

The DA's Hodel-Black Dahlia
Transcripts

AS YOU BEGIN TO READ THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIES, It is important to understand that the detective's entries that make-up these 146-pages of transcriptions are nothing more than *their personal log*. In these files, [with a few fortunate exceptions] we are only reading brief "headlines" as to what was contained in each of the separately recorded conversations.

The officers entries, made in real time, summarize only *bits and pieces* of each conversation. Consequently, we are only receiving a few sentences of a total conversation.

Unfortunately, the actual 41 wire recordings have "disappeared" from LAPD custody and it is almost certain that the missing recordings containing the complete conversations were destroyed and will never become available.

It is also important to understand that the modern day LAPD had nothing to do with the original investigation *and had no idea that Dr. George Hill Hodel was ever named as a suspect, let alone that he had confessed on tape to committing the crimes. Today's LAPD first learned of both Dr. George Hodel's existence and these transcripts only AFTER the publication of BDA in 2003.*

Today's LAPD had no knowledge that these DA Transcripts existed. All of the evidence connecting George Hodel to the crimes as well as these transcripts was removed from LAPD files a long time ago, probably in the 1950s or 1960s.

Like, LASO Undersheriff, James Downey had told his Chief of Detectives, Gordon Bowers, when speaking about George Hodel and LAPD solving the case, "**...it will never come out.**"

Also, keep in mind as you read these transcripts that we owe their existence solely to one honest [and very cautious] detective.

It was Lt. Frank B. Jemison who was assigned by the 1949 Grand Jury to reinvestigate the Black Dahlia and other *Lone Woman*

Murders. He did it and he solved it. When he was then ordered by his superiors to “shut it down and turn over all the files, tape recordings and transcripts to LAPD’s Chief of Detectives, Thad Brown, he did that too.

But, it was Lt. Jemison’s final act that ultimately changed the course of history and permitted the public to ultimately discover the truth.

Prior to turning over all the materials to LAPD, as ordered, Lt. Jemison made a copy of his complete investigation, including the Hodel transcripts, and secretly locked all of the documents away in the DA’s vault, where they remained unopened and untouched for six-decades. This was his insurance. Unbeknownst to all the top brass in both the DA’s office and the LAPD, *Lt. Jemison kept a second set of books*.

Here then, thanks to an honest and careful cop, are those books!

Note- In the pages that follow I have reduced the 146-pages down to just 15 for easier readability. Included in those pages are extracts of what I consider to be the most relevant statements and admissions.

For historical purposes and the hardcore researchers, [and in case I have missed something that an eagle-eyed armchair detective might find] *I have included the complete unedited Hodel- Black Dahlia Transcripts in the Addendum*.

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT ATTORNEY

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

HODEL – BLACK DAHLIA CASE FILE

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE TRANSCRIPTS OF GEORGE HILL HODEL M.D.

DA Case No. 30-1268
Title- Elizabeth Short
Suspect: Dr. George Hill Hodel
Inv. Assigned: Lt. Frank Jemison
Charge: Murder
Case: ACTIVE

The following fifteen-page annotated summary was prepared by retired LAPD Homicide detective Steve Hodel. It contains the verbatim statements and entries of both DA and LAPD detectives as found in the original 1950 DA Case File.

The statements and admissions made by Dr. George Hill Hodel are also verbatim, taken from the pages of the DA's transcription of the secret wire-recordings.

The tape-recordings were obtained during a joint DA/LAPD Task-Force stakeout comprised of 18 detectives. The electronic surveillance was ongoing 24/7 over a five-week period from February 15, 1950 through March 27, 1950 (1872 man hours) and was terminated only because Dr. Hodel after being tipped-off then fled his residence.

As of that date, detectives had recorded 41 wire spools of Dr. Hodel's personal conversations. The DA's original summary resulted in 146-pages of transcription. In the pages that follow, I have left the original timeline intact, and included only those statements relevant to criminal activity, payoffs to law enforcement, and which make specific references to the Black Dahlia Murder investigation. *The complete and unedited 146-page transcript is included as an addendum to this book.*

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE INSTALLATION
DR. GEORGE HILL HODEL RESIDENCE —5121 FRANKLIN AVE, HOLLYWOOD
2/15/50

D.A. Hodel/Black Dahlia File

"INVESTIGATOR'S PROGRESS REPORT"



The handwritten report (above) is a copy of the one found in the D.A. Hodel — Black Dahlia File.

The verbatim typewritten copy at the right includes all spellings and punctuations as they appear in the above original.

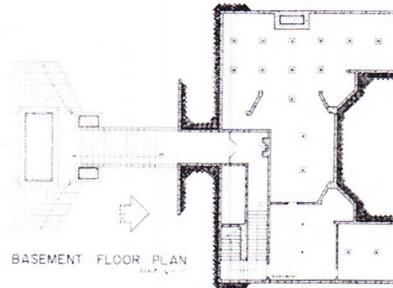
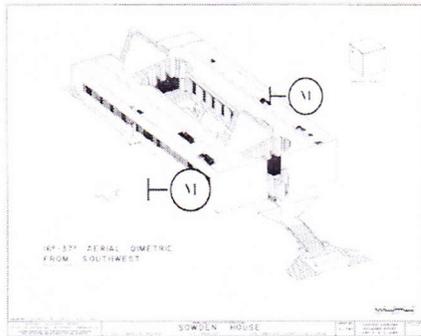
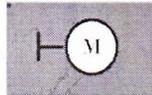
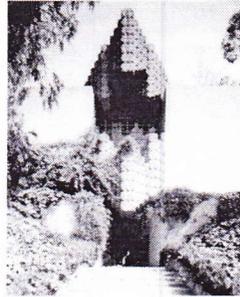
Case No. 30-1268 Date: 2/27/50
Title: Short, Eliz
Suspects: Dr. Geo. Hill Inv. Assigned Jemison
Charge: Murder
THIS CASE IS: ACTIVE
BRIEF STATEMENT AS TO RESULTS TO
DATE: (Indicate present status if being brought
to trial at this time.)

