

## FAQ 80

### 80.1

CONFIDENTIAL

# 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 attached fifteen page 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 original pages of the DA's transcription of the secret wire recordings. The original tape recorded bugging of the Hodel residence was conducted by a joint DA/LAPD taskforce of 18 detectives. The stakeout was ongoing 24/7 for over five-weeks from Feb. 15, 1950- March 27, 1950, (1872 man hours) and terminated only because Dr. Hodel fled the country. By that time detectives had recorded over 40 wire spools of his personal conversations. The DA's original summary resulted in 147 pages of transcription. In the pages that follow I have kept the original 39-day timeline intact, and included those statements relevant to criminal activity, payoffs to law enforcement, and the Black Dahlia murder investigation.

## 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

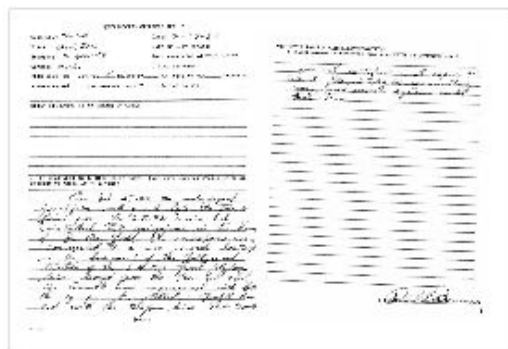


L. A. P. D. Hwd Police Station circa 1950



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

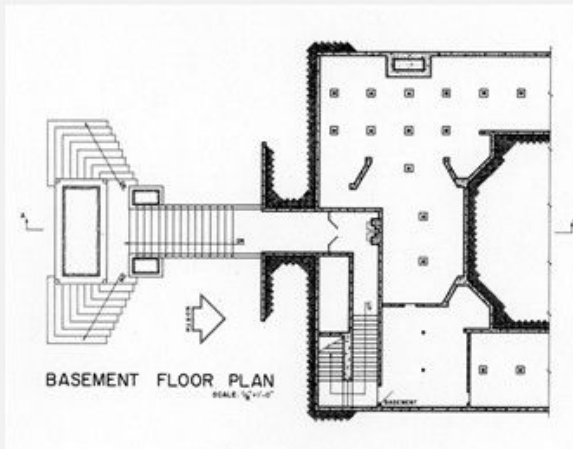
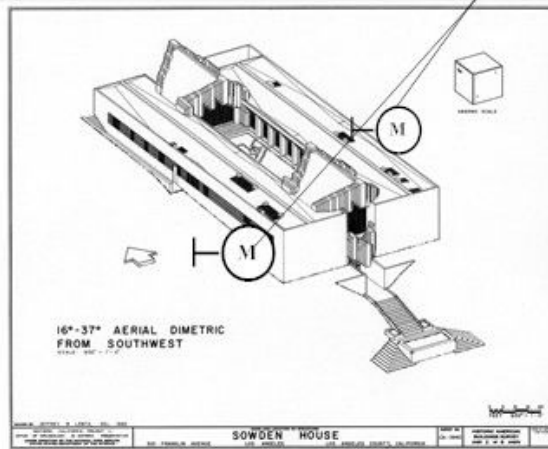
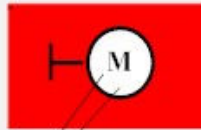
BRIEF STATEMENT AS TO RESULTS TO DATE: (indicate present status if being brought to trial at this time)

"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."

