

## FAQ 75

(October 29, 2008)

### 75.1

#### DAHLIA CRIME SCENE EVIDENCE LINKED TO HODEL RESIDENCE

##### 1947 documents reveal a “paper trail”

Last week (10.21.08) my ongoing investigation and research took me back to one of my favorite L.A. locations- the *Charles E. Young Research Library—Department of Special Collections on UCLA campus*.

I thought it would be routine gumshoeing. I was there to review some 1945 letters of correspondence between architect, Frank Lloyd Wright Jr. and my father related to the purchase and renovation of the Franklin (Sowden) House.

I was wrong! Incredibly, within one-hour I discovered additional **HARD PHYSICAL EVIDENCE, connecting Dr. George Hill Hodel to the murder of Elizabeth Short and the Black Dahlia crime-scene.**

Here are the facts and photographs that establish that linkage:

January 15, 1947 LAPD crime-scene photos showing cement paper bags killer used to transport separate halves of the body to vacant lot.



LAPD's investigation established that the “Black Dahlia Avenger” obtained two empty cement paper sacks (shown above) to use in transporting the bisected body parts from the actual murder residence to 3815 S. Norton Avenue. Detectives believed that the killer, after performing his “operation” placed the upper and lower halves on top of the bags, and then placed them inside his vehicle for transportation. After arriving at the vacant lot the suspect then used the sacks to carry each part from his vehicle to the grass where he carefully posed the body leaving the two 50 lb. cement sacks in the dirt, just a few feet north of his “sculpture.”

## UCLA Lloyd Wright Collection- Dr. George Hodel Files

As most of my readers know, my father purchased and our family resided in Frank Lloyd Wright Jr.'s "Sowden House" from 1945-1950. Papers in the Lloyd Wright Collection document that my father contracted with the famed architect to oversee repairs and improvements to our home from November 1945 through March, 1947. Lloyd Wright subcontracted this work, most of which was done by a contractor by the name of- J.A. CONRAD.

Incredibly, in my review of the collection papers I came across a receipt for work performed and completed at the Franklin House on **JAN 9-10, 1947—JUST FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE MURDER**. The receipt specifically shows that "cement work" was performed and itemizes a billing for **10 bags of cement**. (While not specifying size, the receipt does list a price (.80) which would be consistent with the amount paid for 50 lb. sacks in 1947 dollars.) 8 bags of cement were used on Jan. 9 and **2 bags more used on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>**.

COPY

(J.A. CONRAD to DR. HODEL )  
Date: Jan. 9, 1947

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cement work completed at the above address (5121 Franklin Ave.)

1/9/47

Walton, 8 hrs.	@ 2.00	16.00
Walker, 8 hrs.	@ 1.50	12.00
Seals, 8 hrs.	@ 1.50	12.00
Carlisle, 4 hrs.	@ 1.50	6.00
Rock & sand, 3 tons	@ \$2.00	6.00
cement 8 sks @ 80¢		6.40
pyramid 2 gal. @ 1.50		3.00

1/10/47

Walton, 8 hrs.	@ 2.00	16.00
Seals, 8 hrs.	@ 1.50	12.00
pyramid waterproof		
1 1/2 gal. @ \$1.50		2.25
sand 500 lbs @ 2.00		1.00
cement, 2 sks @ 80¢		1.60
		<u>993.75</u>
10%.....		9.94
		<u>1003.69</u>
15%.....		15.05
		<u>\$1118.59</u>

Bill of 12/31/46      \$230.52  
Bill of 1/21/47      \$118.59  
total amount due      \$349.11

**LLOYD WRIGHT'S SUBCONTRACTOR J.A. CONRAD'S BILL/RECEIPT TO DR. HODEL FOR CEMENT WORK PERFORMED AND COMPLETED JANUARY 9-10, 1947, BILLING FOR 10 SEPARATE 50 LB. SACKS OF CEMENT.**

Two years ago in [FAQ 27 pdf](#) I theorized that the cement sacks used to carry the body parts could have come from the Franklin House, but obviously that was only an "educated guess"-speculative at best.

