

FAQ 81

81.1

DA Bureau of Investigation Lt. Frank Jemison

George and Dorothy Hodel interviews

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Feb. 15 1950- DA Lt. Jemison Interviews George Hodel at Hall of Justice while DA sound lab technicians secretly install microphones in walls of Franklin House.

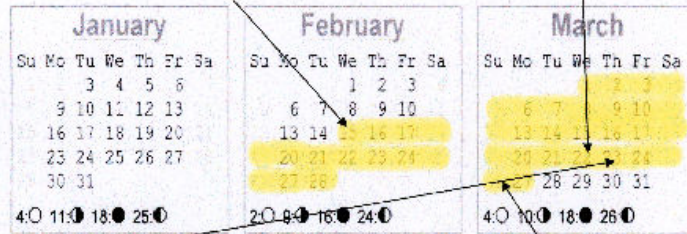
March 22 1950- DA Lt. Jemison interviews Dorothy Hodel at her residence on Santa Monica pier. Shows her pictures of Elizabeth Short and nude photos of George Hodel with Black singer/model, Mattie Comfort. Jemison informs Dorothy that he has witnesses connecting Short and Hodel who also place the victim at the Franklin House prior to the murder. Jemison also confronts Dorothy with reported conversation and statements made by an intoxicated, George Hodel to Dorothy the day after murder where he allegedly told her, "They will never be able to prove I did that murder." (See below original transcribed interview of Dorothy Hodel.)

DA ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE LASTED 40 DAYS -Feb 15, 1950-March 27, 1950

Jan 15, 1950- Lt. Jemison Interviews George Hodel



Mar 22, 1950- Lt. Jemison interviews Dorothy Hodel



Mar. 23, 1950- Dorothy informs George of Jemison interview and photos.

Mar. 26- George Hodel flees Franklin residence

Mar 23, 1950 - Dorothy Hodel recorded on DA tapes as being present at the Franklin House. (Obviously, she would have informed George of Lt. Jemison's interview of her the day prior, and that she was shown photographs of Elizabeth Short and Mattie Comfort and that police know of his connections/acquaintances to both women.)

Mar 26, 1950- George on tape overhead talking to "Baron", following verbatim transcribed entries by DA investigator monitoring conversation:

"Hodel sounds afraid. ... Hodel says something about Black Dahlia. "Baron mentions FBI. Sounds like Hodel wants to get out of the country. Mentions passport. Hodel talking about picture police have of him and some girl... Thought he had destroyed all of them."

Mar. 27, 1950. (the day after the above conversations)- GEORGE HODEL FLEES FRANKLIN RESIDENCE FORCING END TO DA's ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE.

March 22, 1950 Santa Monica Pier (Court reporter present, Dora Parisho)

DA Lt. Frank Jemison – Dorothy Hodel original interview

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1 STATEMENT OF DOROTHY HARVEY HODEL TAKEN AT 410 SANTA MONICA
2 PIER, SANTA MONICA BY LT. FRANK B. JEMISON AT 10:15 P. M.
3 ON MARCH 22, 1950.

4 File No. _____ Present:
5 Charge: Murder Questions by: Lt. Jemison
6 Title: Reported by: Dora A. Parisho
7 Deputy:

8 Q What is your full name?
9 A Dorothy Harvey Hodel.

10 Q What is your residence address at the present time?
11 A 410 Santa Monica Pier.

12 Q What is your phone number here?
13 A I don't have a phone. There is a fishing renting place
14 downstairs, SM 42421.

15 Q What is your present occupation?
16 A Housewife. I do a little writing, but I'm not working
17 at the present time.

18 Q Were you formerly married to Dr. George Hodel?
19 A Yes.

20 Q Are you now divorced from him?
21 A Yes.

22 Q How long have you been divorced from him?
23 A The interlocutory decree was in 1944 and the final was
24 in 1945.

25 Q Do you have any children from him?
26 A Yes, I have three boys.

Q Are you acquainted with Tamara Hodel?
A Yes.

