left at crime scene by suspect (potential DNA)
 - Original handwritten note mailed by suspect to press
 - Photograph of unidentified male found in victim's desk drawer
- 3) The missing evidence in the 1947 Jeanne French "Red Lipstick" murder would include:
- Black hair follicles belonging to the suspect (found under victim's fingernails) (potential DNA)
 - White handkerchief left at crime scene by suspect. (potential DNA)
 - Purse, shoes, and clothing belonging to the victim.

1,19

Q: I saw your half-sister, Tamar interviewed on 48 HOURS and found her narration of her teenage sexual molestation by adults, and the incest crimes committed by her father, very believable. In reading your book, what I do not understand is, how could Tamar, having been sexually molested by George Hodel, then allow her own teenage daughter to go out with him unattended, thus placing her in harm's way?

This question was asked and answered in the CBS interview with Tamar, but unfortunately, due to time restraints, was edited out.

The short answer is- SHE WOULDN'T AND DIDN'T.

As summarized in my book, you will recall the 1969 visit and contact occurred over a two day period. As Tamar related the story, the first day, was an unexpected, surprise visit. George took Tamar to lunch at the Beverly Hills hotel where he was staying. This was the same day he performed the highly bizarre actions and made the chilling statements. The two of them had walked through the hotel- lobby, when George stopped abruptly, pointed to an abstract pattern on the carpeted floor and asked Tamar what she thought it resembled? She responded, "I don't know, some kind of flower? Maybe rhododendrons." George then traced the patterned outline with his shoe, and said, "No look again. It's a vagina and lips. They are nether lips." He then stomped hard on the design, smiled and said, "Did that hurt?"

The incident you refer to occurred on the second day of George Hodel's unannounced trip through L.A. On that day, Tamar, who was then nine- months pregnant, and just days away from giving birth to her second son, was asleep when her father returned to their house. Unbeknownst to Tamar, George asked his 14-year-old, granddaughter, Deborah, out to dinner, and during their meal together, at the hotel restaurant, he drugged her soft drink. Feeling woozy, she started to pass out at the table, and George took her upstairs to his room, "to recover." She awakened sometime later, and found he had undressed her, and was taking nude photographs of her on the bed. Another twenty- some years would pass, before Deborah would disclose this incident to her mother. Tamar's first awareness that her father and her daughter had ever been together back in 1969 was in 1989!

Shades of *Chinatown*? Absolutely! I cannot help but wonder if all of this family history was more than “coincidence” and possibly some perverse “inspiration” for John Huston’s character, Noah Cross, in Roman Polanski’s 1974 film-noir classic.

1.20

Q:I have read different accountings of the condition of the body. Can you tell me if it was ever definitively established that Elizabeth Short was: 1) strangled like the other victims and 2) If there were cigarette burns to her body?

The answer to both your questions is- YES. Ligature marks were found on her neck.(She was strangled with a ligature, but this was not the cause of death.) As to the burns, though L.A.P.D. and the D.A.’s investigators denied any, there were in fact burns found on her body. These were caused either by a cigarette or cigar. Dr. Paul DeRiver, L.A.P.D.’s Sexual Offense Bureau psychiatrist, confirmed the burn marks in his secret testimony before the 1949 grand jury.

1.21

Q: Has L.A.P.D. done any investigation into the other murders you claim your father committed? Is there DNA or fingerprint evidence on any of those? Was the Kern Jungle knife used in some of the other crimes?

As far as I know, NO serious investigation has ever been conducted into any of the other eight (8) crimes I list as category-I (Definites) Incomprehensibly, L.A.P.D.’s present day detectives remain stubbornly insistent that the Black Dahlia crime was a “stand alone.” “None before, none after.” As my investigation has shown this flies in the face of even the 1947 investigation, where L.A.P.D. detectives believed at least three of the murders were linked. Since today’s detectives doubt the original detectives position, I guess they assume they have no need to check out any other crimes, despite the compelling evidence, which has been presented to them.

I am not privy to what evidence may be available on each separate crime i.e. fingerprints, DNA etc., so I cannot answer that part of your question.

The Kern “jungle knife” could have been used on other crimes and is consistent with the type of weapon used on some of them, with the exception of the Black Dahlia murder, where experts believe the bisection and wounds were done using a scalpel. As we have recently learned, the Kern knife has “disappeared” from L.A.P.D. evidence locker, and will never be available for viewing.

In light of that revelation, I conducted a recent follow-up on the “jungle knife”, and here is an update:

Shortly after witness Joe Barrett appeared in a television interview in connection with the Black Dahlia investigation, he suffered a stroke, which required heart surgery. Fortunately, he is now on the mend, and I was able to re-interview him related to his drawing and further details surrounding his missing knife. He indicated that the knife was originally a G.I. issue, which had a standard, leather handle. Before war’s end he had a Navy machinist-mate buddy, remove the original handle, and replace it with multi-colored Plexiglas rings. I again showed him the B&W photograph of the Kern murder weapon, which he had tentatively identified nearly four years ago. On this occasion, I was able to show him large blown-up photographs. I advised him that L.A.P.D. has “lost” the actual Kern murder weapon, and it will likely never be available for viewing. In seeing the

enlargements, Joe Barrett is not able to make an absolute identification. He had hoped to see the original evidence weapon, which would have been conclusive for identification or elimination. Joe's final word on the Kern photo is, "I have to see the actual knife to say for sure. The picture could be my knife, or it could be a standard leather handle G.I. issue."

Bottom line on the Gladys Kern investigation —Even if we assume that the “jungle-knife” used in the crime was NOT Barrett’s knife, and exclude it, it makes no difference. George Hodel’s handwritten (undisguised) note found in the DA files, the police composite, the witness statements, the mailing of the note from the very same mailbox as the Black Dahlia Avenger note, (three blocks from my father’s medical office), all combine to make that particular investigation, one of the strongest cases presented.

1.22 - 1.23

Q: You say you didn't know about your father being a suspect in the Black Dahlia murder until you started to investigate the crime in 1999. Tamar knew about it. How could it be that she wouldn't or didn't tell her brother who was an LAPD cop?

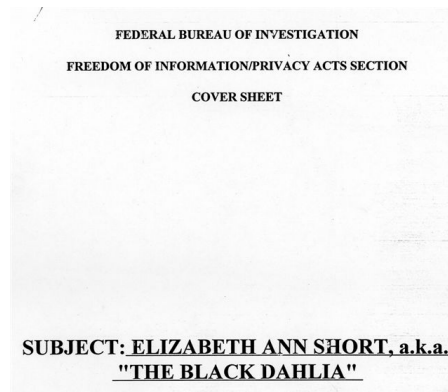
Because, during our adult years, we had practically NO CONTACT. We lived our separate lives up until fate reunited us—by way of our father’s death. After dad’s arrest in 1949, for the next fifty-years, Tamar’s and my accumulated contact, both in person and on the telephone, amounted to less than 3 hours of conversation. Post 1999, we have become very close, and have had hundreds of hours of communication.

1.24

Q: Tamar tells the story of when she was 11-years of age, going to her father to ask him to name her doll, and he told her to name it, Elizabeth Ann. You incorrectly use the name ANN in your book?