On Feb. 15, 1950 the undersigned investigator, working with Sgts Stanton & Guinnis from the LAPD crime lab, installed two microphones in the home of Dr. Geo. Hodel. The microphones were connected to a wire recorder located in the basement of the Hollywood Station of the LAPD thru telephone lines leased from the Pac. Tel. & Tel. Co. Trouble was not rectified until approx. 2:00, Feb. 18. No intelligible conversation was heard over the system until that time."

Signed—David E. Bronson

DA/LAPD MICROPHONE INSTALLATION LOCATIONS

Two microphone (M) "bugs" installed in main level walls of Dr. Hodel's residence. Based on surveillance transcripts we know they were hidden in the West Office Library, and Master Bedroom. Because of its placement, the bug in George Hodel's bedroom was able to pick-up and record the Feb. 18 assault and possible murder that occurred in the basement. Below floor plan diagrams basement which was located directly below the Master bedroom.



Feb 1950	15	18	18	18	18	18
	2p.m.	10:15a.m.	12:30a.m.	1:15a.m.	4:20 p.m.	7:35 p.m.

Hodel talking to Ellen about lawyer. Talking to Ellen about marrying Susie.

Radio plane. Lady sobbing. Hodel, "Do you know Charles Smith? Did you know Mr. Usher?" Hodel mentions something about "during the trial." Mentioned what housekeeper knows. Hodel, "Did you know---committed suicide? Does your husband know you're here?" (He was questioning her and it sounded like he was repeating her answer as if writing down her answer.)

Lady reciting poetry. Hodel say's something about an affair with Dr. Hodel. "Relax, Let's finish these two."

Noise around the house. Woman asking for Operator several times. Sounded as though she was crying.

Conversation between two men recorded. Hodel and man with a German accent had a long conversation. Reception was poor and conversation hard to understand. The following bits of conversation, however, were overheard. Hodel to German—"This is the best pay off I've seen between Law Enforcement Agencies. You do not have the right connection made." Hodel states, "I'd like to get a connection made in the D.A.'s office."

General conversation between the two—"Any imperfections will be found. They will have to be made perfect. Don't confess ever. Two and two is not four." Much laughter. "Were just a couple of smart boys." More laughter.

Hodel then—in exact detail—explained to the German about his wife being stopped on Wednesday morning by McGrath and Morgan of the District Attorney's office when they stopped her going up her steps to the house on Franklin. It should be noted that every question asked of Mrs. Hodel was repeated verbatim by Hodel to this German.

AUTHOR NOTES

[Boxed statements are verbatim as they appear on original transcripts including spelling errors]

Feb 15- Police microphones installed while Dr. Hodel is being questioned by detectives at the DA detectives downtown office at the Hall of Justice. DA investigator Walter Morgan shims locked front door of Hodel residence and sound technicians place two microphones inside the walls in library and master bedroom.

Charles Smith, referred to above, was an abortionist friend of Hodel's and in Sept. 1949, assisted in the abortion of his 14-year-old daughter, Tamar. Smith and a Dr. Francis C. Ballard were arrested by LAPD just days after Dr. Hodel's arrest for incest and both were charged with performing the abortion.

On March 20, 1950, DA investigators Lt. Jemison and Walter Morgan interview Charles Smith's girlfriend, Mildred Bray and discover she witnessed a \$1,000 cash payoff from Hodel to Smith. The payoff was made on December 29, 1949, just four days after Hodel's "acquittal" on the child molestation charges. Smith implicated and identified by Tamar is quoted in Lt. Jemison's report as saying:

"Someday I'm going to fix Tamar. I'm going to cut a chunk out of the calf of her leg and fry it and eat it in front of her eyes and then puke it up in front of her face."

On this very first day of recorded conversations we have George Hodel admitting to the murder of Elizabeth Short, payoffs to law enforcement and bragging about his influence in having officers demoted and transferred in connection with his incest trial.

He (Hodel) then began to explain to the German about his recent trial—making statements that, "There's out to get me. Two men in the D.A.'s office were transferred and demoted because of my trial." Hodel then explained about his being questioned at the D.A.'s office on Wednesday morning and told in great detail as to questions perounded to him at that time. One statement made to the German was as follows: "Supposin' I did kill the Black Daliah. They couldn't prove it now. They can't talk to my Secretary anymore because she's dead... One point of the conversation was also, "Have you heard from Powers."

Hodel talking to a man with an accent, possibly German.
 "Telephone men were here." Operator?
 "Realize there was nothing I could do put a pillow over her head, and cover her with a blanket. Get a taxi. Call Georgia Street Receiving Hospital right away. Expired at 12:39. They thought there was something fishy. Anyway, now they may have figured it out. Killed her. Maybe I did kill my Secretary."

Sounded as though two men went down steps and entered the basement and began digging. Something was referred to "Not a trace." It also appeared as though a pipe was being hit.

Woman screamed again.
 It should be noted that a woman was not heard before the time of screaming since 6:50 PM. She was not in any conversation, and not heard of again until the time of letting out these two screams.

Above man (German) leaves the house escorted to the door by Hodel.

Woman screamed.