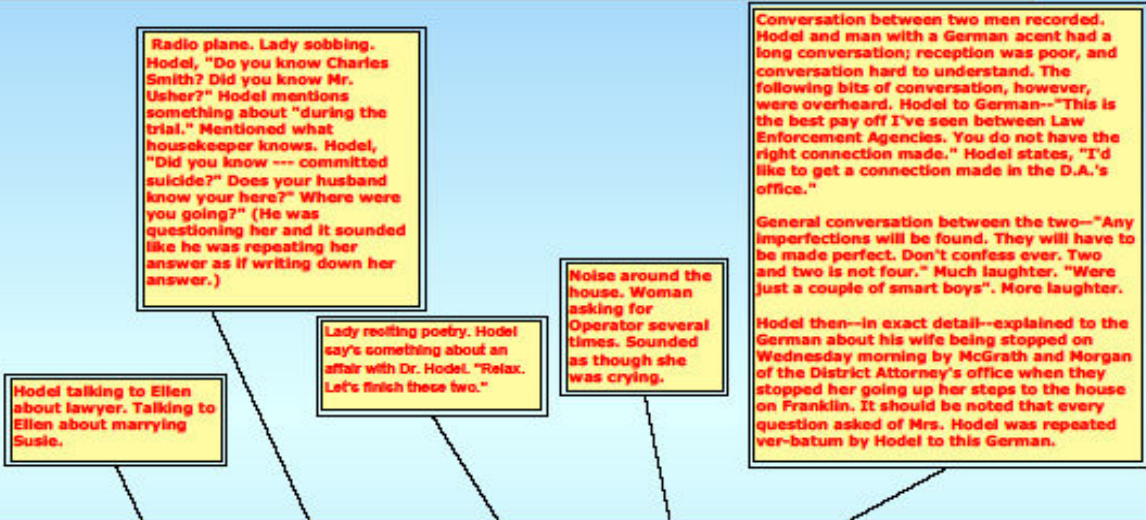
Signed--David E. Bronson

### 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.



**L. A. COUNTY D.A.—HODEL/BLACK DAHLIA FILES**  
**D.A./LAPD electronic & physical surveillance of Dr. George Hodel 1950**  
**18 detectives—24/7—5+weeks (terminated due to suspect's unexpected departure from U.S.)**  
**(Excerpts of officers verbatim entries from D.A. transcripts, including misspellings shown in double borders and red type.)**



Feb 1950	15 2:00 p.m.	18 10:15 a.m. BIMSON (Intermittent recordings while set being installed)	18 12:30 a.m. Crowley LAPD on duty ( wire spool 1)	18 1:15 a.m. (wire spool 2)	18 4:20 p.m. F. Hronek-J. McGrath D.A.'s office on duty	18 7:35 p.m.			
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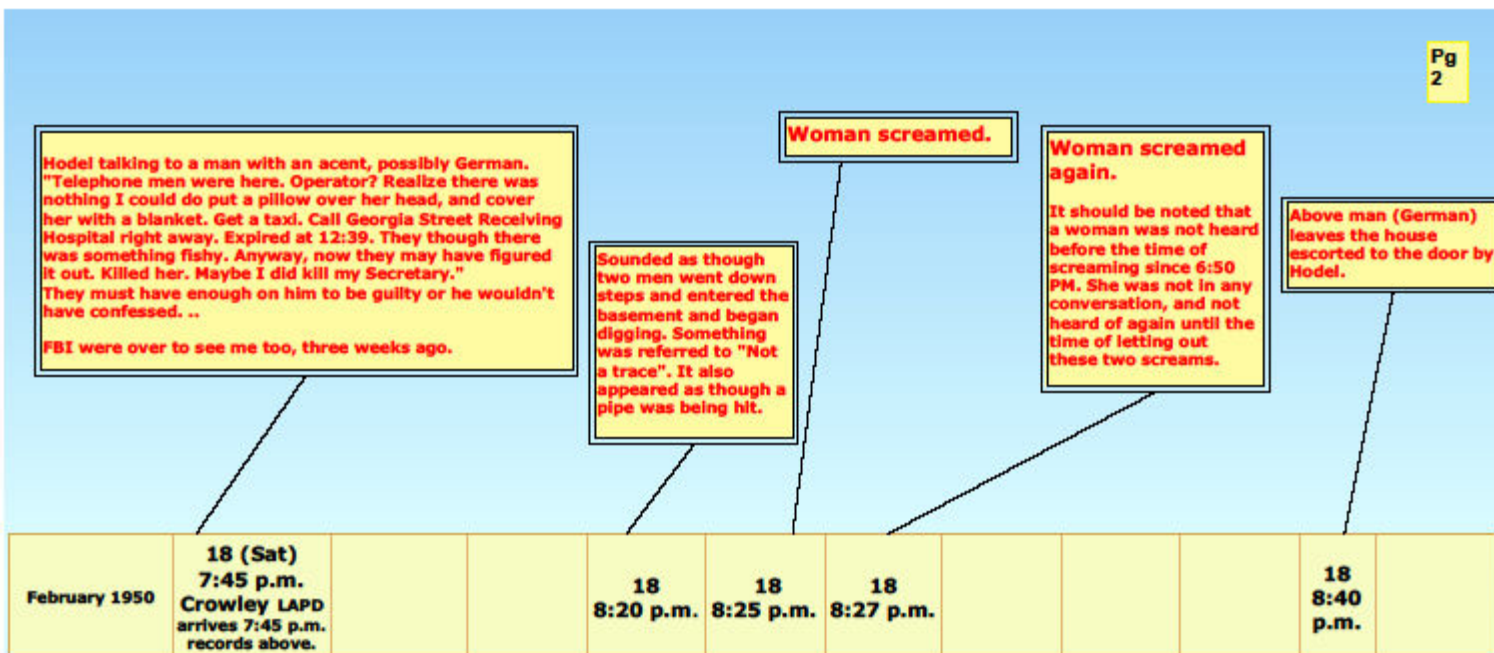
**2006 AUTHOR NOTES ON INVESTIGATION**