No, actually I do not. Throughout my book, I refer to the victim as “Elizabeth Short,” with no middle name. I believe the reference you are making is when I quote the cover-sheet of the F.B.I. dossier, which [absent any documentation to the contrary] incorrectly identifies her as, “Elizabeth Ann Short.” We do not know when the misnomer came into existence? Likely early on, since it is found in the F.B.I. docket. The possibility exists that Elizabeth liked the sound of “Ann” and may have simply chosen to use it? What we do know is that the name became a part of her legend. In 1975 we hear it used in the T.V. movie, “Who is the Black Dahlia?” then James Ellroy and others continued to use the middle name in their writings. As to Tamar’s 58-year recollection, she is definite that her father instructed her to name her doll, “ELIZABETH,” and believes he also included the middle- name of ANN, but is less certain.

Below is a photocopy of the actual F.B.I. cover sheet received through Freedom Of Information Act, showing the Bureau’s incorrect addition of the middle name -- “ANN:



1.25

Q: I am familiar with most of the Hollywood locations that Elizabeth Short resided during her time in Hollywood. (6024 Carlos, 1611 Orange Dr., 1842 Cherokee). Did your research establish any other Hollywood residences?

Yes, the secret D.A. files showed she resided at the **Guardian Arms Apartments, 5217 Hollywood Blvd apt # 726**. She shared an apartment there with her girlfriend, Marjorie Graham for ten days. (October 10-22, 1946) D.A. reports also indicated she stayed with a boyfriend, Lt. Gordon Fickling, at the **Brevort Hotel in Hollywood**, from August 20-27, 1946.

1.26

Q: My question has to do with the "Red Lipstick Murder." I'm told the shoe size found at the crime scene is believed to be a man's shoe 6-7. A small man. Doesn't that eliminate your father who was over 6'?

I believe your referring to a three-year old LAPD report in the 1950 D.A.'s file that claims a possible heel print found near the body of Jeanne French was "projected" or estimated to be from a small sized shoe. First of all the "science" is highly questionable. Second, if the size was correct it could well have come from the victim's own shoes, which the suspect(s) removed and "neatly placed" on each side of the body. (A second police report indicates they were thrown?) The heel impression could have been pre-existing, or made by someone at the scene. In 1947 crime-scenes were not "protected" as they are today. I refer you to the below photographs which shows detectives and press surrounding the body at the actual "Red Lipstick" crime scene on February 10, 1947. Eye-witnesses' place the victim with a man fitting George Hodel's description in a then, ten-year-old vehicle("36-37 dark sedan") just one-hour before she was murdered. (See Dr. Hodel's vehicle description above.) On February 18, 1947, a week after the murder, L.A.P.D. Homicide Captain Donahoe conducted a live "show-up" of a person he considered a "hot suspect." He had both Dahlia and "Red Lipstick" witnesses present at the show-up of Otto Parzyjegl, a male 36 years, 6-4". (Obviously not a small man) Parzyjegl fit the general physical description of the suspect, but was eliminated by witnesses.



“Red Lipstick” crime scene photograph 1947

1.27

Q: I am a Man Ray fan and appreciate his art. I take exception to your insinuating that he was a misogynist. He took a lot of beautiful pictures of nude females and that does not make him a sexual pervert.

I have no insight into Man Ray's psyche, nor am I familiar with his sexual persuasions. I leave that to the reader to decide. His anger and hostility towards some of the women in his life is well documented. We know he sold pornographic photographs of one mistress ((Kiki) and threatened to shoot and kill another (Lee Miller). I would refer you to one of the many biographies on his life for details. Again, going to the original source is always a good idea. In 1928 Man Ray in a Surrealist discussion was asked, "What is your first sexual memory?" He replied as follows:

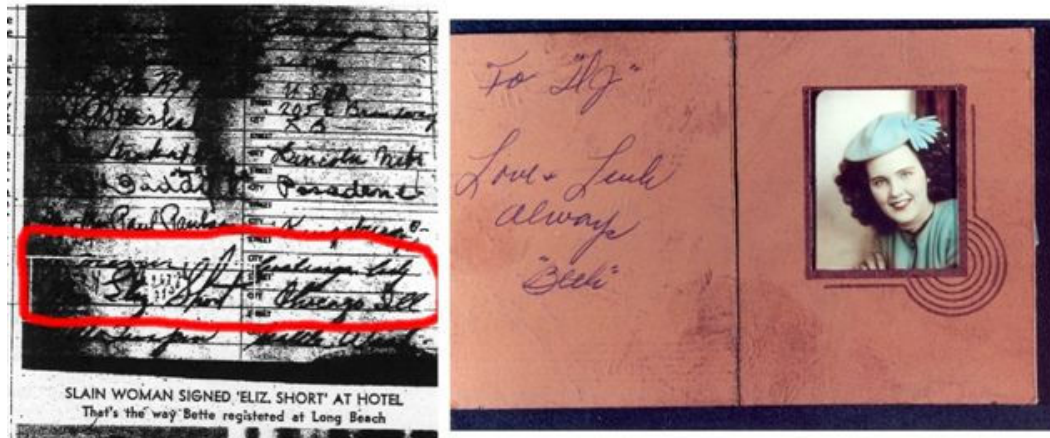
"I'd passed puberty. An older friend, who must have been sixteen, told me how people made love. I was curious to try it and persuaded a little girl of ten to help by promising to give her a picture book if she would show me her sex. I then tried to penetrate her; she complained that I was hurting her. Afraid of being on my own I had brought along my brother, who was nine, and I persuaded him to try. He succeeded and she clasped him in her arms, saying to me: "I like your brother better; he doesn't hurt me so much."

Jose Pierre, ed., *Investigating Sex: Surrealist Discussions 1928-1932* (London and New York: Verso, 1992), pg. 33.

1.28

Q: Does any handwriting by Elizabeth Short exit? In all of the literature, I have never seen any published.

Yes, here are two samples of her handwriting. One is from her registration at a hotel in Long Beach, where she signed it, "Eliz Short." The other is on a newly discovered photograph she signed to a friend. It appears to read: "To "DJ" Love and Luck always "Beth".



Samples of Elizabeth Short's handwriting

1.29

Q: My question relates to your half-sister Tamar, and the incest trial. I read articles posted on another website and they talk about how, as a teenager, she was a "pathological liar" (their words, not mine) and should not be believed. A jury found your father "not guilty". Do you still believe he was guilty of incest and molested your 14-year old half-sister?

YES, I absolutely believe my father molested Tamar, and had for three years prior. This isn't just based on a brother's love for his sister. She was completely sexualized by him since age, 11. First the oral sex, then incest at 14. The "pathological liar" was a defense ploy. Blame the victim. All the evidence and testimony (including the presence and participation of the sex acts by three adults) is presented in the book, and need not be reviewed here. As far as other websites posting articles attacking my sister's credibility, you might take note that they didn't post the ones where Dr. Hodel fully and freely admits to the allegations! I quote excerpts from the LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS , 10/6/49:

From Dep. Dist. Atty. William Ritzi it was learned the case may implicate "at least one other Hollywood doctor" and a number of motion picture personalities.

...

District attorney aides said the physician, a reputed authority in the treatment of venereal diseases, told them both he and his daughter "at an early age manifested a desire for the study of love."

...

"Everything is a dream to me," they quoted him. "I believe someone is trying to hypnotize me. I want to consult my psychiatrist but I don't trust him. He might find something wrong with me. "If this is real and I am really here, then these other things must have happened."

