### FAQ 5

5.1

Q: I've seen references that say your mother, when married to John Huston, was a model and actress. Was she ever in any films? If so, which ones?

Other than starring in the role of *Camille* in high-school, I am not aware of Dorothy Jean Harvey ever performing any "serious" acting. No known films. During the years she was married to John Huston she did some uncredited screenwriting at the various Hollywood studios. Mother was a very close friend to actress, Greta Nissen, (a big star in silent-films) and in the 1930s, traveled with Greta to Europe. Both were the same age, born just a few months apart. (I suspect it was during this trip abroad that Dorothy could have first met Man Ray, possibly in Paris, some five or more years, before he came to Hollywood.)

#### **GRETA NISSEN**

Below bio courtesy of the Norwegian/American Hall of Fame:

Greta Nissen was born in Oslo on Jan. 30, 1906 (as Grethe Ruzt-Nissen). She was as a child sponsored by Queen Maud to study ballet in Copenhagen.In 1925, at the age of 19, she made her debut on Broadway, later working for the famed Flo Ziegfield. Nissen made over 30 films in the period of 1925-36, starting with a role in "The Wanderer." Originally, it was Nissen who was to play the lead in Howard Hughes' production of "Hell's Angels," slated to be a silent production. However, following the success of "The Jazz Singer," the era of talkies had begun, and plans were shifted to film "Hell's Angels" with sound. Nissen was ousted from her role owing to her Norwegian accent. (The film was released in 1930 with Jean Harlow as the star.) Nissen continued to garner movie roles, despite her accent. Among the most notable movies in which she starred was "Ambassador Bill," a 1931 comedy in which she played opposite Will Rogers. "K-33," a 1936 British flick, was her last picture. Nissen died of Parkinson's disease on May 17, 1988 at the age of 82.



Clip from Ambassador Bill (1931) with Will Rogers



Greta Nissen (below) in clip from Howard Hughes, *Hell's Angels*. Her part was recast and given to a newcomer named, "Jean Harlow". Nissen, was a huge silent film star, but with the advent of "talkies", Hughes worried that her thick Norwegian accent would be difficult to understand.

#### 5.2

Q: You mentioned that your mother knew and was friends with film-director, Dudley Murphy. Are you aware that Murphy made a 1920s avant-guard film with artist, Fernand Leger and Man Ray in Paris, called- *Ballet mecanique?* 

Yes. I've seen the film.

Both Dudley and Ginny Murphy were good friends of my mother. I have fond memories during our "Gypsy Years" of living out in Escondido Beach, just below their Holiday House hotel-restaurant, in Malibu.

In the early 1950s, mother and we three boys actually lived in the same house that F.Scott Fitzgerald and Shelia Graham had had their "affair." A wonderful small house on the beach. We would swim and play with the Murphy's daughter, Kit, who was our age. Kit, as I recall, had her own horse, and was also fond of swimming. I believe she had a good friend (or brother?) Duffy, who also played and swam with us. (After joining the Navy, I heard Duffy lost a leg to a shark bite in those same Malibu waters.)

Dudley Murphy, with some partners, bought the famous Hollywood, GARDEN OF ALLAH in the mid-1950s. He died in 1968. His wife, Ginny remained life long friends with my mother and visited her regularly in her apartment in Santa Monica.



The Murphy's HOLIDAY HOUSE was built by Richard Neutra in 1950, and quickly became a popular "retreat" for the Hollywood rich and famous.

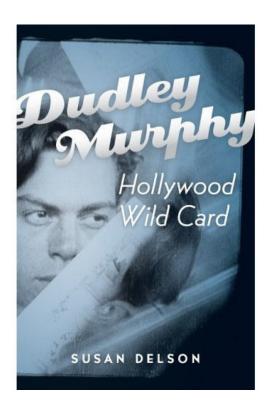
Located high on a bluff in Malibu (27400 Pacific Coast Highway) it is long gone. Geoffrey's Restaurant now occupies the enchanted bluff, with spectacular views of the blue Pacific.

#### **HOLIDAY HOUSE CIRCA 1950**



Dorero & Ginny Murphy circa 1978, (?) At mother's apartment on Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica, California.

Interesting you would bring up Dudley Murphy's name now. In researching his name, I find that a biography (the first) on Dudley Murphy is about to be released. (Oct. 2006) See below description from Amazon.com Sounds like Ms. Delson's book will give us new historical insights into one of Hollywood's little known "wild cards."