\*Feb 15- Police microphones installed while Dr. Hodel is being questioned by detectives at the downtown DA's office, Hall of Justice.

DA investigator Walter Morgan shims locked front door of Hodel residence. Team of investigators enter residence and place two microphones in walls of 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 the day following Hodel's arrest for incest, and charged with performing the abortion. On March 20, 1950 D.A. investigators Lt. Jemison and Walter Morgan would interview Smith's girlfriend, who witnessed a \$1,000 cash payoff to Smith by Hodel, at the Franklin House. The payoff was made on Dec. 29, 1949, just four days after Hodel's "acquittal." Smith, implicated and identified by the teenager 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, the very first day of recorded conversations we have George Hodel admitting to the murder of Elizabeth Short, payoffs to law enforcement and 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 propounded to him at that time. One statement made to the German was as follows: "Supposin' I did kill the Black Dahlia. 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".



**2006 AUTHOR NOTES ON INVESTIGATION**

Of the forty-days of Hodel recorded conversations, these words, heard on Feb. 18 are unquestionably, the most ominous. What the officers are here recording could well have been a murder in progress. Our time-line established three hours earlier that an unidentified woman is crying and on several occasions, attempts to call the telephone operator. Nothing more is heard from her until the two separate screams, just minutes apart. These are accompanied by sounds of a pipe hitting an object and sounds of digging in the basement, along with admonished "not to leave a trace." (NB: In 1950, the basement in our home was earth, not cement.) Ten minutes later the man with a German accent leaves the residence. Nothing further is heard re. the woman. No mention of her ever leaving the residence. Speaking as a trained police officer, it is incomprehensible to my understanding, why the detectives, listening to what is obviously a serious assault in progress-- took NO ACTION. The location was 5 minutes away. Police procedure demands you kick the door in and make a rescue. Why was this not done? Did a murder occur? Likely, we will never know.

Dr. Hodel's earlier, 7:45 p.m. statements to the German amount to his admissions to committing a separate murder. LAPD in 2003 confirmed that George Hodel was suspected of overdosing his secretary, but would provide no name or further information. I have since identified the victim as, RUTH SPAULDING, secretary to George Hodel. Coroner's reports verify she was brought in to Georgia Street Receiving Hospital, under suspicious circumstances and pronounced dead at approximately 12:39 a.m. , on May 10, 1945. Spaulding likely knew that George Hodel was seeing and possibly medically treating Elizabeth Short at that time. She could and certainly would have provided that info to detectives 18 months later, had she still been alive. (Thus, the relevance of the earlier statement, "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 says a manchurian princess gave it to him. He says 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 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.

	19	19	19	20	22	22			
February 1950	12:00 p.m. Jemison D.A.'s office (spool 5)	3:00 p.m.	4:54 p.m. (Hronek on duty)	9:10 p.m. (Crowley, LAPD relieves Walter Morgan)	2:10 a.m. Brechel, LAPD on duty	2:45 a.m.			

**2006 AUTHOR NOTES ON INVESTIGATION**

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, surrealist artist, Man Ray and his wife, Juliet, and writer/author, Henry Miller.