See complete article below:

LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

October 6, 1949

Political league should have millions of dollars by next spring.

Girl accuses Hollywood doctor father

Accusations of a 14-year-old girl that she had been subjected to incestuous and perverted acts by her father today brought formal charges against Dr. George H. Hodel, 38, Hollywood physician.

Formal complaints charging one count of incest and one of sexual perversion were issued by the district attorney's office, disclosing Dr. Hodel's arrest yesterday at his home, 5121 Franklin avenue.

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. S. Ernest Roll announced the physician's daughter, Tamar, a sophomore at Hollywood High school, had told him she had shared sexual relations with her father since she was 11.

She also told the chief prosecutor she was given intoxicants and participated with Dr. Hodel, another man and two women in a series of perverted acts in the Franklin-avenue home last July 15.

The girl further charged her father had encouraged her to have relations with other men, and gave investigators the names of 19 youths with whom she had shared such interludes. All were being sought for questioning.

From Dep. Dist. Atty. William Ritzl it was learned the case may implicate "at least one other Hollywood doctor" and a number of motion picture personalities.

"My father reeks of sex," the young girl told Roll and Ritzl. "He is a nut on sex." She said he had attempted to hypnotize her but had been unsuccessful.

Dr. Hodel's arrest followed by five days a missing person report he filed on his daughter last Friday. She was picked up Sunday night and questioned by Georgia Street juvenile officers brought to light her sordid story.

Dr. Hodel has been three times married—and divorced, the girl told authorities.

District attorney's aides said the physician, a reputed authority in the treatment of venereal diseases, told them both he and his daughter "at an early age manifested a desire for the study of love."

"Everything is a dream to me," they quoted him. "I believe someone is trying to hypnotize me. I want to consult by psychiatrist but I don't trust him. He might find something wrong with me.

"If this is real and I am really here, then these other things must have happened."

Hodel was lodged last night in Hollywood jail and was to be arraigned today on the charges of incest and perversion.

Police who made the arrest reported they found a large collection of photographs of nude girls in the doctor's home, together with several objects of obscene art.

Naval information

The following are U. S. Navy ships due to arrive in the Long Beach-Los Angeles area:

1.30

Q: Is there anybody from the law-enforcement community that agrees with you, that Dr. George Hodel was the actual killer of, Elizabeth Short, the Black Dahlia?

I have received dozens of letters and e-mails from professional law-enforcement officers and criminal attorneys, voicing their belief that the case has been solved.

In addition, here are some relevant quotes from L.A.P.D. and L.A.S.O. current and former, "high command":

"Hodel's hardcover book was pretty compelling. Then, when all the transcripts and stuff came out from the D.A.'s office, that took it over the top for me. That would have been enough for me to bring a case against Dr. Hodel."

L.A.P.D. Deputy Chief James S. McMurray (ret.)
Chief of Detectives
Los Angeles Times Magazine, November 21, 2004

"The BLACK DAHLIA case was solved. It was a doctor who lived in Hollywood on Franklin Ave."

Deputy Chief Thad Brown (deceased)
Chief of Detectives in charge of Dahlia investigation 1949-1968

"The BLACK DAHLIA case was solved. The suspect was a doctor living in Hollywood involved in abortions."

Conversation circa 1962 between L.A.S.O. Under sheriff James Downey
and his Chief of Detectives J. Gordon Bowers.

"Based on his findings I would have no hesitation in filing two counts of murder against Dr. George Hill Hodel. One count for the Elizabeth Short Black Dahlia murder and the second on Jeanne French, the Red Lipstick murder. If all the witnesses were available, I believe it would be a sure win with a jury trial."

Head Deputy District Attorney Stephen Kay,
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

"Steve Hodel did an outstanding job in putting the pieces together. When you look at it, it all fits. It's my personal opinion that he has solved the Black Dahlia Murder. "

Thomas M. Vetter, Commander (Ret.), Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

Lt. Colonel U.S.M.C (Ret.) President, First Marine Division Association

1,31

Q: I have read the District Attorney transcripts where Lt. Frank Jemison interviewed your mother. In those reports the police lieutenant say's that he has talked to different people who have identified Elizabeth Short as dating and being with Dr. George Hodel. Do you know who those people are?

We know some of them, not all. First, let me point out an interesting fact, discovered through the release of those documents. The interview took place at my mother's residence apartment, on Santa Monica pier, at about 12 noon on, March 22, 1950. This was no casual interview. Lt. Jemison had a court reporter present that took down every word. Three separate woman's photographs were shown to my mother. Elizabeth Short, probably the nude photo of George Hodel with Mattie Comfort, and a third photo of an unidentified female. Mother claims not to have known any of them. From other transcripts, we know she had provided dad with verbatim questions from law-enforcement in the past. Four days after this interview, surveillance tapes at the Franklin House, record George Hodel talking to a friend saying, "I'm in trouble. They have pictures of me and that girl. I thought I had destroyed all of them." On March 29, 1950, only two days after making those statements, father disappears, leaving the surveillance team with their sound microphones up their walls. On April 1, 1950, L.A. newspapers print a story that D.A. investigators are searching for a "hot suspect" and anticipate an arrest.

We know by their own statements and or documented reports that the following individuals were connecting Elizabeth Short and George Hodel together (some directly others by hearsay) before the murder:

1. Lillian Lenorak
2. George Hodel
3. Joe Barrett (confirming Lenorak's statements)
4. Dorothy Hodel (statements to Tamar Hodel)
5. Lt. Frank Jemison
6. DA investigator Walter Sullivan (to Joe Barrett)
7. Santa Barbara police officer Mary Unkefer
8. Mattie Comfort (see original typed Jemison statement)
9. Unnamed additional witnesses interviewed by Lt. Jemison*

Lt. Jemison's statements on transcript to Dorothy Hodel:

*pg 3

"For your information her [Elizabeth Short] photograph has been identified by certain persons as resembling the young lady that was over to his house prior to the murder.

*pg 5

"Let me advise you that we do have information that he [George Hodel] did associate with Beth Short and as you know ..."

1.32

Q: In your book, you say that you don't know why the name Black Dahlia came to you when you thought about the woman in your father's photo album. But, you think it might have been from a television movie you saw about the Dahlia. Is that film available?

It was a 1975 made for television movie called, WHO IS THE BLACK DAHLIA? I mention it in my book, and that it starred Efrem Zimbalist Jr. and Lucie Arnaz. Not sure if they are still showing it on television? I heard an unconfirmed report that the studio many years ago, received some communications from a possible suspect and decided not to rerun the film. That just may be part of the Dahlia "lore." Below, is a photograph showing the remarkable similarity between my father's photograph and "The Dahlia" as played by Lucie Arnaz back in '75. In comparing the two photos, it becomes obvious why my mind and faded memory made the then, twenty-four year old connection. (Even down to the black collarless dress!)



LUCIE ARNAZ AS
"BLACK DAHLIA"
1975



DR. GEORGE HODEL PHOTO ALBUM
1999

1.33

Q: I have seen your father's "Franklin House" on television several times and I think it was featured in a scene from the recently released film, AVIATOR, the story of Howard Hughes. Am I correct?

