

FAQ 76

(December 21, 2008)

76.1

“T.D.,” a reader/Dahlia researcher, e-mailed me his thoughts related to my recent posting of FAQ 75, (cement bags etc.) along with additional information describing a “Bandini” sack, also left near the body on Norton Avenue. Here are some excerpts from his email:

December 5, 2008

Steve,

...

A photo I have seen clearly shows yet another type of empty bag at the body site.

This bag says BANDINI which is a brand of fertilizer. It is just possible that a bit of garden and lawn repair was done to the Franklin property in addition to any architectural work, and this empty bag was discarded on 39th street along with the cement bags.

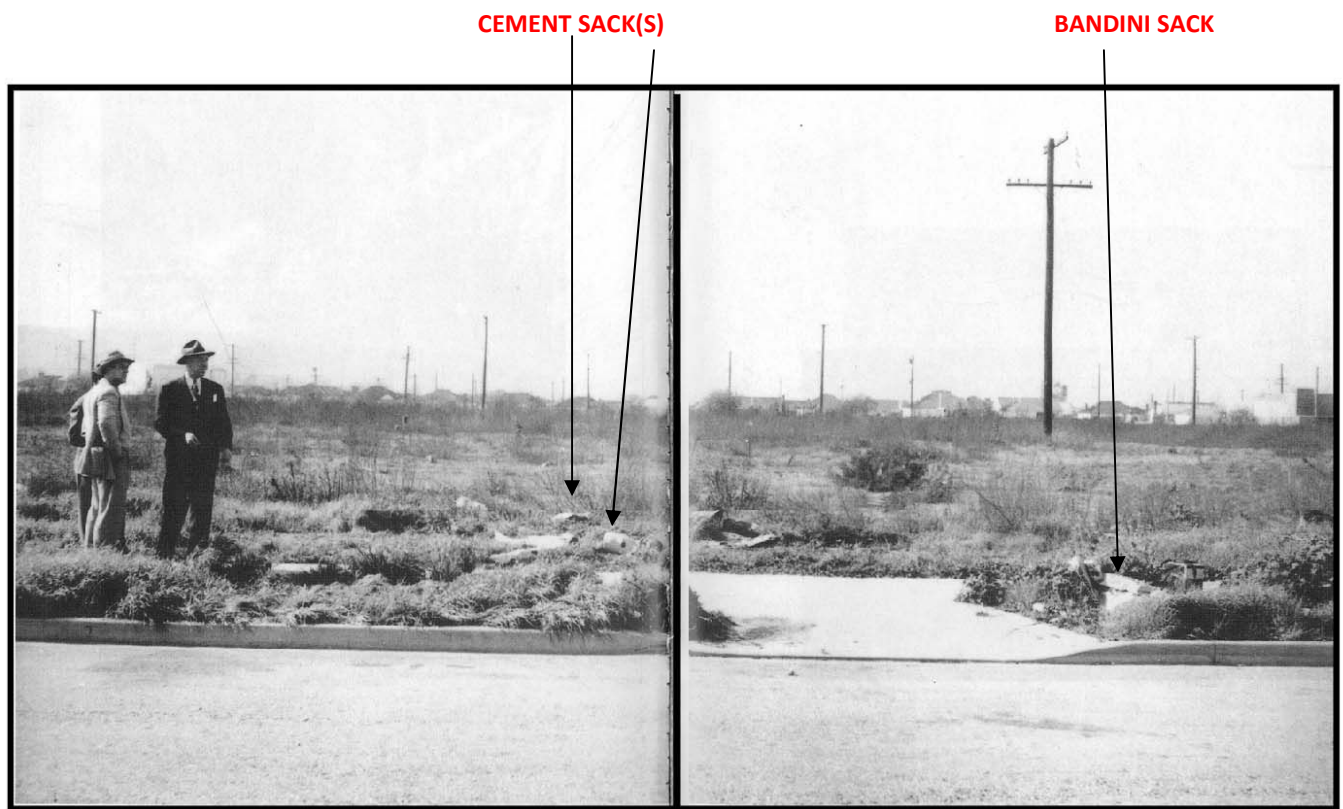
...

And there is yet another little mystery this fertilizer bag may clear up. The autopsy of Elizabeth’s body noted a mysterious “green granular material” inside her stomach.

Could this stuff have been left over steer manure that she was forced to eat as part of an act of sado-humiliation? It’s my personal hunch. Such an ordeal may also have been meant to add a bit of surrealist wit to her death. It was a message: “This woman is was full of bullshit!”

As a former art student I learned that the surrealists sometimes expressed visual puns and this would have been a perfect example.

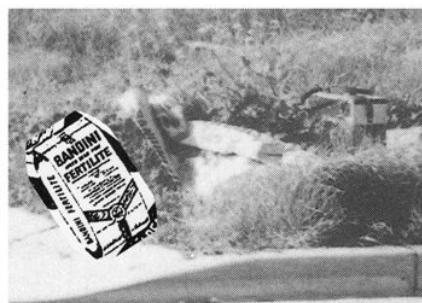
Thanks to “TD’s” heads-up, I was able to follow-up on the photo.



