

FAQ 61

(October 5, 2007)

61.1

Q: Have the DA transcripts of your father's taped conversations at the Franklin House ever been published?

Only in part. I included most of his statements and admissions in the BDA AFTERMATH chapter, published in 2004. Since then, I have added additional information to the FAQs, as it has become available. For instance, initially in 2003, I completely missed my father's on-tape conversation with a woman where he admits performing curettages (abortions) "lots of them" at his downtown clinic.

Below are some diagrams showing the relationship of George Hodel's Franklin House to Hollywood Police Station, where the actual wire tape recorder was housed. (Generally, two detectives per shift monitored the real time recordings in the police station's basement.)

The second diagram shows where the two microphones were installed and hidden in the walls at the Franklin House, in the library and master bedroom.

At a later date I will provide a more detailed "timeline," but here include a recap of some of George Hodel's most important verbatim conversations with confidants during the forty day audio surveillance by DA/LAPD. (Keep in mind that the DA's office did not terminate this stake out. It was shut down only because George Hodel was informed by someone "in the know" of his imminent arrest, and immediately fled the country.

Based on DA FILES we know that just two days before he leaves, my mother, Dorothy Hodel, comes to the Franklin House and informs him that she was just interviewed the previous day by Lt. Jemison. Dorothy tells George that the police showed her photographs of George and model/singer, Mattie Comfort together in the nude. (Though mother lied to Lt. Jemison and denied knowing Mattie, George now knows that the DA has a second witness (besides Lillian Lenorak) who has connected him to Elizabeth Short. (This new information from Dorothy is likely the cause of his panic sounding statements on tape heard the next day before he flees. As recorded by the officers, George say's, "I'm in trouble...Black Dahlia... police have photos of me and.... I thought I had destroyed them." (See below excerpts for March 26th.)

D.A./LAPD Electronic Surveillance of Dr. George Hodel-1950

On February 18, 1950, Dr. George Hodel became the Los Angeles D.A. investigators "prime suspect." Detectives from both the D.A. and LAPD surreptitiously entered Dr. Hodel's Hollywood mansion and installed two live microphones inside the walls; one near the master bedroom, the other in the library area. Phone lines were run from the residence to the basement of the Hollywood Police Station, just 2 miles away. Eighteen (18) detectives, assigned to separate four-hour shifts, monitored Dr. Hodel's conversations (live not phone) 24/7, for the next forty-days. On March 28, 1950, George Hodel unexpectedly fled the country, forcing the DA/LAPD surveillance teams to end their joint "stakeout."



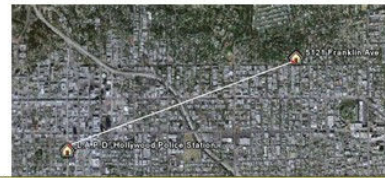
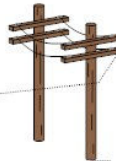
Franklin House 5121 Franklin Ave 1950



Dr. George Hodel inside residence 1950

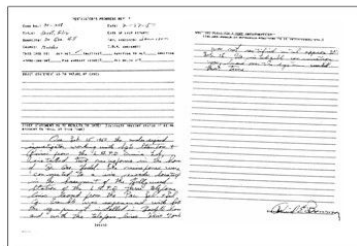


L.A.P.D. Hwd Police Station circa 1950



Distance of Hodel residence to Hollywood Police Sta 1.7 miles
(2.4 miles driving time approximately 5 minutes.)

Electronic Surveillance installed Hodel residence on 2/15/50



D.A. Hodel/Black Dahlia File
"Investigator's Progress Report"

The handwritten report (left) is a copy of the one found in the D.A. Hodel file. All spellings and punctuation are as they appear in the original. Document reads:

Case No. 30-1268 Date: 2/27/50

Title: Short, Eliz.