Yes, it was in the scene between Howard Hughes (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Ava Gardner (Kate Beckinsale). The scene from the 2004 Oscar winner was shot in the living-room, and at the front entrance. Ava is complaining that Hughes has her under surveillance, is questioning her fidelity, and has "bugged the entire house, including her bedroom."

Because of its unusual architecture, (a Mayan temple in the heart of Hollywood) the house has been used in a number of feature films. The most ironic being, James Ellroy's ***L.A. Confidential***. (1997) You have to look closely, or you will miss it, but there are actually two separate scenes. The first is where Lynn Bracken (Kim Basinger) and Pierce Patchett's other "girls" are seen dancing and entertaining some older businessmen. The second scene was shot in the old kitchen, before the home's interior was renovated in 2002. In that scene, the room is substituting for LAPD Capt. Dudley Smith's (James Cromwell) residence, and Sgt. Jack Vincennes (Kevin Spacey) accuses him of police corruption, with some dire consequences.

I am also informed that scenes from *Nurse Betty* (2000) were also shot at the residence, but have not seen the film.

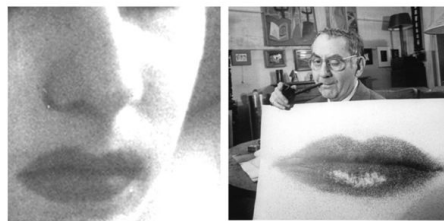


Interior Frank Lloyd Wright Jr. designed "Sowden" House, 2004

(Dr. George Hodel family residence 1945-1950)

1.34

Q: In George Hodel's nude photograph the lipstick appears to be smeared on quite heavily. She also looks to be asleep or unconscious, or possibly even dead! Can you comment?



Actually, many readers have written me making a similar observation. In the above photo (right) we see Man Ray, obviously late in life, holding a version of his famous "Lips". Compare it to my father's photograph. In a new chapter, to be added to the next HarperCollins paperback printing (anticipated early '06), I will be introducing new photographs and forensic evidence, addressing this very point. **The 2004-2005 investigation will include HARD EVIDENCE linking George Hodel to the murder.**

1.35

Q: Today's LAPD detectives maintain that the Black Dahlia murder was a "standalone". They do not agree with your contention that Elizabeth Short was the victim of a serial killer. Why do you?

I suggest you read my book. All of the reasons WHY and the many links are presented in detail. "Today's LAPD detectives" are simply gatekeepers to the files. (Which have according to them, mostly disappeared.) No review or investigation has been done on the Dahlia murder in decades. It is filed and forgotten. (Except by the public.) Earlier in this FAQ I addressed the fact that the 1947 LAPD detectives presented the public with "11 Points of Similarity" summarizing their belief that the crimes were being committed by the same suspect. (The term, **serial killer**, would not emerge for another thirty-years.) The below article was published in 1949, and is further proof that THAD BROWN, LAPD Chief of Detectives believed many of the crimes could well be connected. Again, the truth is lost in the past, and ignorance introduced to the present.

The following article **Alleged Garroter May Be Linked to Killings Here** was published in the LA TIMES, Sep 14, 1949. LAPD was checking out a suspect in-custody in UTAH. I quote the bottom half of the article:

"Strangling and sex motives have figured in the murders here of Elizabeth Short, Jan. 15, 1947; Mrs. Jeanne T. French, Feb. 10, 1947; Mrs. Louise Springer, June 16, 1949, and Miss Georgette Bauerdorf, Oct. 12, 1944, as well as other and similar cases.

Brown [Chief Thad Brown] said that if Gardner is unable to account for his movements during the times of any of the unsolved Southland murders, and if his record indicates possibility of his presence here during those times, efforts will be made to trace his activities in hope of forming a connection with local murders."

LA TIMES -Sep 14, 1949

Alleged Garroter May Be Linked to Killings Here

A sex killer who has confessed three garroting murders at Ogden, Utah, was seen as a possible suspect yesterday in Los Angeles' long series of violent sex slayings.

Asst. Police Chief Thad Brown, chief of detectives here, dispatched a written request to the Sheriff at Ogden requesting details of the story told by Ray Dempsey Gardner, 27, in jail there on the sex crimes.

Brown said that accounts from Ogden detailed Gardner's admitted strangling of Shirley Gretzinger, 17, in Ogden last July. He also took police to the body of a second victim, Sue Horn, 30, of Montana, and yesterday said he strangled a cellmate in a North Dakota jail.

Strangling and sex motives have figured in the murders here of Elizabeth Short, Jan. 15, 1947; Mrs. Jeanne T. French, Feb. 10, 1947; Mrs. Louise Springer, June 15, 1948, and Miss Georgette Bauerdorf, Oct. 12, 1944, as well as other and similar cases.

Brown said that if Gardner is unable to account for his movements during the times of any of the unsolved Southland murders, and if his record indicates possibility of his presence here during those times, efforts will be made to trace his activities in the hope of forming a connection with local murders.

- 1.36 **Q: Is there any evidence that your father, Dr. George Hodel was ever officially connected with LAPD or ever had any contact with that department?**

Below is a photograph taken at the LAPD Police Academy in 1942 which was taken by the press but not published in a local newspaper. It shows Dr. Hodel lecturing to police recruits and veteran Vice Officers on newly revised prostitution laws regarding war time enforcement.



1.37

Q: I haven't been able to find any old magazine articles covering the original story during the 1940s. Are you aware if there were any published? If so where?

Yes, LIFE MAGAZINE covered the story in 1947. Below is an original POLICE GAZETTE story from August, 1947. Many of these early articles contained partially accurate coverage, mixed with errors, misinformation, and guesswork. (See additional reference in FAQ V on article from TRUE DETECTIVE, October 1948)



August, 1947
Five days wrote letters to the police which read:
"I killed Betty Short. I will surrender tomorrow."
He never surrendered.
Another fellow made a practice of telephoning the police from a barroom and, before they could catch up with him, dialing to another barroom and phoning again. He wound up in a psychiatric ward when he was finally apprehended.
A former War veteran came to the San Diego police station to say, "I killed the Dahlia because she stole my boyfriend." Later she said she made up the whole story.
John N. Andrey, 38, a chief pharmacist made, boasted in a Long Beach bar that he was the murderer. When police took him into custody and pressed him for details he grumbled, "Well, I'm capable of doing it."
It is simple for the police to check these confessions — there are details about the mutilation of Miss Short which were not made public and which are known only by the police — and the murderer.
And so, they continue to work on their greatest mystery — one of their most brutal murders in half a century. They believe that the murderer was either a stranger to Betty Short—a pick-up—or a very casual acquaintance. They think he may have been in uniform, that he might have red hair.
"Oh yes, we'll solve this case," says Hansen confidently. "A murderer of the type who killed Betty Short just has to talk about it — sometime. Murder will out."

Black Dahlia Mystery
(Continued from page 11)
"I know who killed Betty Short and if the reward is big enough I'll talk."
Two detectives rushed from Los Angeles to Berkeley to learn that Caryl knew no more than she had read in the newspapers and that she had simply tried to get even with two young men who had walked out on her. She did not implicate them in the crime.
One of the hottest tips came from the military police at Fort Dix, N. J., who heard from a soldier that "Corporal Joseph Donald is the Black Dahlia killer."
The Corporal, a curly headed, mustached young veteran had just clocked into Dix from the West Coast after a 42-day furlough. He had bloodstains on his clothing and clippings of the Short murder in his pocket.
He didn't help matters any when he said:
"It is possible that I could have committed the murder. When I got drunk I got rough with women. And I was drunk."
But West Coast friends who could account for Donald's whereabouts refused to his aid to say that he was within the view of his friends at all the times that Betty could possibly have been killed.
Then there was the gentleman who for

1,38

Q: Other websites report that Elizabeth Short was not in Los Angeles in 1944-1945. I've also read that her family claims the same. Is this true?