Detective Harry Hansen and detective (possibly Finis Brown) at 3815 S. Norton Ave on Jan 15. 1947

(Above Long shot taken from center of Norton Ave, looking westward)

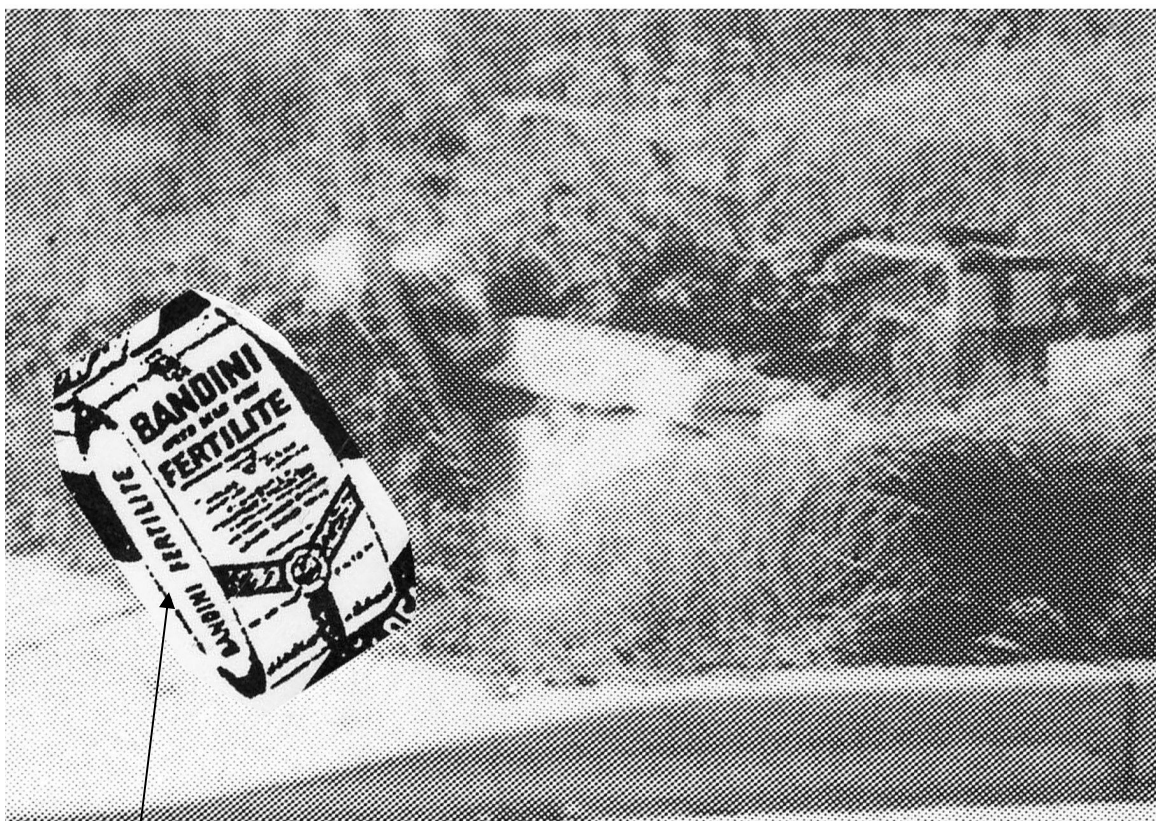
PHOTO A



Enlargement of "Bandini" sack near sidewalk (1947 Display Ad picture of Bandini bag inserted for comparison)

As "TD" noted in his e-mail, the "Bandini" sack(s) does appear quite "fresh" and in the below enlargement is seen resting just east of the sidewalk, adjacent to where the police photographer has placed his camera/equipment box. (This location would have been very close to where the suspect parked his vehicle for removal of the bisected body parts.)

PHOTO B



IN BOTH PHOTOS A & B I HAVE INSERTED A 1947 PHOTO DISPLAY AD FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES.

NOTE LETTERING ON SIDE OF BAG WHICH APPEARS IDENTICAL TO THE ACTUAL SACK(S) AT THE CRIME SCENE.

1945-1947 L.A. TIMES DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS FOR BANDINI "STEER MANURE" AND "MULCH WITH FERTILITE"



Can we also document (as was done with the cement sacks in FAQ 75) that Bandini Fertilizer bags were also used at the Hodel Franklin House—just days before the murder?

NO. —NOT SPECIFICALLY FOR JAN 9-10, 1947.

However, the UCLA Special Collections Wright/Hodel files do contain 1945 receipts for extensive gardening/landscaping work. The 1945 receipts show a total of \$290.00 was expended at Dr. Hodel's house for—"Gardening and Flower Box planting." (A considerable sum in 1940s dollars.)