Suspects: Dr. Geo. Hill Inv. Assigned Jemison

Charge: Murder

THIS CASE IS: ACTIVE

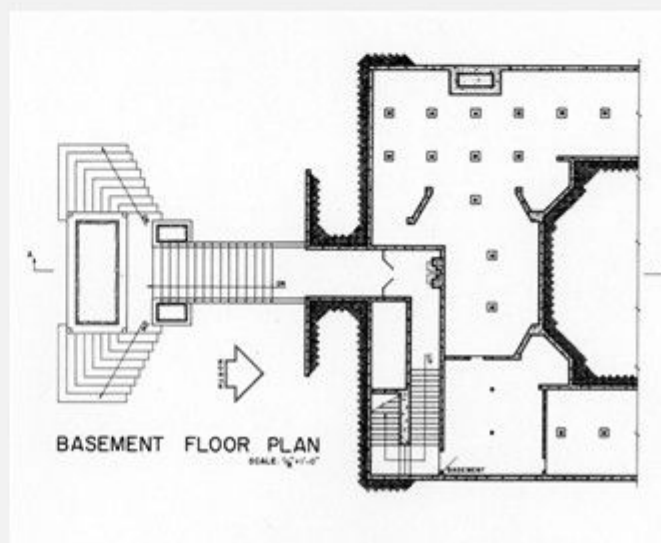
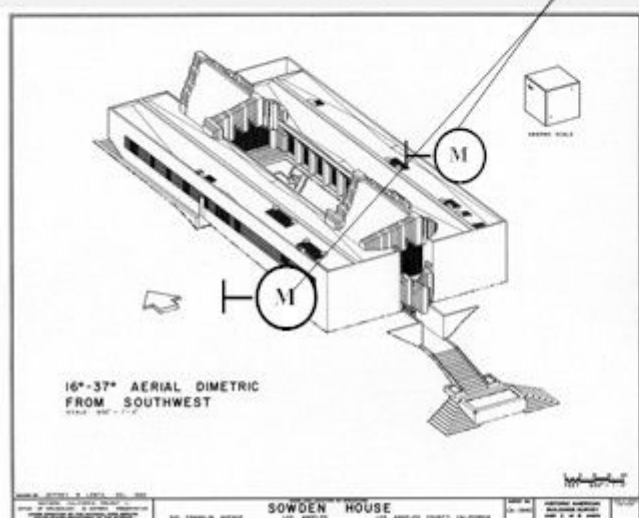
BRIEF STATEMENT AS TO RESULTS TO DATE: (indicate present status if being brought to trial at this time)

"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 experienced with both the equipment installed in Hodel's home and with the telephone lines. This 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 in the West 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 overheard in the basement. Below floor plan diagrams basement which was located directly below the Master bedroom.



**Dr. George Hill Hodel verbatim excerpts from DA/LAPD
Black Dahlia Task Force Audio Surveillance Tapes of Hodel residence stakeout
Feb-March 1950**

"This is the best payoff I've seen between Law Enforcement Agencies. You do not have the right connection made in the D.A.'s office. ...Don't confess ever..."
2/18/50

"Supposing I did kill the Black Dahlia, they couldn't prove it now. They can't talk to my Secretary anymore, because she's dead."
2/18/50

"FBI were over to see me three weeks ago."
2/18/50

"Well, anyway, she hasn't said she'd committed incest or killed the Black Dahlia."
2/27/50

"Don't say anything on the phone. It is tapped. I have your phone number..I will have to go out to call..."
3/1/50

"She was going to shoot me and commit suicide."
3/10/50

"They are probably watching me... Do you think we could hire some girls to find out what they are doing?"
3/18/50

Hodel talking to woman about his downtown clinic. Woman mentions having had a currettement in 1944. Hodel tells her he has done "lots of them."
3/19/50

(SKH Note- A "currettement" was a 1940's term for a D&C (Dilation & Curettage which at the time was synonymous with abortion.)