No. We have several sources of documentation that establish Elizabeth's presence in Los Angeles the summer/fall of 1944, and it is very likely she was also there in 1945. A boyfriend Lt. Joseph Gordon Fickling in his interview with press and police tells of originally meeting Elizabeth in Los Angeles in 1944, before he was shipped overseas. (See *L.A. Times* article (lower left paragraph) Also, an artist, James Arthur, aka Charles B. Smith, who was awaiting sentencing for writing a check on "insufficient funds," informed the police that he met her in Hollywood in August, 1944, and painted and sketched her picture on two separate occasions. James saw her in Hollywood during a three-month period (August- November) in 1944. He also provided the names and addresses of the current owners of his Elizabeth Short drawings. See below 1947 article from the *Herald Express*.

Los Angeles Times, Jan. 1947

'Black Dahlia's' Love Life Traced in Search for Her Fiendish Murderer

**Airline Pilot, Found in South, Cagy
on Girl's Avowals, Denies Betrothal**

Elizabeth Short hoped to go to Chicago to model, she wrote a friend, a former Army pilot, from San Diego a week before her maniacally mutilated body was found in Los Angeles, police learned last night.

Joseph Gordon Fickling, honorably discharged Army Air Corps lieutenant whose letters to Elizabeth were found in the girl's effects yesterday, told detectives in Charlotte, N.C., where he is an airline pilot, that his last letter from the attractive brunette was dated Jan. 8, police said.

"She told me not to write her any more at San Diego and that she was going to Chicago," J. J. DeWeese of the Charlotte de-

her jet black hair and her af-

Fred L. Smelser, manager of the hotel, reported seeing the girl with an Army lieutenant, whom he described as "very jealous." She also was seen with several sailors during her sojourn at the beach city.

Actress Questioned

Late yesterday homicide detectives questioned Anne Toth, 21-year-old film actress of 6023 Carlos Ave., who first met Miss Short last August when the "Black Dahlia" went to room at the same house.

"She lived there about two months," said Miss Toth. "Then she went away for about three weeks — I don't know where. When she returned, she said her girl friend, Marjorie Graham, had left for Boston but that she hadn't gone because she would rather die than bear the cold of the East."

"Two or three weeks before Christmas she said she was going to Berkeley. (Miss Short's sister, Mrs. Virginia West, wife of Adrian West, engineer, resides in the northern city.) But instead she went to San Diego. Why, I don't know."

"Just before Christmas Day she sent me a wire saying she was low on funds and asking me to send her \$20. She had been gone about three weeks when I received another wire saying she was coming back and stating that a letter would follow."

"That is the last I heard of her. The letter never came." Miss Toth said the dead girl had been friendly with several men during her stay at the Carlton Ave. house, but avoided introducing them to her.

Lived in Hollywood

From Nov. 12 to Dec. 5 Miss Short resided in an apartment at 1242 N. Cherokee St., which she shared with a number of young women. There she was known as a girl with a different



Joseph Gordon Fickling

tective bureau quoted Fickling as saying.

In a conversation with Det. Sgt. Harry Hansen of Los Angeles, DeWeese related Fickling's denials that he had ever been engaged to the girl or had contemplated marriage with her. Fickling said that he had met her in Southern California in 1944 before going overseas. DeWeese informed Hansen.

Letters Found in Trunk

Los Angeles Herald, Jan. 1947

CLARENCE COUNTY JUDGE A. C. MC
Dougal. (Continued on Page 8, Column 5) (Continued on Page 8, Column 2)

Convict-Artist Tells Painting 'Dahlia' as Model

Intimate glimpses into the care-free life of "The Black Dahlia" during her merry days in the glamor city of Hollywood were unfolded today by a middle-aged artist and ex-convict who said he once painted her in oils.

Now awaiting sentence on a forgery charge, Arthur Curtis James Jr., 36, alias Charles B. Smith, willingly told reporters of his three-month friendship with Elizabeth Short after their meeting in a Hollywood cocktail lounge in August, 1944.

MET AT BAR

"I was sitting alone at the bar, making pencil sketches on a bit of paper, when a girl who turned out to be 'Beth,' sitting beside me, showed an interest in my sketches," he said.

Their friendship continued during the next three months, during which Elizabeth modeled for him, James declared.

"I made several pictures of her—one a large oil painting which I later turned over to a man named Frank Armand, who lived in Artesia," James said.

He also made a sketch of "The Black Dahlia," the artist related, and turned it over to a Mrs. Hazel Milman, Star Route 1, Box 24, Rodeo Grounds, in the Santa Monica-Palms district.

FRIENDSHIP ENDS

Their friendship ended abruptly in November, 1944, when he was arrested in Tucson, Ariz., for violation of the Mann act, under the name of the Charles B. Smith, James said.

Asked whether Miss Short figured in this arrest, he nervously said:

"No."

For this offense, James commented, he drew a two-year sentence to Leavenworth.

His present difficulty grows out of a bad check cashed in November, 1944, to purchase luggage for "The Black Dahlia," the artist admitted. He was arrested in September, 1946, and later convicted.



—Herald-Examiner Photo

ARTHUR C. JAMES JR.
Says 'Black Dahlia' Modeled For His Sketches

To my knowledge, nowhere in the DA FILES does it state that "Elizabeth Short was not in Los Angeles in 1944 or 1945." Here are excerpted copies from two separate DA files that refer to the "Movements and Activities Of Elizabeth Short, Victim":

Excerpt DA summary pg.4

9/28/43 She left Camp Cook.

12/1/43 She went to Miami Beach and worked at the Rosedale Delicatessen.

* 3/ /44 She went to Atlanta, Georgia.

* 4/ /44 She went to Miami Beach, Florida.

* 9/ /45 She went to St. Clay's Restaurant and worked there at 175 High Street, Boston, Mass.

* 12/ /45 She went to Jacksonville, Florida.

* 2/ /46 She went to her mother, Phoebe Short at Medford, Mass.

6/1/46 She left her mother at Medford, Mass. and went to Indianapolis, Indiana.

6/24/46 She went to Chicago, Ill. and registered at the Park Row Hotel.

7/7/46 She left Chicago to go to Long Beach, California, saying she was going there to marry Gordon Flickling. She did not marry him, but did live with him.

7/22/46 She moved into the Washington Hotel, Long Beach with Gordon Flickling.

8/8/46 She moved into several other small unknown hotels in Long Beach remaining approximately the five-day

Above is an excerpt from pg. 4 of Lt. Jemison's 10/28/49 summary. Note it simply states that she went to Jacksonville, Florida in April, 1944 and then picks up her movements in September, 1945 to Boston. This does not mean that during that 17 month period she did not travel to CA or anywhere else. (In fact her movements before and after that time period show she never remained in any one spot much longer than 3-4 months.)

