FAQ 37

37.1

Q: You say you believe that Elizabeth Short was killed at your father's house on Franklin Ave. How could this be possible with the family living there? It doesn't make any sense.

Initially, in 2003, I speculated that the surgical bisection may have been performed at my father's private *First Street Clinic*, in downtown Los Angeles. Though there were risks involved, (a late night clean-up person walking in) it seemed the most logical place for the "operation." In my mind, it still remains a possibility. However, with the 2004 release and review of the new DA FILES information/transcripts, I now believe a likelier location was my father's private residence-- The Franklin House. Why?

The 1950 interview of my mother, Dorothy Hodel, reveals that she was temporarily staying at her brother's house in the Silver Lake/Echo Park district of Los Angeles. (By consequence, we three sons would have also been staying with our uncle and mother.) How long? Mother doesn't say, but, at the very least, she excludes our presence at the Franklin House on the night of the murder, January 15, 1947.

In 1947, there were no roomers/boarders living at the Franklin House, nor had Ellen yet hired on as a maid. (According to Joe Barrett, they all moved in, in 1948-49) That leaves the house empty, except for George Hodel. A concrete fortress, totally isolated from the outside world, would, (based on the newly released facts) make it the most probable crime-scene location. (NB: We know of at least three other crimes that occurred at the Franklin House: 1) Tamar's molestation/incest, 2) Lillian Lenorak's drugging/assault and staged suicide, and 3) The Feb. 18, 1950 assault and possible murder of the unknown woman, heard on the DA wire recording.)

March, 1950, Lt. Frank Jemison interview excerpt with Dorothy Hodel where she states on Jan. 15, 1947, she was living with her brother.

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Q Did you ever tell Tamar that Dr. George Hodel was out the night before the murder with Beth Short at a party?

A No, I was living at my brother's house at the time. We were not living at the same house. I wouldn't know what he was doing.

Q What was your brother's address at that time?

A 2121 Loma Vista Place.

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A No. One has ever told you that Dr. George Hodel had Beth Short over to his home?

A No. No one has ever told me that.

C For your information her photograph has been identified by certain persons as resembling the young lady that was over to his house prior to the murder. You never heard anything about that?

A I never did.
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My Uncle Gene's residence at 2121 Loma Vista Pl., was in the Silver Lake District of L.A. and was a short, 2.76 miles from the Franklin House.

37.2

Q: I read that you purchased some original Elizabeth Short, Black Dahlia photographs in auction on EBay, in February, 2003, and paid \$7600. Is this accurate? What were the photographs?

Yes. The telling of that story can be found in the AFTERMATH chapter of my book. (Pages 514-515, reproduced below.)

In the last few minutes the bidding accelerated rapidly, and when the electronic dust settled I discovered I had won the bid in the final milliseconds. My winning bid just barely topped the competition at- \$7,611.11.

As indicated below, my main interest in these photographs (aside from the historical importance) has to do with their potential *forensic value*. Stay tuned more to come in that regard.

(Enlarge or zoom-in will improve clarity/readability)

514

BLACK DAHLIA AVENGER

Elizabeth Short — More Photographs

In February 2003, four original photographs of Elizabeth Short came up for auction on the Internet. The photographs were part of Elizabeth's personal effects, which as noted were found by *Examiner* reporters in the luggage that she checked at the downtown bus station on January 9, just before Robert Manley drove her to the Biltmore Hotel. By mutual agreement between LAPD captain Jack Donahoe and city editor James Richardson, the luggage was opened at the newspaper's office.

These recently discovered photographs appear to suggest that the police and the press split the bounty, the *Examiner* retaining these four photographs. Several of these photographs were printed in biographical articles about Elizabeth in the weeks following her murder. The historical importance of the prints, and even the fact they were of Elizabeth Short, were forgotten over the decades, and the four photographs were sold as part of a larger collection when the newspaper closed its doors in the 1970s.

These four photographs, along with hundreds of other unrelated *Examiner* morgue photos, were purchased by a retail collector of old photographs and remained lost until they were ultimately reidentified and purchased by a private buyer in the early 1990s.

Recognizing the photographs' historical and forensic importance, along with my strong personal interest, I set out to obtain them. The bidding was fierce, but fate was on my side, and in the final second I won out. My forensic examination of these photographs is pending further tests. In the meantime, however, I want to share these rare photographs with my readers. They are candid pictures of Elizabeth taken in happier times, mostly with boyfriends.

Not visible in these photographs are the handprinted names and a location written in blue ink, prior to 1947,* that are at the bottom of each photograph. The notations read as follows:

- a. "Beth Short Tim"
- b. "Jax. Fla."
- c. "Beth Short Paul Morris"

*This has been established by the author's viewing archival photographs at the UCLA research center. The photographs show identical pictures before they were removed from Elizabeth Short's original photo album.

of glue and black paper where reporters removed it from Elizabeth's scrapbook. (Photos a, b, and e contain similar markings.)

e. "Beth Short"