"I'm in trouble... "Black Dahlia.." .."passport". "...Police have pictures of me and...I thought I had destroyed all of them."
3/26/50

"Put a pillow over her head, and covered 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..."
2/18/50



L.A.P.D.- L.A.S.O.-D.A.BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION BRASS

PAST & PRESENT AGREE

"CASE SOLVED"

Despite the nearly sixty-year chasm that divides the investigation past and present, we now have statements from the four highest-ranking police officers confirming the Black Dahlia case was solved. *These four detectives were directly involved in the original Dahlia investigation and privy to its secrets.* These officers represented all three law-enforcement agencies in Los Angeles: The city (LAPD), the county (LA Sheriffs) and the L.A.D.A., the prosecutor for both city and county. Their statements are all the more remarkable in that they were made in absolute confidence, *yet each independently substantiates the others,* though each is derived from a separate person, place and time. That's *corroboration!* None of these command officer's statements were ever intended to be made public. Each was a personal communication, which remained private and confidential decades after their respective deaths. *All four indict the same man, "a Hollywood physician, living on Franklin Avenue, involved in abortions."* (From our 2003 access to the secret DA FILES, and surveillance recordings, we now know that man was- *Dr. George Hill Hodel.*)

**LAPD, LASO & LADA INVESTIGATORS INDEPENDENTLY
CONFIRM "BLACK DAHLIA CASE SOLVED"**

"The Black Dahlia case was solved. He was a doctor who lived on Franklin Avenue in Hollywood."

(Statement made to his close friend, actor Jack Webb (Dragnet's "Sgt. Joe Friday" circa 1960)



**LAPD Chief of Detectives
Thad F. Brown**

"We identified the Black Dahlia suspect. He was a doctor."

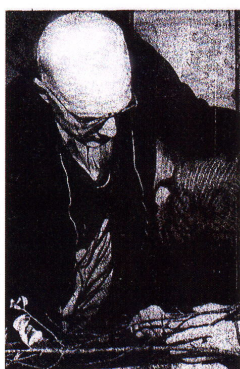
(Statement made to his personal physician circa 1964)



**LAPD Chief of Police
William H. Parker**

"The Black Dahlia case was solved. The suspect was a doctor living in Hollywood involved in abortions."

(Statement made to L. A. Undersheriff James Downey and then Deputy Tom Vetter in 1961. (Vetter later promoted to LASO Commander)



**L. A. Sheriff's Chief of Detectives
J. Gordon Bowers**

"We know who the Black Dahlia killer was. He was a doctor, but we didn't have enough to put him away."

(Statement made to his nephew and his physician brother-in-law at the L. A Hall of Justice, in the summer of 1951.)



**D.A. Lt. Frank B. Jemison
Chief Investigator 1949-1950
Black Dahlia Task Force**

**2004-- LAPD & LASO COMMANDERS & HEAD DEPUTY DA
INDEPENDENTLY OPINE "BLACK DAHLIA CASE SOLVED"**

"The hardcover book was pretty compelling. Then when all the transcripts and stuff came out from the D.A.'s Office, that took it over the top for me. That would have been enough for me to bring a case against Dr. Hodel."
L. A. Times Magazine, Nov. 21, 2004



**LAPD Deputy Chief James McMurray (ret.)
Chief of Detectives**

"In 1962 I was a detective and I was the driver for Undersheriff James Downey who was the Sheriff Dept's #2 man.. One day he was going to lunch with his good friend, Gordy Bowers, Chief of Detectives. Somehow the Black Dahlia murder case came up in conversation. I heard Jimmy say, "Oh, that had been solved, but it will never come out. It was some doctor they all knew out in Hollywood."
In my own professional opinion Hodel has put the pieces together and solved the case."
CBS Television Interview Oct. 2004



**LASO Cmdr. Thomas Vetter (ret.)
Lt. Col. USMC (ret.)**

" Steve (Hodel) has taken this way beyond the pictures. It no longer depends on the pictures."

L. A. Times Magazine, Nov. 21, 2004

"I have no doubt in my mind that George Hodel murdered Elizabeth Short.... If the witnesses were alive today, I believe if I took that case in front of a jury, that I would convict him."

*Rue 13, French television documentary,
The Truth About The Black Dahlia
Nov. 6, 2006*



LA Head Dep. DA Stephen Kay (ret.)