## I NEVER DREAMT THAT SIXTY-TWO YEARS LATER WE WOULD FIND ACTUAL DOUMENTATION AND LINKAGE!

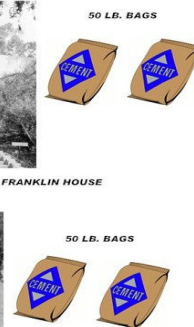
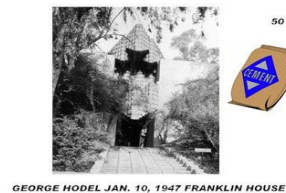
A source of my speculation as to the cement bags and construction came as the result of an interview statement made by LAPD detective Brian Carr back in April/May of 2003. At that time, L.A. Times reporter Steve Lopez questioned Brian Carr for information linking Dr. George Hodel to the crime, Carr denying there was any link, originally stated:

**"I only found one memo, one paper in the files with Dr. Hodel's name on it as a Dahlia suspect. It mentioned some construction work being done at his house."**

Since we now know that the 400+ pages of DA File documents naming George Hodel as the prime suspect were "missing" from the LAPD Files and detective Carr had no knowledge of or access to them until reviewing the files at the DA's Office in 2005, this raises an important question. WHAT WAS CARR'S AND LAPD'S SOURCE ON THIS HODEL MEMO? WAS IT FROM 1947, 1948, OR, WAS IT SIMPLY MISSED DURING THE ORIGINAL "SANITIZATION" PROCESS?

### NEW EVIDENCE AND THE BOTTOM LINE:

- **FACT#1- At the time of the murder of Elizabeth Short, on Jan. 14, 1947, her killer was in possession of and used two exceptionally unusual items (two empty 50 lb. bags of cement) to transport the bisected body parts from his residence to the dump site.**
- **FACT#2- Newly discovered documents now establish that Dr. George Hodel on Jan. 14, 1947 was in possession of and had direct access to—two empty 50 lb. bags of cement.**



Finally, due to its historical relevance and interest I am including a copy of a letter mailed from my father to Lloyd Wright. It was mailed from his UNRRA billet in Hankow, China, postmarked May 4, 1946. (FILED IN THE LLOYD WRIGHT PAPERS- HODEL FOLDER--UCLA, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS.

UNITED NATIONS  
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

Anlee House,  
Sze Wei & Han Chung Roads,  
Hankow, China.  
20 April, 1946.

Lloyd Wright,  
858 Doheny Drive,  
Los Angeles 46,  
California.

Dear Mr. Wright:

In pursuance of my promise, I have made inquiries as to the possibility of your being brought to China for city planning work. I am informed that a firm request has been made by the Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration for at least two city planning experts, and that the Washington headquarters of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration may soon be recruiting these specialists.

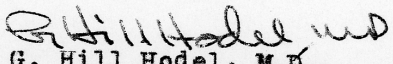
If you are interested, it is suggested that you write to Franklin Ray, Director, Far Eastern Division, UNRRA, Dupont Circle Building, Washington, D.C.

It might also be well to write to Ha Shiung-Wen, Vice-Minister, Ministry of the Interior, Nanking, China. I know Mr. Ha, but did not discuss your interest in China with him because I was not aware, during the occasions on which I spoke with him, that he was in charge of city planning work.

I expect to remain here until the spring of 1947. It would be a pleasure to hear from you, and I am naturally very much interested to know how my house is coming along.

With cordial personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
G. Hill Hodel, M.D.,  
Chief Regional Medical Officer,  
Hankow Regional Office, UNRRA.





**NOTE SIMILARITY IN GEORGE HODEL'S HANDPRINTED "D" ON 1946 ENVELOPE (ABOVE) TO 1947 BD AVENGER "D" ON NUDE BODY OF VICTIM JEANNE FRENCH (BELOW)**



George Hodel 1946 Hankow letter "D" enlarged

**Probable return route to Franklin House - Diagram shows location where killer left victim's purse and shoes –which is midway between So. Norton and the Hodel residence.**



LAPD follow-up investigation showed that her killer left Elizabeth Short's purse and shoes on top of a trash-can at 1136 Crenshaw Blvd, (B) adjacent to a restaurant. The owner called police to come and recover the items, but the trash-collector refused to wait and consequently LAPD had to drive and recover them from the nearby city dump. As shown in this diagram, the location where the killer left the shoes and purse (B) is in a direct line between the body dump site (C) and the Franklin House, (A) which I believe was the actual crime scene. It is my belief that after posing the body, George Hodel while en route home stopped 3 miles north and disposed of her shoes and purse, and then continued home.

Distance from Franklin House to trashcan where Elizabeth Short's shoes/purse were left by killer = 4.9 miles

Distance from trashcan to dumpsite = 2.7 miles

Distance from Franklin House to dumpsite = 7.6 miles

The below links will provide readers additional information on both architect Lloyd Wright and on our 1945-1950 family home. Press Control and click to link:

[Architect Lloyd Wright](#)

[Sowden-Hodel "Franklin House"](#)