February 1950 18 (Sat) 7:45 p.m. Crowley LAPD Arrives records above	18 8:20 p.m.	18 8:25 p.m.	18 8:27 p.m.	18 8:40 p.m.
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AUTHOR NOTES

[Boxed statements are verbatim as they appear on original transcripts including spelling errors]

Of the forty-days of George Hodel recorded conversations, these words, heard on Feb. 18 are unquestionably the most ominous. What the officers are here recording could well have been an actual "murder in progress." Our time-line three hours earlier established that an unidentified woman was crying and made several attempts to call the Telephone Operator. Nothing more is heard from her until the beating sounds in the basement followed by two screams from her just minutes apart. Digging sounds are heard and an admonishment to "not leave a trace." [Note- In 1950 the basement in our Franklin Home was earth, not cement.] Nothing further is heard from the woman. No mention of her ever leaving the house. Speaking as a trained police officer, it is incomprehensible to me why the detectives [Crowley LAPD & McGrath DA] TOOK NO ACTION? The location was 5 minutes away from their listening post at Hollywood Station. At the very least they were monitoring a serious felony assault and based on what we hear on these transcripts, it was more likely - an actual MURDER. The correct police response here would have been to attempt an immediate rescue of this victim by rushing to the Hodel residence and kicking in the door. Some will counter that, "Well, they didn't want to blow their cover and their case." My response, - Consider the fact that they already had his confession to two separate murders- ON TAPE.

Dr. Hodel's earlier, 7:45 p.m. admissions to the German [Now known and identified as Baron Ernst von Harringa] relate to the 1945 overdose murder of Dr. Hodel's *First Street V.D.* clinic secretary, Ruth Spaulding. My follow-up investigation into her death showed that she was brought to Georgia Street Receiving Hospital by cab on May 10, 1945 and pronounced dead at approximately 12:39 a.m. Spaulding likely knew that George Hodel was seeing and possibly medically treating Elizabeth Short and was the "unidentified doctor" referenced in the DA reports. Ruth could and certainly would have provided detectives this information eighteen months later, had she still been alive. [Hence the relevance of George Hodel's admission on tape, "Supposin' I did kill the Black Dahlia, they can't prove it anymore, because my secretary is dead."]

(Hodel/Kenneth Rexroth continuing conversation)
 Hodel: "I'm selling my art collection Monday and Tuesday, and I'm then taking off for Asia."
 Rexroth: "I am in process of breaking up with my wife of 15 years. No children."
 Hodel: "I have 3 boys. You'll see them later. Dorothy lives here a while, and then takes off."
 Rexroth: "What about M?"
 Hodel: "She is on staff of San Francisco Chronicle. Art Editor, had a serious operation."

Conversation with a patient.
 ...
 Talking with a man about some special treatment apparently syphilis and marital troubles...The man leaves with instructions to call Wednesday.

Lady talking in distance. (sounds like maid's voice)
 It sounded as though she said, "are there any more cops around." Heard no answer.

Hodel & Ellen enter room. Hodel—"Will you leave the light on there. I'm just a little nervous. Hodel say's he is worried. Ellen admires a Chinese box. Hodel say's a Manchurian princess gave it to him. He say's he is going to sell it."

Ellen wants to stay with him, he tells her to go to bed, she can stay with him tomorrow. Movements around the room. Low conversation, unable to make out. Deep breathing. Hodel and Ellen probably having intercourse...Definite sounds of climax of intercourse. Hodel sighs loudly and passionately.

February 1950	19	19	19	20	22	22
	12:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:54 p.m.	9:10 p.m.	2:10 a.m.	2:45 a.m.
	Jemison DA		(Hronek on duty)	(Crowley LAPD relieves Walter Morgan)	(Brechel LAPD on duty)	

AUTHOR NOTES

[Boxed statements are verbatim as they appear on original transcripts including spelling errors]

Kenneth Rexroth was a well-known writer and poet from the San Francisco Bay area. Many consider him to be "the Father of the Beat Generation." He was a friend of both my parents, George and Dorero Hodel as well as other Franklin house guests such as surreal artist Man Ray and his wife, Juliet and writer Henry Miller.

I believe Rexroth's question as to "M" refers to EMILIA, George Hodel's ex-wife, and the mother of my older half-brother, Duncan Hodel. Emilia was then living in San Francisco. Thirty-seven years later, in 1987, Emilia, still living in the S.F. Bay area, would take her own life by ingesting an overdose of barbiturates.

Telephone rang—Hodel—“Oh yeah Power- are you in town-good-things are sort of busy right now for the next ten days-we're tapped now again-well there is pretty much going on regarding yourself and me. I was questioned about you and so forth- maybe you can find out- Don't you know someone up there? Maybe you can find out what the hell is going on up there. I would like to see you in person when we get a chance- what's your phone? That's your new phone? (Ends) "OK- so long."

(Hodel) Dials phone (recorded) asks for new car salesman..."I've got a 1936 Packard Sedan to trade in. Want to make Packard down payment."

Phone rings. Hodel answered- Ellen took over- still talking about the citizenship. Hodel. "Ellen didn't I tell you not to tell people things over the telephone....Ellen said something about the FBI investigating us."

(Hodel) Talking about insuring something value \$76,000 "If you want to sell it you would get \$750. Trinkets. Hodel had it insured for \$104,000. Alimony payments \$300 month. Getting it reduced."

{Hodel conversation with man & woman} Hodel wisecracks— Hodel—"a peculiar people, the Persians, the country produces no virgins. They fuck all day in a violent way, and at night they practice sexual perversions."

Hodel mentions something about MURDER.