I believe Rexroth's question as to "M," refers to EMILIA, George Hodel's ex-wife then living in San Francisco. (37-years later, in 1987, Emilia, still living in the S. F Bay area, would take her own life by ingesting an overdose of barbiturates.)



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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".

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 \$750.00." Trinkets. Hodel-Had it insured for \$104,000. Allimony payments \$300 month. Getting it reduced.

(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."

(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's office on duty (spool 14)			24 4:25 p.m. Hronek, DA's office on duty (spool 14)	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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**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, 5121 Franklin Ave., according to police.

The burglar entered the home through a rear bedroom window. Dr. Hodel described the antique as 11 by 8 by 3 1/4 inches, bearing about 50 Chinese characters carved on a dark gray stone.

**2006 AUTHOR NOTES ON INVESTIGATION**

George Hodel's conversation with "Powers" could possibly be Dep. District Attorney, Joseph Powers, then an active D.A. involved in the prosecution of corrupt officials and cops. (Guarantee Finance Co.) As relates to the 10:30 p.m. statements re. "trinkets." This was not the first "insurance scam" committed by George Hodel. A Nov. 20, 1947 Los Angeles Times article (right) reports that Dr. Hodel made a police report, that a valuable "art object", described as a 1400-year-old Chinese sacrificial tablet 11"x5"x3 1/2", was taken from the Franklin House in 1947. My father while in China in 1946 as a medical officer with UNRRA bought and shipped back dozens of Chinese art and statues, using his diplomatic immunity to get them out of the country. In the 1947 "burglary" he claimed the Chinese sacrificial tablet was valued at \$25,000. In post war U.S. dollars he may have purchased it for as little as \$50.00?

Los Angeles Times  
Nov. 20, 1947

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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 penecillin who are more apt to get the rash on the second----" Man- "She was Queen of Burbank."

...(Juvenile officers observed a 41 cream 4 door Buick parked in front of Hodel's residence at this time. license #7S1014 registered to Etoyle 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 penecillin. (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	27 1:14 a.m.		
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#### 2006 AUTHOR NOTES ON INVESTIGATION

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."

