

FAQ 43

(June 16, 2007)

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Q: Does author James Ellroy agree with you that Fred Sexton committed the murder of his mother? What about the detective that reworked on the case with Ellroy? Have you met and talked to him about the case? What does he think?

James Ellroy does not believe that Sexton was the murderer of his mother, who in his book, *MY DARK PLACES*, he refers to as-- "The Swarthy Man."

Bill Stoner was the Los Angeles Sheriff's detective who assisted Ellroy in trying to reinvestigate his mother, Jean Ellroy's, 1958 murder. No, I have never had the privilege of meeting or talking with Stoner, but I have friends who know and speak very highly of Bill-- both as a person and a homicide investigator.

In BDA I have written an entire chapter summarizing why I SUSPECT Fred Sexton could have committed that crime along with a second murder (Bobbie Long) which both occurred in the El Monte section of Los Angeles, within six-months of each other.

In November, 2006 an hour-documentary, entitled, *The Truth about the Black Dahlia*, aired in Europe. The show presented my investigation and interviewed a number of people connected in various ways. The subject of Ellroy's mother's murder came up and both retired Head Deputy D.A. Stephen Kay and retired detective Bill Stoner were interviewed.

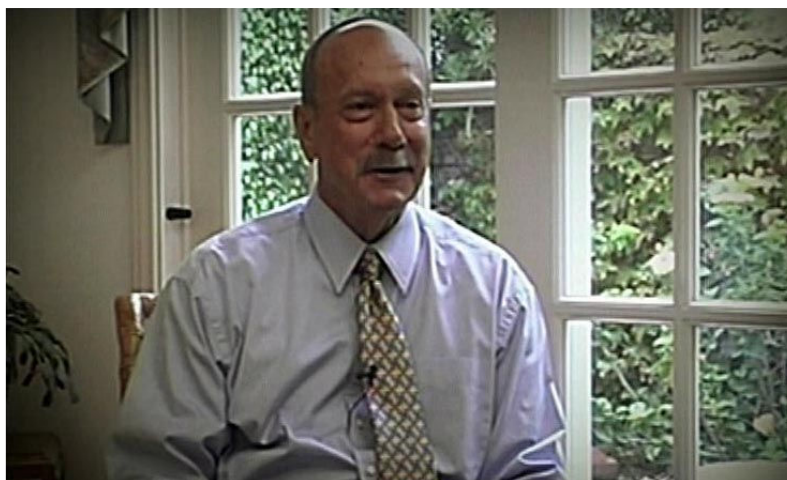
D.A. Kay has always maintained that the current evidence against Fred Sexton is insufficient to file any criminal complaint, including the Jean Ellroy and Bobbie long murders. Here is his verbatim statement on the French television interview:



Steve Kay interview 6 Nov. 2006

"There is clearly not enough evidence on any of the cases to prove that Fred Sexton was one of the killers."

Detective Bill Stoner was also interviewed for the show and was asked his opinion as to my findings on both the Black Dahlia investigation and on the Jean Ellroy murder naming Sexton as a possible suspect. Here is his verbatim on-camera response:

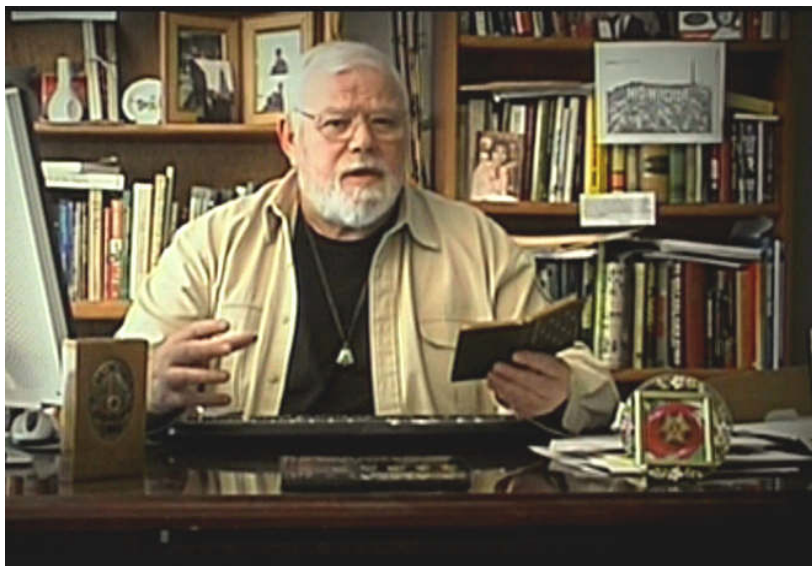


Retired L.A. Sheriff's detective Bill Stoner interview

“You know, I read Mr. Hodel’s book and he’s got some very strong circumstantial evidence pointing to his father as the suspect (Black Dahlia) in the book. I understand he’s come up with some more information since he’s written the book that’s even more defining that his father is the killer of Elizabeth Short. I don’t know. When I read the book, I felt that yes, he’s very possibly right that his father probably was the killer, but it’s possible that his father wasn’t the killer. It wasn’t so defining at that point, that I would go to court on it.”¹

As far as his father’s friend being involved in James’ mother’s murder, I don’t think so. I think as James thinks, she went out on a date that night, and whoever this person was, got angry with her, and ended up raping and killing her. I think it was just that type of case. (Re. Sexton as her killer) I don’t think so, but I don’t have any evidence to prove it one way or the other. “

¹ Author Note- Stoner’s comments here refer to Stoner’s reading the hardback version. Apparently he has not yet read the two additional chapters in the HarperCollins paperback with there extensive additional connections/evidence such as the DA transcripts etc.



Author, Steve Hodel's interview from 2006 French documentary *

(Re. Fred Sexton as killer of Jean Ellroy)

"I think there is a possibility, and of course I introduce this in my book that James Ellroy's mother could have been killed by Fred Sexton, an accomplice in several of the murders that my father was involved in. It's something that should definitely be looked at, but I'm not going as far as to say that he (Sexton) actually committed the crime."

Bottom Line-

James Ellroy believes and absent DNA (which apparently does not exist) will likely always believe that in his words, "It was a date/rape that went bad."

I agree with Ellroy and Stoner. There has never been a question that the "swarthy man" met, danced, and took her out of the bar on a "date" then killed her. We all agree on that point. It was a date rape gone bad alright, only question is- was the man Sexton?

The two crimes may well be unrelated and unconnected to Fred Sexton and or George Hodel. I doubt without DNA we will ever be able to answer that question. Nevertheless, I will be presenting additional evidence in Book II that includes signatures and M.O's that increase the possibility that one of these two men may have been their killer.

****The Truth about the Black Dahlia***

Produced for French Television 13th Street, NBC International

Aired in Paris and other European countries on, November 6, 2006