February 1950 22 12:35 p.m. Morgan DA's office On duty (spool 10)	24 1:20 p.m. Sullivan DA on duty (spool 14)	24 4:25 p.m. Hronek DA on duty	26 9:30 p.m. Crowley LAPD on duty (spool 19)	26 9:50 p.m.	26 10:30 p.m.
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AUTHOR NOTES

[Boxed statements are verbatim as they appear on original transcript with spelling errors]

George Hodel's conversation with "Power" could possibly be Dep. District Attorney, Joseph Power, then an active DA involved in the prosecution of a major bookmaking operation with payoffs to corrupt cops. [Guarantee Finance Company] DDA Power at this time was seven-months into the case and actively preparing for trial which would begin in March, 1950.

On this tape he tells "Power" that "they [DA investigators] are checking out connections between "you and me." On an earlier tape we have George Hodel saying, "This is the best payoff I've seen between law enforcement agencies." The Guarantee Finance scandal was one of the largest bookmaking operations in the 1940s with payoffs ("juice") to law enforcement agencies estimated by the Kefauver Commission to be approximate \$212,000 per year.

The 10:30 p.m. entry re. "trinkets" is interesting in light of the fact that George Hodel on 11.20.47 reported a valuable "1400-year-old Chinese sacrificial tablet was taken from the Franklin House in "a burglary." He claimed it was worth \$25,000. In post war U.S. dollars he may have purchased it in China as a "reproduction" for as little as \$50.00. In the conversation he admits the insurance scam or another just like it. [See L.A. Times articles on George Hodel's Franklin House "burglary" and DDA Power's appointment to head GFC prosecution at right.]

CHINESE TABLET VALUED AT \$25,000 TAKEN BY BURGLAR

A 1400-year-old Chinese sacrificial tablet, valued by the owner at \$25,000, was stolen early yesterday from the home of Dr. George H. Hodel, 1012 Franklin Ave., according to police.

The burglar entered the home through a rear side door window. Dr. Hodel described the tablet as 11 by 6 to 8 1/2 inches, bearing about 10 Chinese characters carved in a 90% grey stone.

Los Angeles Times
Nov. 20, 1947

Deputy to Conduct Finance Inquiry

Dr. Joseph Power, Deputy District Attorney, was assigned to investigate the Franklin House bookmaking case.

Los Angeles Times
Nov. 20, 1947

DDA Joseph Power Assigned 1949

"...has charged the company [GFC] is a "front" for a \$7,000,000 bookmaking syndicate which paid \$247,000 in bribes to Southland law enforcement officers last year."

Door bell rings. Ellen goes to door. Hodel, "You made headlines today or tomorrow. Man- "Headlines? Hodel- "Like Hitler said, Your a rich man. I can see you beating her up."

... Man (laughing) "Suspicion." Hah. In one place I am a composer of poetry or opera, a hot tempered erratic woman- We've got to get out of here and get some fun for a change."

Hodel- "Well anyway she hasn't said she'd committed incest or killed the Black Dahlia. (other man has an accent, talking about this country.) Man- "She said look what you've put in the paper. I hate you."

Hodel- "It wouldn't do any harm to wait another month. There are other type of penicillin who are more apt to get the rash on the second---

(Juvenile officers observed a 41 cream 4 door Buick parked in front of Hodel's residence at this time. License #751014 registered to Etoile E. Bennett- Legal owner, Hollywood Citizen News.)

Hodel- "We'll really have to ride herd on them. 4 young chicks in a strange country.

Man- "Ha- 4 young girls and we two- what a combination."...

Hodel- "I'm the only person who knows where all these things fit into the picture."

Hodel- "You better take a generous supply of penicillin. (Talking to same party)

February 1950 27 12:00 a.m.	27 12:25 a.m. (spool 21)	27 12:35 a.m.	27 12:50 a.m.	27 1:14 a.m.
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AUTHOR NOTES

[Boxed statements are verbatim as they appear on original transcripts including spelling errors]

The man talking to Hodel is identified as Theodore Kolline, a "composer, poet and painter." As Hodel indicates on the wire, the article did appear in the newspapers later in the day. The vehicle parked outside may have been borrowed and driven by Kolline, but showed registered to the Hollywood Citizen News, one of L.A.'s six newspapers.

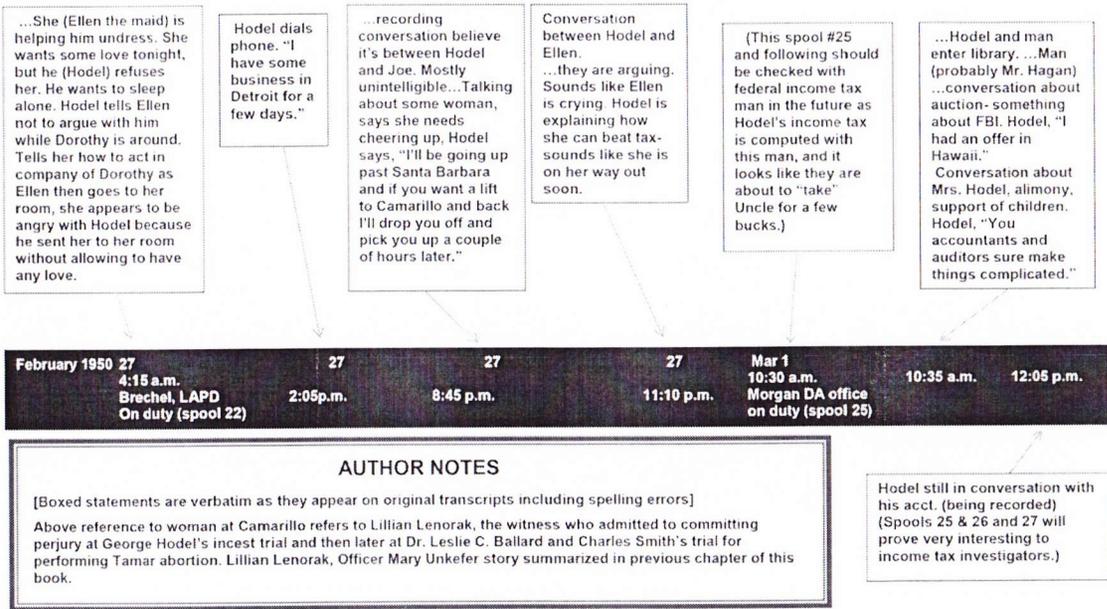
On this surveillance tape we hear George Hodel making more references to the Black Dahlia murder and to his committing incest. Most interesting is his reference that, "HE ALONE KNOWS WHERE ALL THESE THINGS FIT INTO THE PICTURE."