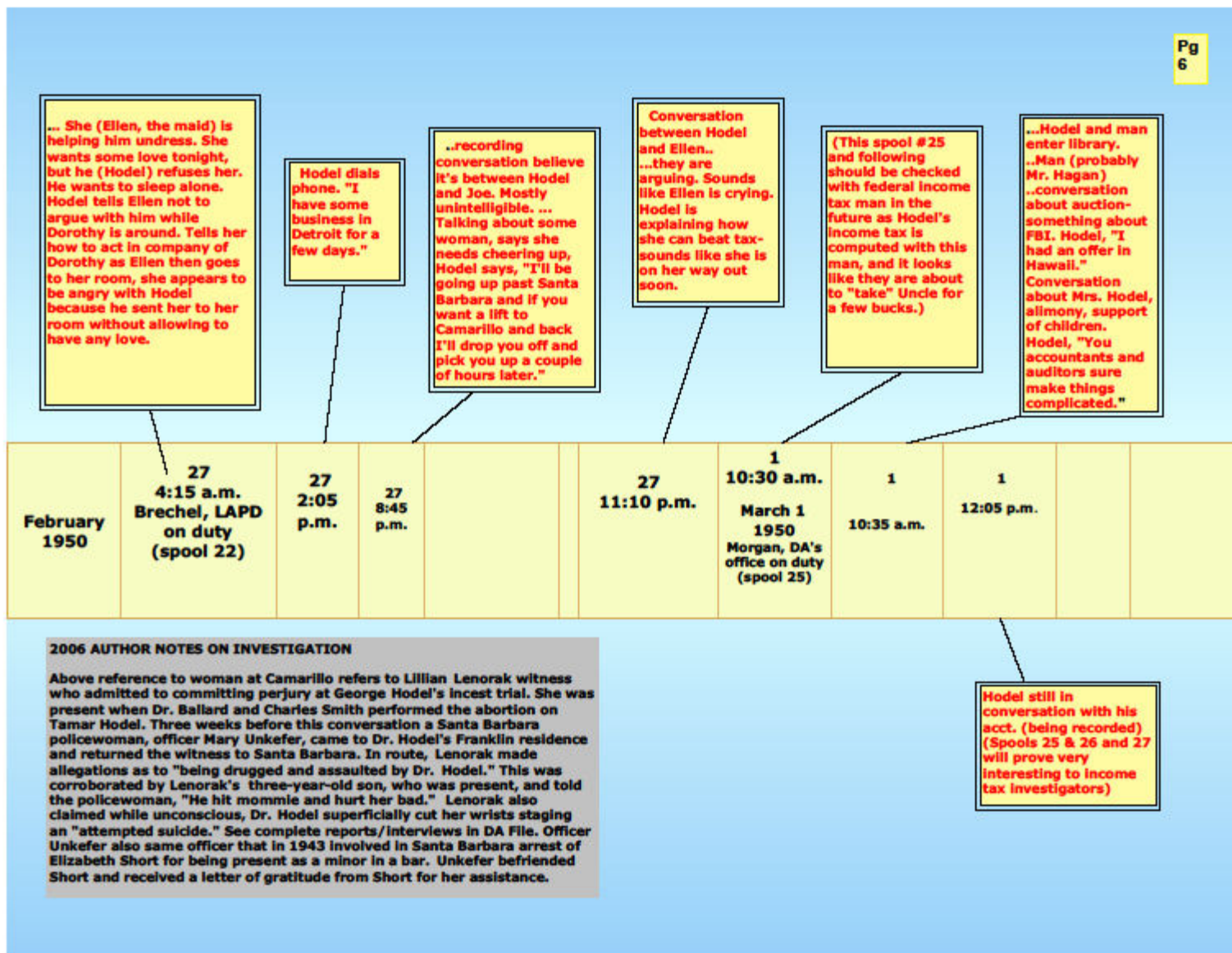
L.A. Times Feb. 27, 1950

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

The explosive complaint for divorce in a suit by George Hodel, 37, against his former protegee, Theodore Kolline, 46, centers on the alleged incestuous relationship between the two men.

The two men were first introduced in 1942 when Kolline, then a struggling composer, was invited to write music for the film "The Sign of the Cross" by Hodel. The two men became fast friends and Kolline, who was then a struggling composer, was invited to write music for the film "The Sign of the Cross" by Hodel. The two men became fast friends and Kolline, who was then a struggling composer, was invited to write music for the film "The Sign of the Cross" by Hodel.

When they first met, the two men were both struggling composers. Kolline, who was then a struggling composer, was invited to write music for the film "The Sign of the Cross" by Hodel. The two men became fast friends and Kolline, who was then a struggling composer, was invited to write music for the film "The Sign of the Cross" by Hodel.



... She (Ellen, the maid) is helping him undress. She wants some love tonight, but he (Hodel) refuses her. He wants to sleep alone. Hodel tells Ellen not to argue with him while Dorothy is around. Tells her how to act in company of Dorothy as Ellen then goes to her room, she appears to be angry with Hodel because he sent her to her room without allowing to have any love.

Hodel dials phone. "I have some business in Detroit for a few days."

...recording conversation believe it's between Hodel and Joe. Mostly unintelligible. ... Talking about some woman, says she needs cheering up, Hodel says, "I'll be going up past Santa Barbara and if you want a lift to Camarillo and back I'll drop you off and pick you up a couple of hours later."

Conversation between Hodel and Ellen... they are arguing. Sounds like Ellen is crying. Hodel is explaining how she can beat tax-sounds like she is on her way out soon.

(This spool #25 and following should be checked with federal income tax man in the future as Hodel's income tax is computed with this man, and it looks like they are about to "take" Uncle for a few bucks.)

...Hodel and man enter library. ...Man (probably Mr. Hagan) ...conversation about auction-something about FBI. Hodel, "I had an offer in Hawaii." Conversation about Mrs. Hodel, alimony, support of children. Hodel, "You accountants and auditors sure make things complicated."