**NOV. 1945 LLOYD WRIGHT/HODEL RECEIPTS DOCUMENTING
LANDSCAPING/PLANTING EXPENSES AT HODEL FRANKLIN HOUSE**

ESTIMATE OF WORK DONE AS OF NOV. 20-1945
FOR DR. HODEL RESIDENCE-RECONSTRUCTION-

<u>TILE</u>	WILSHIRE TILE COMPANY	....\$270.00
<u>ROOF</u>	ECONOMY ROOF COMPANY	.... 230.00
<u>GARDENING</u>	TOM OGA	.... 270.00
<u>PAINTING</u>	Chas Nelson - Labor -	.... 424.00
<u>CARPENTER</u>	N.P. Nielsen	.... 160.00
<u>PLASTERING</u>	K.L. BRID	.... 250.00
<u>CEMENT WALL</u>	(Excavating 1 men 1 1/2 days-Fri-10th 2 men 1 day-Thur-15th)	.... 95.00
<u>PAINT MATERIALS</u>		
<u>W.P. FULLER CO.</u>		.... 177.09
<u>BEARDON CO. OF CALIF</u>		.... 28.70
		.... 3.22
		\$ 1868.12
	Plus 15%	280.22
		\$2148.34

"GARDENING TOM OGA --\$270.00"

FLOORING RECEIPTS
HOLLYWOOD FL. CO.

<u>TILE</u>	CULSHINE TILE	\$270.00
<u>FLORING</u>	LINOLIUM FLOORS	154.00
	AND PR FLOORS	205.00
	100 TILIA	119.00
	LINOLIUM BOARD	472.00
	STAIN	
	(MODEL FLOORS)	
<u>STONE POINTING</u>	2 1/2 DAYS	80.00
<u>FLOWER BOX & BANK PLANTING</u>		\$60.00
<u>REUNING POOL</u>		
		\$1753.00
		\$262.95
		\$2015.95
		2130.95

"FLOWER BOX & BANK PLANTING \$60.00"

ELIZABETH SHORT AUTOPSY -

The reference to Elizabeth Short being forced to ingest feces was originally included in my 2002 autopsy summary, in *Black Dahlia Avenger as follows:*

“According to several separately reported sources which cannot be confirmed but are reported to be verbatim copies of the autopsy report...”

“The stomach contents were found to contain mostly feces and an unidentified “greenish brown granular matter.” (Investigator’s Note- This would indicate that the suspect forced the victim to ingest fecal matter through her mouth before being slain.)

(In 2006 the L.A. County Coroner’s Office released the following public statement, “The original 1947 autopsy report on Elizabeth Short is missing from the files and therefore no copy is available.”)

T.D. in his e-mail asks rhetorically, “Could the green granular material inside her stomach been left over steer manure that she was forced to eat as part of an act of sado-humiliation?”

I would answer- YES! I believe that was his exact- **INTENT.**

Elizabeth Short’s crime lives in infamy because IT WAS A TORTURE-MURDER OF THE HIGHEST ORDER. HER KILLER WAS A SOPHISTICATED SADIST WHO WENT TO EXTREMES TO MAKE SURE THE PUBLIC WOULD BE HORRIFIED AND OUTRAGED. HER KILLER WANTED TO INSURE THAT HIS CRIME WOULD BE FOREVER REMEMBERED AS— A MASTERPIECE IN HORROR.

Below is a summary of what we KNOW occurred during the killer’s drawn-out ritualistic torture-slaying of Elizabeth Short in the early morning hours of January 15, 1947. These specific acts of sadism are so extreme and the signatures so unique that they set this killer totally apart from your “average sexual psychopath.” Included in his acts were:

- ✓ Bound feet and hands with rope or wire ligature
- ✓ Strangulation to neck leaving ligature marks
- ✓ Blunt force trauma to face and head
- ✓ Scalpel lacerations (5 distinct incisions) to her upper lip
- ✓ Surgically rounded scalpel lacerations to both sides of her mouth
- ✓ Tic-Tac-Toe scalpel cuttings to the right thigh
- ✓ Scalpel laceration/incision (2") near the left nipple
- ✓ Scalpel lacerations and cutting away of some pubic hair and insertion of it into anus
- ✓ Cigar or cigarette burns (at least 8) to her back
- ✓ Scalpel incision from umbilicus to supra-public area in imitation of a hysterectomy (4 ½")
- ✓ Scalpel incision and removal of large section of left thigh and insertion of it into vagina.
- ✓ Surgical removal of right breast (Not believed recovered at autopsy –possibly retained by suspect as “trophy”)
- ✓ Sexual anal-rape using unknown object. (Sodomy)
- ✓ Surgical bisection of body (Hemicorpectomy) by incision through the intervertebral disks between the 2nd and 3rd lumbar vertebrae.
- ✓ Washing and scrub down of nude body using coconut fiber brush

Having listed the known acts of torture, It takes very little imagination to speculatively add to that list the forced feeding of **Bandini Steer Manure** or **Bandini Fertilite** from a nearly empty bag of fertilizer – perhaps, recently used by the gardener in his inner-courtyard landscaping at the Franklin House. Certainly, this fertilizer would match the coroner's description of, "feces and or a greenish-brown granular matter" found in her stomach.

Landscaped gardens Franklin House



Photos from a 1949-1950 sales brochure prepared by George Hodel for the sale of his, "SHANGRI-LA", Franklin House. Note heavily landscaped interior and exterior gardens.

(SEE FAQ 77 for related info)