See L.A. Times article on Composer Kolline dated Feb. 27, on right.

L.A. Times Feb. 27, 1950

**Composer Kolline and Protege
Feud in Explosive Divorce Suit**

The explosive feud between the two men in the divorce suit... (The article continues with details of the divorce proceedings, including the names of the parties and the court's findings.)



Phone rang. Hodel answered. Whoever he was talking to he said, "Don't say anything over the phone- it is tapped- said he had there phone number, and would call tomorrow- said he would have to go out to call- said if he said phone number, "They" would be out and bother them- that is what "They" always do. When Hodel hung up, Ellen asked him how he knew- Hodel said he was just talking.

Hodel and Ellen have conversation is Spanish. They are in bedroom having sex intercourse or something, probably perversion. Sounds like he got another blow job.

...Conversation between Hodel and Woman. Woman, "I owe 4 times 75.00, that's 300.00 (possibly his wife)
 "I have to pay my rent or get out."
 Conversation with woman continues. Relative to her expenses and the childrens.
 ...Conversation with wife resumed. Hodel, "I've lost money every year." Talking about what money she's earned. Hodel discusses his lossess of that year. Now I must sell the house. Hodel, something about pennitentiary. Noises in background.

Conversation with woman. (wife) She's talking about the children. Hodel talks about having wife and children with him again.

Phone rings. Hodel answers (recorded)
 "Your'e talking over a tapped line. Oh yes, it's been tapped for a long time. I'll be home for the next hour. Be sure and come.

Man still talking - (recorded) talking to Hodel about some woman. Mentions Barbara Sherman, Dorothy Black (?) Something about Santa Barbara. Hodel- "She called me this morning. She's coming over this P.M.
 Man- "You had pretty good success with some of those dames I fixed."

March 1950	1 11:37 p.m. Meyer, LAPD	3 4:10 a.m. Brechel LAPD (spool 21)	3 12:07p.m. Sullivan DA	3 1:11p.m.	4 1:21 p.m.	4 2:45 p.m.	4 3:26 p.m.
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AUTHOR NOTES

[Boxed statements are verbatim as they appear on original transcripts including spelling errors]

Based on above response it is obvious George Hodel was just guessing that his phone was "tapped." When maid, Ellen, asks him "how he knows?" he responds by saying, "he is just talking." Hodel's reference to "they" obviously refers to LAPD & DA detectives. Clearly, he has no suspicion that the rooms have concealed microphones and are "wired for sound."

Barbara Sherman [Shearman] was a star witness in the 1949 incest trial and present in the bedroom when Hodel & Sexton had the sex acts with George's 14-year-old daughter, Tamar. Shearman testified at the preliminary hearing to being present and seeing the sex acts. She then refused to testify at the later Superior Court trial and was arrested for perjury, based on her previous sworn testimony. On Feb. 1, 1950, she was allowed to plead guilty to a lesser charge [Contributing to a Minor] and as the L.A. Times article indicates, was given straight probation.

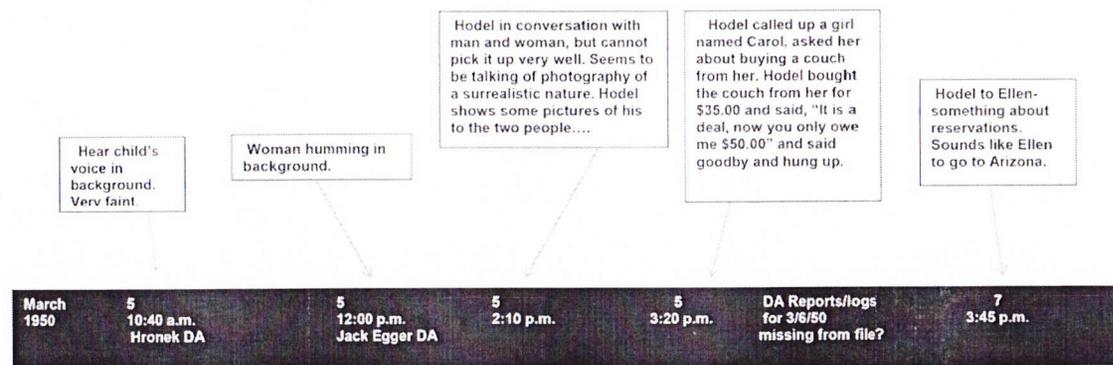
What is of particular interest here is the conversation between Hodel and the unidentified male caller on March 4th. The conversation centers on Barbara Sherman and despite the judge's order to "keep away" Hodel tells the man that "she is coming over this PM." [Sounds like he is talking about Sherman?] Then the man reminds Hodel that he had "good success with some of those dames I fixed." One has to wonder based on the earlier conversation if the "fixed" refers to their witness testimony? [The DA Files mention a \$15,000 payoff-bribe paid by Hodel through his attorney to secure an acquittal.] George Hodel, true to his word, leaves later that month [March 28] leaving the surveillance teams "staked out" on an empty house.