Additionally, below is an excerpt from the 22-page, "LAPD SUMMARY OF THE ELIZABETH (BETH) SHORT MURDER INVESTIGATION, obtained by me in 2003. Note that the detective's state:

"She [Elizabeth Short] stayed in Florida during the winter months of 1944 and 1945 as she had been operated on for lung condition and...."

Excerpt LAPD Summary pg. 10

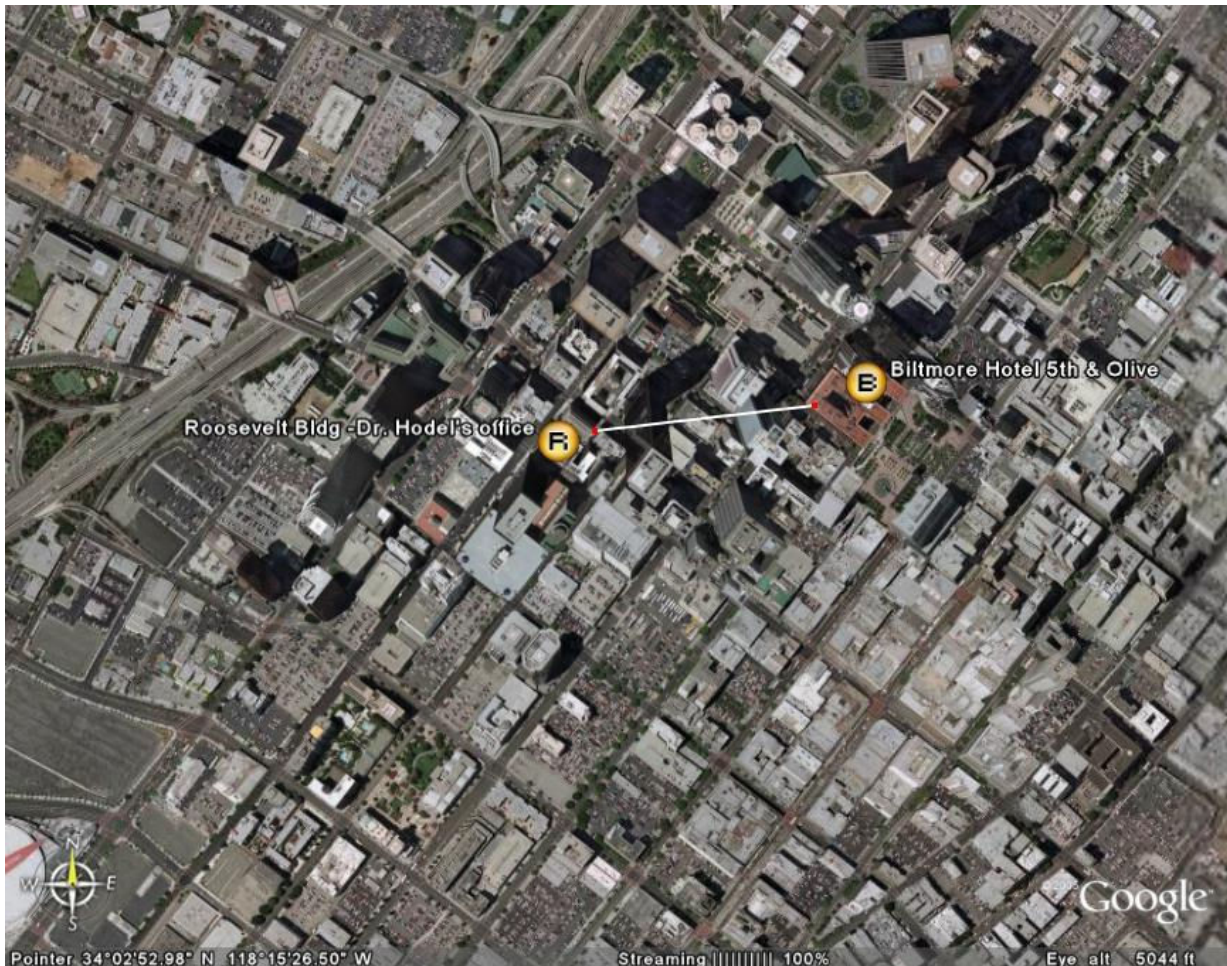
...mately 3 weeks. He claimed that she did not... argument ensued.

She left there and secured a job in the Camp Cooke Post Exchange. The records show that she worked there from January 29, 1943, until August 25, 1943. She was around there for a short period of time after that and was picked up by the Santa Barbara Police Department in the company of some soldiers. She was booked on 700K W.I.C. Photographs were taken and she was released and returned to her home in Mass. She stayed there a while with her mother and sister. She then went to Miami, Florida, where she lived with a Mrs. Devaul for a period of time. While there, she was employed as a waitress at Mom's Restaurant. She stayed in Florida during the winter months of 1944 and 1945 as she had been operated on for a lung condition and

Clearly, this wording suggests she was elsewhere in the summer/fall of 1944. This corresponds and supports the earlier statements given by Lt. Fickling and Arthur James Jr. placing her in California during the summer and fall of 1944. It is likely Elizabeth also repeated these movements in 1945, spending at least some part of the year in Los Angeles, as she had done in 1943, 1944, and 1946.

1.39

Q: According to most accounts Elizabeth Short was last seen walking out the door of the Biltmore Hotel on January 9, 1947. Is this near Dr. Hodel's office?



Aerial view showing proximity of Biltmore to Dr. Hodel's office-(350 yards)

My 2005 review of the secret DA files confirmed the fact that Elizabeth Short left the Biltmore Hotel on January 9, 1947, shortly after 10:00 p.m. Those files document an interview with, Mr. Harold Studholme, the Biltmore Bell Captain, where he informed the police that he saw a figure (no further description) motion to Elizabeth from outside the Olive Street entrance. Elizabeth who had apparently been waiting and expecting someone to arrive, then exited the hotel, and witness Studholme last saw her walking south on Olive Street. The below aerial photograph shows the close proximity of the Biltmore Hotel to Dr. George Hodel's medical office at the Roosevelt Building, 727 W. 7th Street. The pin marks the hotel's Olive Street entrance, showing Elizabeth would have had to turn right and head south to get to Dr. Hodel's office, which was just a five minute walk from the Biltmore hotel.

Dr. George Hodel's three (3) separate downtown medical office locations in 1947



R=Dr. Hodel's 7th St. Medical office B=Biltmore Hotel
H=Dr. Hodel's L.A. County Health Dept office F=Dr. Hodel's First Street Clinic

1.40

Q: Are you familiar with the name Maurice Clement? Did that name ever come up in your or the DA investigation as a suspect?

In my 2001 investigation, the name "Clement or Clemence" (unknown if it was a first or last name?) came up once. In a 1947 press interview, Sherryl Maylond, a roommate/witness of Elizabeth Short's at the Chancellor Apartments, Room 501, mentioned the name, referring to a man who came to the Hollywood bar where she worked, asking for her. "Clement" described as "slight, dapper, olive-skinned man, with hair graying at the temples" came to her bar on January 15, 1947 (the day of the murder) which was Sherryl's day off. He returned the following evening, "wanting to talk about Elizabeth." Maylond refused his repeated requests and he left.