Q And is Dr. George Hodel the father of Tamara?
A Yes.

Q Are you acquainted with her mother?
A Yes.

Q What is her name?
A Dorothy.

MAR 23 1950
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1 Q Where is she living now, what city?
 A I believe San Francisco, but I'm not sure.

2 Q You are familiar, are you with the trial that Dr. Hodel
 3 just went through in connection with Tamara?
 A I know about it, but I didn't attend it.

4 Q Do you know Lillian Lenorak?
 5 A Yes, I do.

6 Q When did you first become acquainted with her, about what
 year?
 7 A I think it was about 1940. Let me see, say '46. I'm
 not really sure.

8 Q When did you last see her?
 9 A Just before she went to Camarillo and just before her mother
 10 came for her. Anyway, after she was ill over there at
 George's.

11 Q Do you know her mother?
 A No.

12 Q When you last saw her did you feel she was a mental case,
 13 is that what your information is?
 14 A I felt she must be. The little boy was running around
 and was very distressed. Poor little kid.

15 Q I will now show you a photograph of Beth Short, Santa Barbara
 16 No. 11419 and ask you whether or not you have ever seen that
 young lady in your life?
 A No, I never have.

17 Q Did you have a conversation with Dr. Hodel about the
 18 murder of Beth Short?
 19 A No, unless we mentioned it when it was in the papers, but
 I don't like to read about things like that. I can't say
 20 for sure that I have never mentioned her name to him, but it may
 have been in passing.

21 Q Did he ever tell you, "They can't pin that murder on me?"
 22 A No, to the best of my knowledge he didn't and doesn't
 know her.

23 Q On or about the date of her murder, January 15, 1947
 do you remember being out until 4:00 in the morning with George
 24 Hodel and coming in slightly intoxicated? Now, that's three
 years ago.
 25 Q A Well, I think I explained before we never went on
 drinking parties because I don't drink because of certain
 26 tendencies to drink too much and particularly if I were near

1 him I would not drink because from a medical point of view
2 he does not approve of my drinking and I don't know that I
3 understood that question.

4 Q Well, the information that I have is that he was quite
5 intoxicated himself and at that time on that occasion stated
6 that they couldn't pin the Black Dahlia murder on him.
7 A No. No, that isn't true.

8 Q Do you remember ever telling Tamar that?
9 A No.

10 Q Did you ever tell Tamar that Dr. George Hodel was out
11 the night before the murder with Beth Short at a party?
12 A No, I was living at my brother's house at the time. We
13 were not living at the same house. I wouldn't know what he was
14 doing.

15 Q What was your brother's address at that time?
16 A 4121 Loma Vista Place.

17 Q Was anybody ever told you that Dr. George Hodel had Beth
18 Short over to his home?
19 A No.

20 Q Nobody has ever told you that?
21 A No. No one has ever told me that.

22 Q For your information her photograph has been identified by
23 certain persons as resembling the young lady that was over to
24 his house prior to the murder. You never heard anything about
25 that?
26 A I never did.

27 Q As a matter of fact you are on quite a friendly relation
28 aren't you, with Dr. George Hodel?
29 A We are friends.

30 Q And at the time of this murder, which was so publicized
31 and made headlines in the newspaper at that time, weren't
32 you on pretty friendly terms with him?
33 A We have always been on friendly terms.

34 Q That was January 15, 1947 three years and two months
35 ago.

36 A I'm trying to relate it to when he got back from China.
37 Was that before or after he got back from China?

38 Q It was sometime after he got back from China. It was
39 at a time when Dr. George Hodel had a medical clinic on East
40 First Street, near Central Avenue.
41 A He had the clinic for a long time before he left.

1 Q Let's go back to the time and do you remember at that
 time of Dr. Hodel having noon lunch or dinner at the Biltmore?
 2 A No.

3 Q Did you ever have lunch with Dr. Hodel at the Biltmore?
 4 A I imagine so.

5 Q Would you know it to be a fact that Dr. Hodel did eat
 lunch or dinner on occasion at the Biltmore?
 6 A He has taken me to lunch there once or twice and we have
 had dinner there perhaps.