Hodel to man, "In about 2 or 3 weeks I'll probably be on way abroad."

U.S. Census 1950

Probation Given in Morals Case

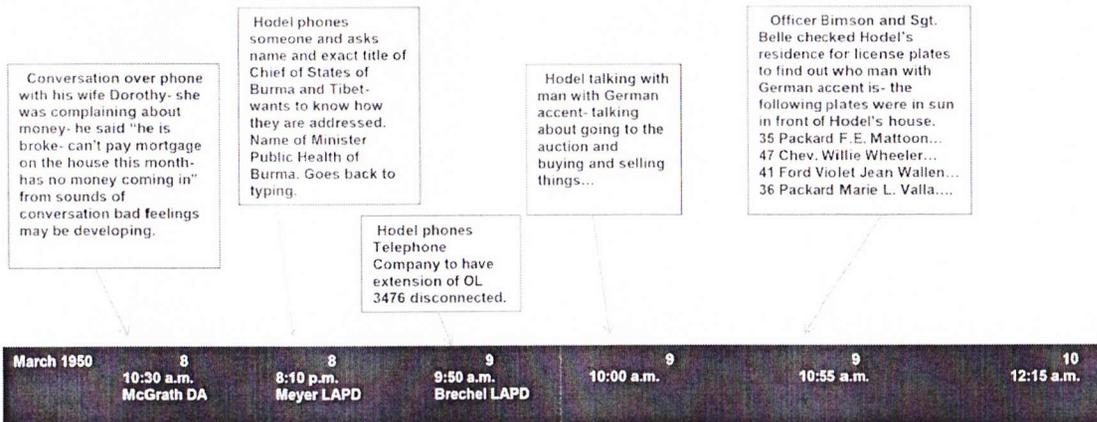
Barbara Sherman given probation ordered not to see/associate with Dr. Hodel.



AUTHOR NOTES

[Boxed statements are verbatim as they appear on original transcripts including spelling errors]

In this afternoon conversation with two unidentified visitors we have confirmation of George Hodel's ongoing interest in Surrealistic photography.

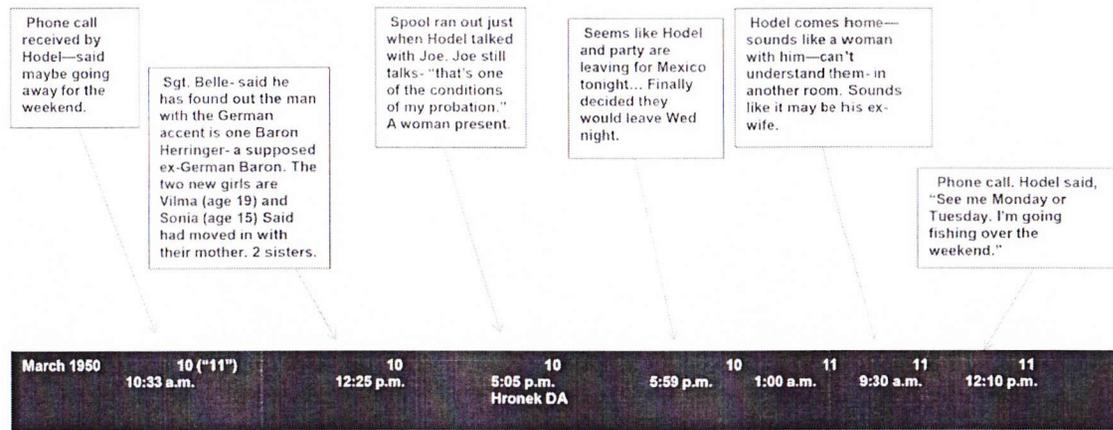


AUTHOR NOTES

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The March 10 "she - Camarillo" entry refers to Lillian Lenorak and is independent corroboration to statements made by witness/roomer, Joe Barrett who came home to the Franklin House in Jan. 1950, to find Lenorak in George Hodel's bedroom holding his loaded rifle and threatening to kill George "for what he had done." Barrett in a 2003 on-camera television interview stated that this referred to the murder of Elizabeth Short. Barrett claims he took the rifle away from Lenorak "and calmed her down." This incident and the fact that Lenorak threatened George Hodel that "she was going to tell the DA that she had committed perjury in both Dr. Hodel and Dr. Ballard's trials" likely was what precipitated the drugging and superficial cutting of her wrists BY DR. HODEL. This staged "attempt suicide" by Hodel as documented in the officer Mary Unkefer/Lenorak Letter, was his way of discrediting Lenorak and getting her admitted to Camarillo hospital for temporary observation for being "emotionally distraught." This March 10 conversation occurred about ten days after officer Unkefer picked up Lenorak from the Franklin House and transported her to Santa Barbara and then wrote her letter to the DA informing them of Dr. Hodel's actions.

One or two men and about same amount of women— talking to Hodel. Hard to understand—something about a place in Mexico not too far from AZ—good roads—something about a Whore House, or sanatorium. One man seems to be a doctor. Talking about she at Camarillo. Hodel- "She was going to shoot me and commit suicide. "Tamara" (way it sounded) Talking about fishing trip to Mexico ... looking at map—mentioned Sonora. Mexico. ...says he will leave - Hodel know about noon tomorrow-Friday about trip.