Susan Delson's -- Dudley Murphy biography to release in October, 2006

#### **Book Description**

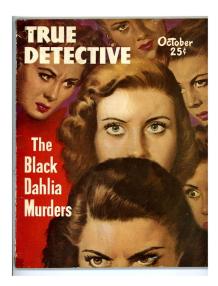
Dudley Murphy (1897-1968) was one of early Hollywood's most intriguing figures. Active from the 1920s through the 1940s, Murphy was one of the industry's first independents and a guiding intelligence behind some of the key films in early twentieth-century cinema. In the first full-length biography of Murphy, author Susan Delson gives full rein to an American original whose life was as audacious as his films. As expertly chronicled here, Murphy caromed between film and the other arts, between Hollywood and other cultural capitals—Greenwich Village, Harlem, London, and Paris—hobnobbing with some of the era's leading cultural figures, including Ezra Pound, Man Ray, Duke Ellington, and Charlie Chaplin, and leaving many a scandal in his wake. With artist Fernand Léger, Murphy made Ballet mécanique, one of the seminal works of avant-garde film. He directed Bessie Smith in her only film appearance, St. Louis Blues, and Paul Robeson in The Emperor Jones. He had a hand in shaping Tod Browning's Dracula, gave Bing Crosby one of his first film appearances, and collaborated with William Faulkner in attempting to bring one of the author's most challenging novels to the screen. Murphy also turned out forgettable Hollywood fodder like Confessions of a Co-Ed and Stocks and Blondes, and ended his career making melodramas in Mexico. Delson pays close attention to Murphy's cinematic style, which favored visual play over narrative and character, and she offers provocative new insights into his two most important works, Ballet mécanique and The Emperor Jones. A lively portrait, Dudley Murphy, Hollywood Wild Card provides a fascinating perspective on the evolution of the classical Hollywood aesthetic, the development of the film industry, and the century's broader cultural currents.

Susan Delson is based in New York and writes frequently about film, art, and history.

5.3

## Q: Are there any articles from 1947 that claim that a serial killer was operating in Los Angeles? Did the police think so too?

Yes. I've discussed this subject in previous FAQ pages. However, I have recently obtained an original copy of a 1948 TRUE DETECTIVE magazine article which echoes LAPDs original belief that the Dahlia killer was responsible for multiple murders. The writer of the article, George Clark, mentions the following murders as being connected: 1) Elizabeth Short, 2) Jeanne French, 3) Evelyn Winters, 4) Laura Trelstad, and 5) Marian Newton. The first four were in Los Angeles, the fifth, in San Diego. (I originally made reference to all of these crimes in my 2003 publication of BDA.)





**TRUE DETECTIVE, 1948** 

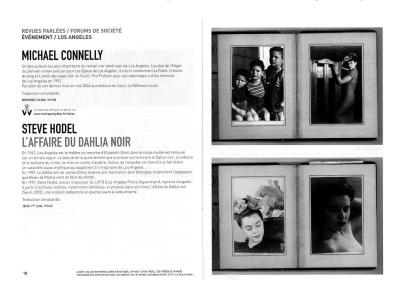
Critics of the multiple murders theory, will tell you that LAPD has come out with a definitive statement debunking the belief that the Black Dahlia Avenger was a serial killer, and that LAPD now claims that he only killed one time. "None before, none after." In fact, LAPD documents found in the DA Files do indicate that <u>some detectives</u> may have believed in the single murder theory, and passed this on to Lt. Jemison. However, there exists much stronger evidence to the contrary. As reported earlier, <u>LAPD high-brass, including Chief of Detectives Donahoe, Chief of Detectives Thad Brown, the press, the 1949 grand jury, and D.A. investigator Lt. Frank Jemison, all believed or at least strongly suspected that the Black Dahlia Avenger had committed many of the 1947-1948 murders.</u>

The *True Detective* article written in 1948, like most of the information of that day, was sensational. It was meant to be –that's what sells magazines. It contains some truths, some errors, and much speculation. No question that factual inaccuracies do exist in the article, but in answer to your question, yes, it clearly stated the belief that a serial killer was responsible for the many murders of lone woman.

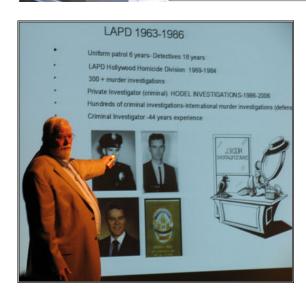
#### 5.4

## Q: I see you were in Paris, France in June 2006 at the Pompidou Centre. I assume you gave a talk on your book. Is there a recording available?

Yes, the art center's current theme for the spring/summer 2006 focused on the city of Los Angeles. Both Michael Connelly and I were invited to give separate lectures.