In May 2003, after gaining access and copying the DA files, I discovered that the name Maurice Clement was one of 75 names written in Elizabeth Short's address book, which was mailed in to the press by her killer. DA/LAPD reports also referenced a second interview with a witness by the name of --Clifford J. Maurice.

DA files have the following reference, which I quote verbatim from their report:

DA Files, LAPD Summary pg. 6:

“Also interviewed was Morris Clement [sic] who stated he met her about December 1 in Brittingham’s Restaurant on Sunset Blvd. At that time she was broke and he paid her dinner check. He stated he saw her possibly 3 or 4 times within that week.

Maurice Clement was interviewed several times by LAPD investigators and eliminated as a suspect. It was obvious to them that had this individual been involved in her murder he would not have mailed her address book to the press leaving his own name in the book. (The actual suspect cut out many pages from the address book before sending it, which to me would indicate he was removing individual names of persons that were acquainted with both he and Elizabeth and could therefore potentially connect the two of them as knowing each other.)

I found no reference to Ms. Maylond in the DA files and we have no way of knowing if the “Clement or Clemence” she spoke of in 1947 was the same person referenced by LAPD and the DA files in 1950.

Below is unaltered copy of Lt. Jemison’s list of “20 suspects” with his handwritten notes. This document dated March 2, 1950 shows George Hodel at the top of list, with an incorrectly written address of “5121 Fountain Ave”. (Actual address was 5121 Franklin Ave) On 3/20/50 Lt. Jemison had focused on Dr. Hodel as the prime-suspect and was actively bugging our home for two weeks prior, and would continue for another three weeks, (March 27) until he fled the country. During this six-week period, 18 detectives were assigned to Dr. Hodel and monitored the audio recordings 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

At No. 11 we see the name “Maurice Clement” crossed out. Lt. Jemison has handwritten Clement’s Hollywood residence address beside the name, “#107, 1662 No. Normandie,” in Short’s memo book. The reason many of the below names were “suspects” was because their names were found in Elizabeth’s address/memo book. Most of the below named individuals were not “serious suspects” and had already been eliminated.

Jemison3-2-50

- 7.E George Hodel 5121 - ~~Mountain~~ *St.*
1. ~~2~~ ^{See 1/2} Carl Balsiger % 54 - *Louis, Mo. P.D.*
- 20.3. Mark Hanson 6024 - *Carson Ave.*
3. 4. John D. Wade - *Recognized by 3 at Crownhill*
17. 5. George Bacos 5622 - *Strohmer N. Hollywood.*
- 4 6. James Nimmo - 147-23 - 88 17 VE *TAMAKIT.*
2-28-50 *N.Y.*
- 5 7. Chicago police officer. *Recognized by 3 - Crownhill*
18. 8. Dr. Arthur McGinnes Faught 312 - *No. Arden - GL 7690*
deceased - 11/1/49.
17. 9. Dr. M. M. Schwartz - 6636 - *Hollywood Blvd. GR 4051*
8. 10. Joe Scalise, 2611 S. Bronson, Hotel Adson
Partner on duty Crownhill 1/4/50
11. Maurice Clement - #107 - 1662 *No. Normandie "in 2nd*
Short name Book.
- 9 12. Marvin Margolis - 1445 - *W. Thome St. Chi. 2.*
11. 13. Michael Anthony Otero - 3940 - *Marathon L.A.*
now in N.Y.
- 10 14. Glenn Wolfe - 1842 - *N. Cherokee HE 3211*
13. 15. Frances Campbell 319 - *S. Verdel DU-31945*
in re queer women
16. ~~Queer woman - in typewriter repair business~~
14. 17. Queer woman - doctor in valley *Unknown*
15. 18. Paul De Gaston, alias Morris - 3701 - *Shannon Rd*
OK-241
16. 19. Dr. A. E. Brix - 125 - *S. Lake DU-4-3014*
19. 20. Dr. Pat O'Reilly - 149 - *W. Olive Burbank*
1. ~~2~~ ^{See 1/2} C. Welsh % *Kansas City P.D.*
6. ~~2~~ ^{See 1/2} Salvadore Torres Vora
2. ~~2~~ ^{See 1/2} "C. HUCK" - *SGT. Sent overseas from CAMP*

1.41

Q: I have sent you a clipping from the Sunday, February 5, 2006 *New York Times*, that features a long article on the Black Dahlia, the James Ellroy film, and your book. I have two questions. 1) Is Dr. Hodel going to be in the DePalma/Ellroy film and 2) The LAPD detective Brian Carr, that is currently handling the case said in the newspaper, that "there was no DNA because her body was washed clean." Is this true?



Elizabeth Short

Dr. George Hodel

"Dahlia" Actress Mia Kirshner

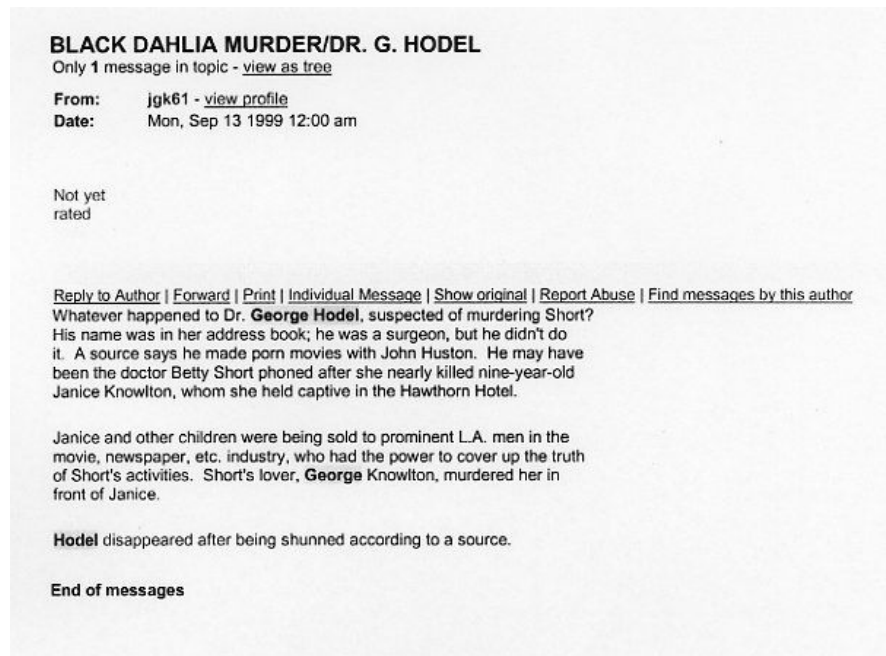
Yes, I saw the article, thank you for sending it. As to your questions. 1) No, the Ellroy/De Palma film has nothing to do with my book, and my father is NOT a character in the soon to be released film. DePalma's movie is based solely on Ellroy's novel.. James Ellroy will be the first to tell you his story is pure-fiction. His suspect is made-up, make-believe, and is not based on any real life person. 2) The L.A.P.D. detective Brian Carr in the NYT article refers to himself as "the keeper of the Dahlia files." In that he is correct. He was not born when the crime occurred, nor is he an expert on the investigation. He works active cases, not cold ones. There has been no active investigation on the Dahlia investigation in decades. Carr states in the NYT article that "there isn't any DNA evidence because the body was cleansed." He is correct that the body was washed clean after the bisection. He is incorrect in his statement that there was no DNA evidence. There was lots of it. L.A.P.D. found, trace evidence, some black curly hair follicles ON THE NAKED BODY, In 1947 criminalist Ray Pinker eliminated them as belonging to the victim and L.A.P.D. gave a public statement that they believed the hair follicles belonged to her killer. The suspect also mailed in a dozen notes with his saliva under the stamps, which would also be a good potential source for DNA. In 2005 detective Carr made a public statement acknowledging that a DNA comparison to Dr. Hodel cannot be made because all of LAPD's physical evidence on the case "has disappeared." They don't know when, or how?