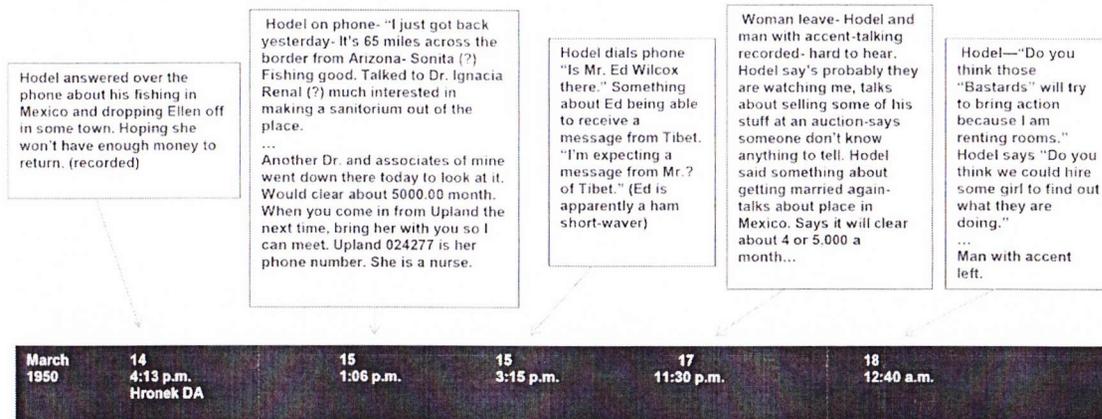


AUTHOR NOTES

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 Appears officers misdated above as "11", actually MAR 10.

Officers misspelled name as "Baron Herringer," which prevented further identification. As summarized in an earlier chapter, I was able to positively identify "The Baron" as, Ernst von Harringa, an art dealer, and close friend of George Hodel's, as well as his probable accomplice to a felony assault and or murder as recorded on earlier taped transcripts of Feb. 18. [See following chapter, "The Baron" for complete details.]

In the 5:05 p.m. entry Joe Barrett informs his landlord, George Hodel about "the conditions of his probation." Barrett was placed on probation related to "Contributing to a Minor" related to his involvement with Tamar, some six months prior, in the summer of 1949. We also know that at this time the DA investigators were using Joe Barrett as "their mole" inside the Franklin House.



AUTHOR NOTES

[Boxed statements are verbatim as they appear on original transcripts including spelling errors]

George Hodel looking into setting up what sounds like an abortion clinic just across the border, which he estimates could pull in 4-5K a month which in 1950 dollars would have been equivalent to about \$50,000. On the 1:06 p.m. entry he mentions that a local doctor and "associates" went with him to Mexico to check out the potentials of the clinic. On other taped discussion he mentions that the clinic, being across the border in Sonora, would "be safe."

Man with "accent" is probably Baron Harringa since George is talking to him about selling art works. Also, mentions trying to get girls to obtain information from "those Bastards" which is obviously City authorities.

Hodel answers door bell, lets in woman- he talks to her about renting her a room in return he will knock off the rent- an work she does for him such as cleaning and taking care of his quarters. Phone rings- Hodel says "Mrs. Hodel is out- I can take message. He said he is going down to the beach about 4pm today- talks about renting room. Hodel again talking to Negro woman. Woman starts talking about doctors- Hodel tells her about his clinic at 1st & Central. Woman said she had a curettement (?) in 1944. Hodel said he has done lots of them. Hodel and woman continue to talk about doctors, sickness and other medical subjects. (Hodel seems to be acting overly nice to this woman. He must be trying to talk her into renting the room, or?) Hodel tells her that Dr. Hill, a colored doctor, lives next door.Woman leaves.

Phone call received- can't hear- too much racket- Hodel has dinner engagement tonight. Going out of town Wed. Hodel talking about selling the house.

Hodel and some guy with accent talking and looking at map of Mexico. (The photographer) ...Talking about going (to Mexico) want to leave tomorrow night, Hodel says don't tell anyone. Hodel says he has to be back Wed. He is going to Santa Barbara, and won't be back until Sunday. Sounds like they are going to take pictures. Sounds like Hodel is trying to pull a fast one of some kind.

Hodel phones someone about \$50.00 a month he paid some woman. Said "I'm in trouble" want some advice- do you have a farm.

A woman comes to see Hodel—sounds like Dorothy—they go to rear of house can't hear.

Hodel and Dorothy engage in a little loving.

March 1950	19 1:45 p.m. Egger DA (spool 37)	20 10:15 a.m. McGrath DA	20 10:50 p.m. Meyer LAPD	21 10:55 a.m. McGrath DA	21 11:05 a.m.	21 1:00 p.m.
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AUTHOR NOTES

[Boxed statements are verbatim as they appear on original transcripts including spelling errors]

Here we have Dr. Hodel actually admitting on tape that he has performed many surgical abortions! "I've done lots of them." The term curettement is synonymous with what is known as a "D&C". Dilation & Curettage. Here is the medical definition:

"A gynecological procedure performed on the female reproductive system that used to be a common method of abortion. The procedure involves dilating the cervix and inserting instruments to clean out the lining of the uterus, which can include an embryo or fetus, while the woman is under an anesthetic. Curettage is performed with a curette, a metal rod with a handle on one end and a sharp loop on the other."

Dr. Charles Hill, a dentist and our neighbor directly to the west of the Franklin House, was a highly respected member of L.A.'s Black Community and reportedly a "Mover & Shaker" in 1940s local politics. Joe Barrett mentions Dr. Hill owned a bail bonds company and was the one who put up the bail on Barrett's "Contributing" arrest. The following day, after bailing Joe out of jail, Dr. Hill invited him to accompany him to a swank gathering where Joe recalls the mayor, police chief and other City officials were in attendance.

The March 21 1:00 p.m. entry underscores that despite my parent's five-year divorce, they still remain on *intimate* terms.