It was a real privilege to be invited and the Pompidou provided simultaneous translation (just like the U.N.) and real-time streaming video on the Internet. I spoke for about one-hour, then took another hour for Q&A with the live audience. The talk should become available on the Internet at Pompidou's website in the near future. I find the French people to be an absolute delight. Hospitable and bright! I understand why Paris remains the City of Lights.

#### 5.5

# Q: Could you explain Santa Barbara police officer Mary Unkefer's connections to both the 1947 Black Dahlia Murder and the later connections she had with the D.A. investigators and her contact with your father, Dr. George Hodel?

Yes.

SANTA BARBARA POLICE OFFICER MARY UNKEFER & THE UNKEFER-ELIZABETH SHORT-LILLIAN LENORAK- DR. GEORGE HODEL CONNECTIONS

From Black Dahlia Avenger: A Genius for Murder pg-479

On January 16, 1947, the day "Jane Doe Number 1" was identified by the FBI as Elizabeth Short, Santa Barbara policewoman Mary Unkefer was one of the first important witnesses contacted by LAPD in the Black Dahlia investigation. Why? Because Officer Unkefer had direct and extended contact with Elizabeth Short after Elizabeth's September 1943 arrest for "minor possession." The L.A. Daily News of January 17, 1947, under the headline: "Identify Victim as Hollywood Resident," detailed Officer Unkefer's connections:

She (Elizabeth Short) had been a clerk at the Camp Cooke post exchange near Santa Barbara and was picked up for drinking with soldiers in a cafe there.

Policewoman Mary Unkefer of the Santa Barbara police department took the girl to her own home to live with her for nine days...

"We put her on the train for her home, and several times later she wrote to me from there" Miss Unkefer recalled. One of her letters said: "I'll never forget you thank God you picked me up when you did!"

Incredibly, from information contained in these DA documents, we only now discover that Officer Mary Unkefer—who in 1943 had been directly responsible for rescuing Elizabeth Short from a dangerous environment—in January 1950 drove from Santa Barbara to Dr. Hodel's Franklin Avenue residence and there removed another young female victim from harm's way. Officer Unkefer, after safely returning the victim, whose name was Lillian Lenorak, \* to Santa Barbara, typed a letter to Los Angeles DA investigators, describing and informing them of Dr. Hodel's involvement in multiple crimes, including subornation of perjury and felony assault. Here for the first time is that remarkable letter, published in its entirety, exactly as it was typed:

<sup>\*</sup> Through other DA documents, we know that Lillian Lenorak was a 1949 defense witness who testified at the Hodel incest trial, was an acquaintance of George Hodel's, and when shown photographs of Elizabeth Short by DA investigators identified her as Hodel's girlfriend. Miss Lenorak was preparing to recant her testimony and go to the DA and inform him she was actually present and witnessed the abortion of Dr. Hodel's 14-year-old daughter, Tamar.

## OFFICER MARY UNKEFER'S ORIGINAL LETTER AS FOUND IN THE DA HODEL/BLACK DAHLIA FILE

Below is a copy of Santa Barbara Police Department officer Mary Unkefer's actual letter to the DA, as she typed it. In it, she documents Dr. Hodel's assault and drugging of the victim, and his "staging of her attempted suicide." (Corroborated by statements made to officer Unkefer by Lillian's son, who was present and witnessed his mother's assault by George Hodel.) Officer Unkefer additionally provides information re. Dr. Hodel's "payoffs to police and DA through his attorney, Jerry Giesler."

Jan. 30-50

Dist. Attorney's Office Los Angeles, Calif. 209 W. Valerio St. Santa Barbara, Calif.

Dear Sir;

I am sorry I missed the Gentleman from your Office on Wednesday. I work at odd hours & I arrived at home about ten minutes after your Men left for Los Angeles.

I had expected to come to Los Angeles early this week as I had business to attend to there but find it is not necessary for me to make the trap except to give you what information I can regarding the Woman whom I brought to Santa Barbara from the home of Dr. Hodel on Franklin Ave.

Mrs Hamilton (Mother of the young Woman) asked me to go to Los Angeles to get her & her Baby. I called Dr.Hodel before I left Santa Barbara to make sure the Patient was at his home & there would be no chance of me running into a snag when I got there as it was night & I was not prepared to have to look for her. Dr.Hodel told me that it was very necessary for her to be removed from his home that same evening as he intended to put her an an Institution in Los Angeles if she was not immediately taken back to Santa Barbara. He informed me that two of her Friends were there & that they would return to Santa Barbara with Lillian to keep her from becoming too much of a problem on the way.