7 Q For your information we know of other women that have had
 lunch with him at the Biltmore Hotel and dinner.
 8 A It's a central location.

9 Q There is further information that Dr. Hodel stayed at the
 Biltmore Hotel on a few occasions. Do you remember those?
 10 A I believe when he was between apartments when they had that
 11 three-day law in effect, he stayed I believe. I'm not sure.
 I think the Biltmore was among them. He made a tour of the
 12 hotels and stayed three days in each while he was finding
 an apartment.

13 Q You understand that a very serious crime has been
 committed here and the District Attorney would not like it
 14 if you were to withhold any information in connection
 with a murder of this type and we would like to have you
 15 give us any and all information you may have in connection
 with this murder on this suspect George Hodel. If there is
 16 anything you have to tell us, tell us.

17 A I have nothing to tell you that would bear out any idea
 you may have that he did this. All I know is that he is not
 18 the sort of man that would psychologically be the kind to do
 it. He has a fine record as a doctor and is a dedicated man.
 He has never had a fashionable practice. He could have had.
 19 He is a man that really cares about medicine, not of earning
 money, but it is incredible to me that he should be in
 20 any way connected with it.

21 Q You know that Dr. Hodel has had practice with surgical
 tools?

22 A I know he has never practiced surgery. His branch of
 medicine is V. D. generally and Administrative Medicine.

23 Q I show you Sheriff's Photograph B 119364 and will ask
 24 you if you recognize that?

25 A Yes.

26 Q Who is that?

A Dr. George Hodel.

1 Q Now in view of the fact that the District Attorney's office
 2 is interested in contacting all persons that might know something
 3 about whether or not Dr. Hodel had anything to do with this
 4 murder, I now show you a photograph of a nude girl and ask
 5 you if you recognize who that girl is. In other words,
 6 we want to know her name and where we can contact her?

7 A There is something familiar about her face. I think she may
 8 have been some model or something.

9 Q Would you say she is a colored girl or half Indian, do you
 10 know?

11 A No.

12 Q Would you know who the photographer might be in connection
 13 with this picture?

14 A No.

15 Q I show you another photograph of the same girl with a
 16 man. Do you recognize that man in that photograph?

17 A I would say that was Dr. Hodel.

18 Q Do you know the person who owns the cat that they are holding
 19 between them?

20 A No, I don't.

21 Q In other words, I am sincerely interested in contacting
 22 this girl for information.

23 A No, I don't know her. I have seen her face. I have seen
 24 photographs that George has of her.

25 Q Would you have any idea where we could find her?

26 A No.

27 Q I show you the third picture. Dr. Hodel and the colored
 28 girl. You still can't place any person that might know where
 29 I can find her?

30 A No, I don't know. I can't think.

31 Q Did you ever hear Dr. Hodel say anything more about
 32 the details of this murder of Beth Short about the body or
 33 anything about it?

34 A No, I never heard him discuss it at all.

35 Q Well, if you look back on the events that took place
 36 about the time of the murder, did you have any reason to
 37 suspect that Dr. Hodel might have had something to do with it?

38 A None whatever.

39 Q Let me advise you that we do have information that he did
 40 associate with Beth Short and as you know the last place she

1 was seen alive was at the Biltmore Hotel in the evening
of January 9, 1947.

2 A I didn't know that.

3 Q You are positive at this time that you never met that girl?

4 A Very very sure.

5 Q What is the name of your attorney?

6 A Robert Butts.

7 Q And what is his address?

8 A It's the Bank of America Building at Hollywood and Ivar.
9 I forget the number.

10 Q Did he advise you to give a statement to the District
Attorney's office?

11 A Yes.

12 Q He did request however that you get a copy of the statement
is that right?

13 A That's right.

14 Q And as I have stated before, that's something the District
Attorney has never done in connection to giving copies to any
witnesses at any time.

15 A I didn't know.

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