DA investigator Jack Egger appears on a number of stake-outs throughout the surveillance. Egger after leaving the DA's Office will join Beverly Hills Police Department and promote to Captain of Detectives. He will then become Chief of Security at Warner Brothers Studio. In a strange coincidence, this same Jack Egger in 1946-7 was a young head-usher at *Columbia Broadcasting Studios* in Hollywood, and was familiar with Elizabeth Short on sight as she regularly attended the radio shows. In a later chapter of this book I detail the connections between Egger and Short and his 2003 positive identification of Dr. George Hodel as being the man with her at CBS studios, just days before her murder.

Bimson, Belle, and Sullivan listening to past recordings as Hodel has been out for the entire day.*

Hodel comes in works at desk.

Hodel came in with Dorothy— phone rang. (Recorded)

Hodel called and sent a nite letter to a Mrs. Barbe, 1543 Valejo St., San Francisco. Something about birthday wishes.

March 1950 22 22 23 24
 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. 6:10 p.m. 7:45 p.m. 1:15 a.m.

AUTHOR NOTES

[Boxed statements are verbatim as they appear on original transcripts including spelling errors]

*Page 143 of DA transcripts investigators provide brief summary of several recent spools as follows:

26- 5-9 Talk of trial
 9-40 much talk of juggling figures.

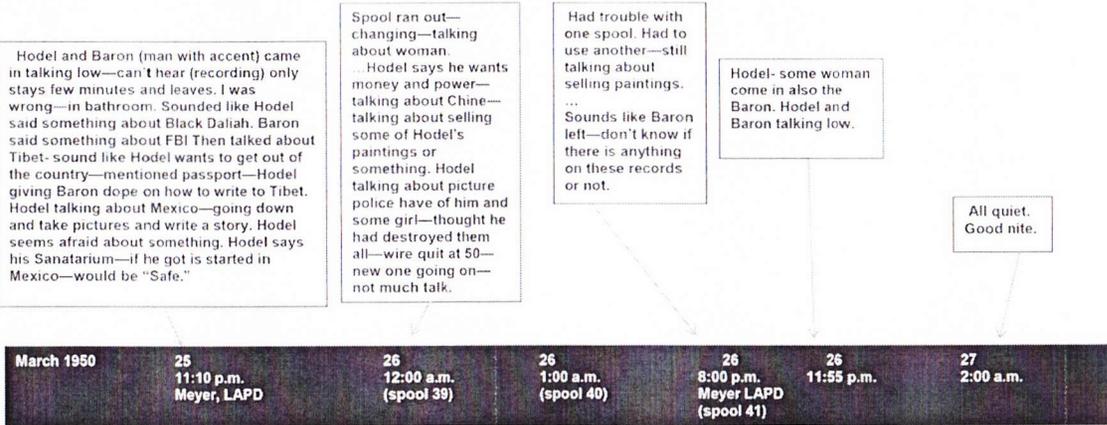
27- 13-15 talk about deducting some money as
 repayment of loans to father and son.
 18-22 wire bad Skip- listen from 40 on to 46-to 48
 Very interesting- (cut this spool off at 50
 The end is loose.)

Spool 3-5 Conversation regarding tax case and Dahlia

#37- 5-17 Conversation regarding code and mailing- have to be careful-
 Income tax starts at 15 on Spool 25

Reference to "Mrs. Barbe" is Dorothy Anthony Barbe, mother of TAMAR, residing in San Francisco. This entry would seem to indicate that TAMAR is now out of Juvenile Hall detention in Los Angeles and with her mother in San Francisco, as the birthday wishes would have been meant for Tamar, who was born on March 24, and would have turned 15 on this day.

The March 23 entry, "Hodel came in with Dorothy" is important because on the day before, March 22, 1950, at 1:30 p.m., Lt. Jemison went to Dorothy Hodel's residence at the Santa Monica Pier and conducted a formal recorded interview and showed her photographs of both Madi Comfort and Elizabeth Short. Dorothy stonewalled and lied to Lt. Jemison, denying she knew Comfort and here the following day, we discover she is with Georae obviously providing him detailed information about those photos and the DA interview and questions asked.



AUTHOR NOTES

[Boxed statements are verbatim as they appear on original transcripts including spelling errors]

THE DA/LAPD SURVEILLANCE-STAKE-OUT UNEXPECTEDLY ENDS HERE, WITH GEORGE HODEL EITHER BEING TIPPED OFF OR DECIDING ON HIS OWN THAT THINGS ARE TOO HOT.

He splits, literally leaving the DA/LAPD teams with their microphones in the walls of the Franklin House.

On this last night we hear Hodel confiding to his accomplice, Baron Harringa of, "wanting to get out of the country", the "FBI", talking about "The Black Dahlia," and "pictures police have of him and a girl" which Hodel says, he "thought he had destroyed."

Just four days earlier, on March 22, 1950 DA Lt. Frank Jemison interviewed Dorothy Hodel at her home on Santa Monica Pier and informed her that Elizabeth "Black Dahlia" Short had been identified by witnesses as "knowing and being with Dr. Hodel at the Franklin House before the murder." Lt. Jemison further confronts Dorothy with the fact that he had information that she had stated to Tamar Hodel that George Hodel, a day or two after the crime, came home intoxicated and said, "They will never be able to pin that murder on me." [In his closing typed report, Jemison presents the actual wording as, "They will never be able to prove I did that murder." In her interview, Dorothy stonewalls Lt. Jemison, denying any knowledge, and lying about not knowing Madi (Mattie) Comfort. [As we now know, George and Dorothy and Madi were lovers in the 1940s] Then on the following day, we discover she meets and provides George with the details of the interview and the fact the police have the photographs.

While it sounds like George Hodel may have initially taken off for Mexico, we cannot be sure, where he went and how long he was absent. New details will be presented in a later chapter providing updated information on this subject.