When I arrived at the Franklin address (I took a young Woman with me) I sensed something wrong as soon as I entered the building. The Dr. seemed very arrives to to tell me that the Girl was in a bad mental condition & that she had attempted suicide. I asked where the parties were who were going to ride to Santa Barban with me & he said he could not get in touch with them at that time, but when I assured him that I would not take the Girl with me unless her Friends would go along, he then called the Woman (Karoun Tootikian) who came to his home & said she would go with me. Two young men volunteered to drive another car & follow me to see that I got the Girl safely home. Joseph Barrett, who lives at the same address on Franklin & another young man Friend who was not interested in the macase, except that he offered to drive Barrett up here & then take the Woman & the other man(Joe Barrett) back to Los Angeles.

when I asked to see Lillian Dr.Hodel explained that I had no need to worry about her giving me trouble on the way to Santa Barbara. He stated that he had given her a large enough dose to keep her asleep for three hours. With the aid of the Mexican maid(who looks like a half-wit or a hop-head, we packed Lillians clothes & it was about ten P.M. before we got eway from his home.Dr.Hodel & Joe Barrett took Lillian to my car,holding her up on both arms. That wakened her & she began to tell us about the Dr. She talked a great deal about her relations with him & she stated that she was very much afraid of him. She said she had witnessed an abortion performed on his own little Girl & then she stated that he had threatened to have her Child taken from her if she did not testify in his favor in Court. She said he knew of some of her foolishness in connection with a Man called Charles, & that he (the Dr.) was holding that over her. She said that she had never attempted suicide & that she had never cut her wrists or her hands. She stated that the Dr.constantly gave her drugs & that when she wakened the cutting had been ddne.

While I was in the Dr's sittingroom waiting for the Woman who was to drive with us, I asked the Dr.what had caused the Girl to go haywire so suddenly. He said it was a great deal to do with some case she had in Court. It was not until Lillian wakened & told us how she had perjured herself in Court for the Dr. that I realized what case it was that had caused her so much worry. There were scratches & bruises on her forehead & arms. Her three-year old) baly said the Dr.knocked his Mommie down & made Mommie cry hard.

On the way north, the car with the young men in, drove behind us & it was after I left Lillian at the Phyco.Ward at the Gen. Hospital that I had a chance to talk to Joe Barrett. He stated emphatically that there was nothing wrong with Lillian except what had been brought on by the cruel treatment received from Pr.Hodel. He stated that he knew Lillian had perjured herself at the trial because

that Charles was an assistant to another Dr. Friend of Hodel.
When I asked Barrett where this Charles was now living he stated that he had
'taken off' after the Dr's trial & was in San Francisco.
Lillian stated that she had a very guilty mind after the trial & told Hodel
that she was going to tell the Dist. Attorney that she had lied on the witness
stand, & that Dr. Hodel told her if she squeeled that he would name Charles &
the other Dr. as being the ones who performed the aperation. Joe Barrett spoke
of Dr. Hodel as being a real 'NO GOOD GUY'.

I visited Lillian at the Hospital on Sunday(yesterday). She seemed glad to see me & stated that she would like to tell me all about the true facts concerning the Dr's activities & the trial but she stated she knew he would have her done away with as well as her Baby. he said she would like to have told the men from your office all about it but he said she was not sure if you were her Friends & she was just PLUME SCARED tell for fear he would carry out his threat to have her Boy taken from her & have her committed to an insane Institution.

his morning I went to the hearing at the Phycho.Ward  $\alpha$  it was determined that he is mentally upset. The Dr.said a deal of the condition was brought about rom the strain of the trial. Both Drs. stated that they felt she should have edical care. So she is to be taken to Camarillo State Hospital for treatment.

by personal opinion is that if the feeling between her & her Mother was not so strained, she might have been given a chance to go home & be taken care of by her Mother. There seems to have never been love between those two. The Mother takes the attitude that she is going to MAKE Lillian do things the may she (Mother) wants them & the Girl seems just as determined that she is not poing to be always treated as a Child. Hence there is fireworks between them.

oe Barrett & Karoun Tootikian were here from Los Angeles to attend the hearing. be has had a good chance to talk to Dr.Hodel & he knows the Dist.Attorney's affice is interested in the case. He seems to be afraid he might be questioned bout the trial because his whole attitude was changed. He now speaks of the Dr. is 'not a bad fellow, with plenty of worries of his own'. He spoke & acted as hough he is sorry he opened his mouth the naght I brought Lillian home from os Angeles. Karoun Tootikian's address is 22II S.Highland, Dancing Teacher.

do not know that this information will be of any help to you. It is about all could tell you if & came down personally. But if there is anything I can do no help in anything that is good & sincere, I am at your service.

Very Sincerely Yours

Mary St. Weekefer.