1.42

Q: Janice Knowlton wrote a book in 1995 claiming her father killed the Black Dahlia. Did you know her? I read that your half-sister, Tamar knew and spoke with her about the crime.

No, I have never had any contact with Ms. Knowlton, either in person, by phone, or by e-mail. I first became aware of Janice Knowlton through telephone conversations with my sister, Tamar, in the summer of 1999. Tamar informed me she was in e-mail contact with Janice, and that she (Tamar) had told Janice about our father being a suspect in the murder. Janice assured Tamar that Dr. George Hodel could not have committed the crime, as Janice, "through therapy and recovered memories" recalled seeing her own father, George Knowlton, kill Elizabeth Short and "throw the two bisected halves of the body off a pier into the ocean." On Sept. 13, 1999, Ms. Knowlton (jgk61) posted the below message on a true-crime message board. In the message, Janice asks and answers her own question re. Dr. G. Hodel. Her "source" on both Hodel & Huston was Tamar Hodel.

E-mail posted by Janice Knowlton on true-crime message board 9/13/99



For the record, George Hodel's name was not in Elizabeth Short's address book. (We know pages were cut out of the book by the Black Dahlia Avenger, which lead police to suspect her killer knew her.)

Other than the above mentioned reference in 1999, which Janice Knowlton made public after talking to my sister, Tamar, George Hodel's name was NEVER mentioned in any public document as connected with Elizabeth Short. There is no reference in any of the previous fifty-years of Dahlia research or lore that names, Dr. George Hodel, as a Black Dahlia suspect. No documentation, not even "rumors." Even today's L.A.P.D was unaware of his name until after my book was published, and the secret D.A. Files (separate and locked in a vault for fifty-five years) revealed him to be their "prime suspect." L.A.P.D. then in 2003, checked their own separate files and found one Memo naming George Hodel as a suspect in the Black Dahlia Murder, and as a possible suspect in the 1945, barbiturate overdosing of his secretary, Ruth Spaulding.

1.43

Q: I have read all the other books on the Black Dahlia murder and each name a different person as committing the crime. What do you think of these other books and the people they name as the killer?

That is for you, the reader, to decide. I try to avoid the various “dueling theories”. In May 2006, I will have completed my 6th year of investigation. Each year has brought new supportive evidence that George Hodel did in fact, commit the crime. In the next printing of my HarperCollins trade-paperback (scheduled for release in late-July, 2006) I will be adding a new chapter presenting some forensics and “hard evidence” connecting and linking my father to the victim, Elizabeth Short, and her murder.

As far as other theories and other suspects let me simply respond by saying that criminal investigations are based on facts. With the release of the D.A. Black Dahlia Files, we now know that hundreds of pages of documentation exist showing that George Hodel was the prime-suspect in late 1949 and early 1950. Both LAPD and the DA's office have confirmed he was a named suspect in the murder of Elizabeth Short, and under suspicion for other crimes as well as the possible barbiturate overdosing of his secretary, Ruth Spaulding in 1945. Further, in late-1949, LAPD had presented a strong case against George Hodel for sexual child abuse and incest, and were confident they were about to convict him of the felony charges and send him to prison for many years. LAPD was totally unprepared for the OJ-like verdict of “not guilty” that was presented to them on Christmas Eve, 1949. (We now know through recently released D.A. documents that perjury and a possible \$10,000 cash payoff to the D.A.'s office, through Hodel's attorney, may have been factors influencing the verdict.)

As a result of my 2003 access to the secret D.A. files, we learned that **a minimum of over two-thousand documented police man-hours of Black Dahlia investigation were devoted to Dr. George Hodel-- as the Dahlia suspect.** (This is more police man-hours than almost all the other suspects **combined**.) In a 2004 interview, LAPD detectives from the Robbery/Homicide Division admitted that “they [LAPD] didn't actually clear Dr. Hodel as a Dahlia suspect, but believe that he was cleared by the D.A.'s investigators back in 1951, but were unsure exactly how.”

In comparison, NONE of the below individuals have ever been named by law enforcement as being actual suspects in the murder of Elizabeth Short. Their separate names simply do not exist in any official police files. They exist as Dahlia suspects only in the minds of their creators, several of whom went to LAPD requesting his or her suspect and theory be investigated. (Those authors/researchers identified by *) None of the below “suspects” names can be found in any of the thousands of pages of D.A. Black Dahlia Files and LAPD investigative summaries:

1. Dr. Walter Bayley*
2. Jack Anderson Wilson, aka -Arnold Smith*
3. George Knowlton*
4. Orson Welles
5. Bugsy Siegel
6. Brenda Allen
7. Dr. Leslie Audrain
8. Al Greenberg

1.44

Q: Do you have any photographs of the Franklin House before it was modernized? Say from the time you and your family was living there?

Below is a *Los Angeles Times* newspaper article on the house written in 1938. You can see from the tone of the article how even back then it captured the imagination of the public. My father bought the home in 1945.

Los Angeles Times October 3, 1938

NUESTRO PUEBLO

By JOE SEEWERKER and
CHARLES OWENS



HOLLYWOOD SHOW PLACE

There is an edifice at 5121 Franklin avenue which sure makes persons from the hinterland stop and stare on their trip to Hollywood.

The edifice—you might call it a mansion, if you favor words like that—was built in 1927 by Lloyd Wright, the architect, for a retired gentleman of means who wanted something different. He got it.

"It's the sculptural style of architecture," explains Mr. Wright.

Sculptural architecture, it seems, fits the building right into the landscape.

One of the striking features of the Franklin-avenue structure is the mass of stone and cement which projects out from the roof line.

"My goodness, I wouldn't want to live in a place like that," one viewer gasped. "That darned stuff might come tumbling down on you while you was trying to open them gates to get in the house."

"Them gates" are huge, iron affairs constituting what would be the door into an ordinary home. There is no danger of the mass of stone and cement tumbling down. The entire building is constructed of steel placed both horizontally and vertically.

The inside of the building is as striking as the outside. One of its features is a huge patio with a fountain in the center. Rooms in the building are built around the patio and the fountain.

Recently, a considerate reader directed me to the Library of Congress address (linked below) that displays historical detailed data/blueprints/photographs on the Sowden/Hodel house. The eighteen (18) photographs of the exterior/interior show our home as it appeared and as I remember it from the 1940s. Thanks to these historical photographs we are able to get a much better feeling of the original interior of this most unusual residence. Imagine seeing and living inside these castle walls as a child. My boyhood years at the Franklin House were from age-4 through 9. Those years for me were A MAGICAL TIME.

**Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record
Library of Congress- Sowden/Hodel House link is-**

[LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SOWDEN "FRANKLIN HOUSE" PHOTOS](#)

Author interviewed at Franklin House 2005