Hodel still in conversation with his acct. (being recorded) (Spools 25 & 26 and 27 will prove very interesting to income tax investigators)

<p>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.</p>	<p>Hodel and Ellen have conversation in Spanish. They are in bedroom having sex intercourse or something, probably perversion. Sounds like he got another blow job.</p>	<p>...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 losses "\$6,000 in 1946, I sold the clinic to pay for the losses of that year. Now, I must sell the house. Hodel, something about penitentiary. Noises in background.</p>	<p>3 12:07 p.m. Sullivan DA's office on duty</p>	<p>3 1:11 p.m.</p>	<p>4 1:21 p.m.</p>	<p>4 2:45 p.m.</p>	<p>4 3:26 p.m.</p>	
<p>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.</p>				<p>Conversation with woman. (wife) She's talking about the children. Hodel talks about having wife and children with him again.</p>		<p>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.</p>		<p>Pg 7</p>
<p>Hodel to man, "In about 2 or 3 weeks I'll probably be on way abroad.</p>				<p>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."</p>				

**2006- AUTHOR NOTES ON INVESTIGATION**

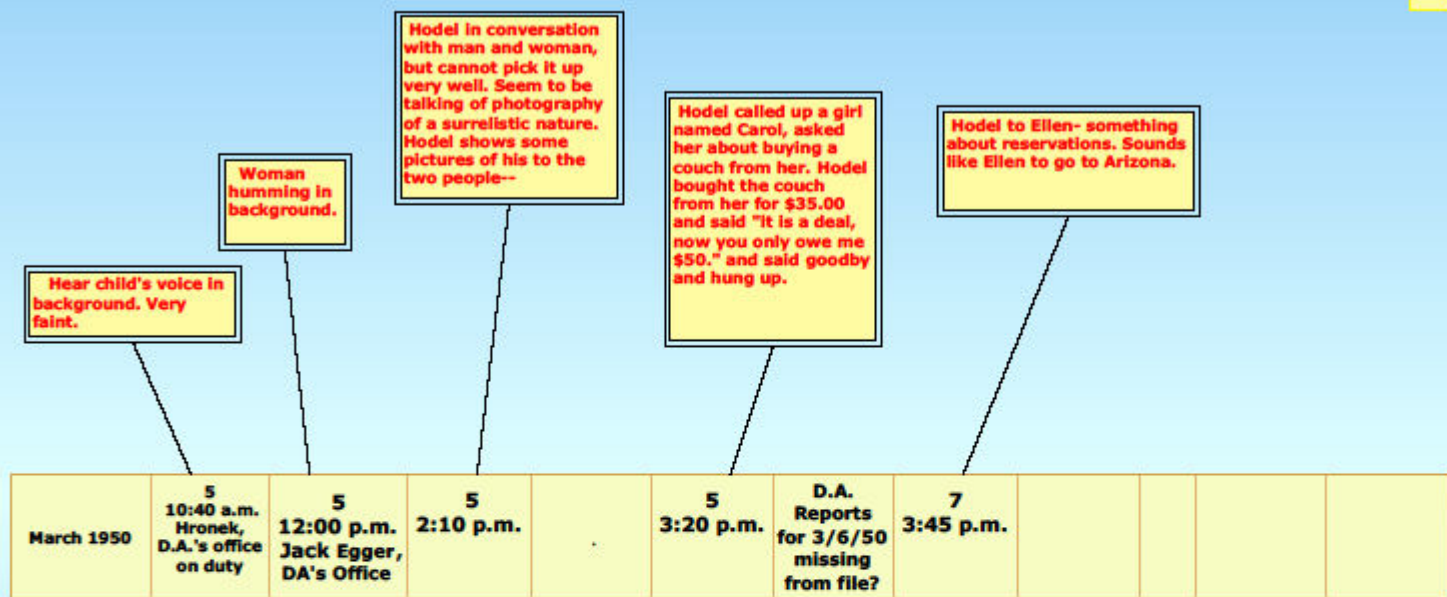
Based on above response it is obvious George Hodel was just guessing that his phone was "tapped". When maid, Ellen asks him "how he knows?" he responds by saying, " he is just talking." Hodel's reference to "they" obviously refers to, LAPD & DA detectives. Clearly, he has no suspicion that the rooms 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 his 14-year-old daughter, Tamar. Shearman was later arrested for perjury when she changed her sworn statements and refused to testify against Dr. Hodel. In 1950 she plead guilty to lesser charges of "contributing to delinquency of a minor." George Hodel true to his word, left the U.S. later that month, (Mar. 28), leaving the surveillance teams "staked out" on an empty house.

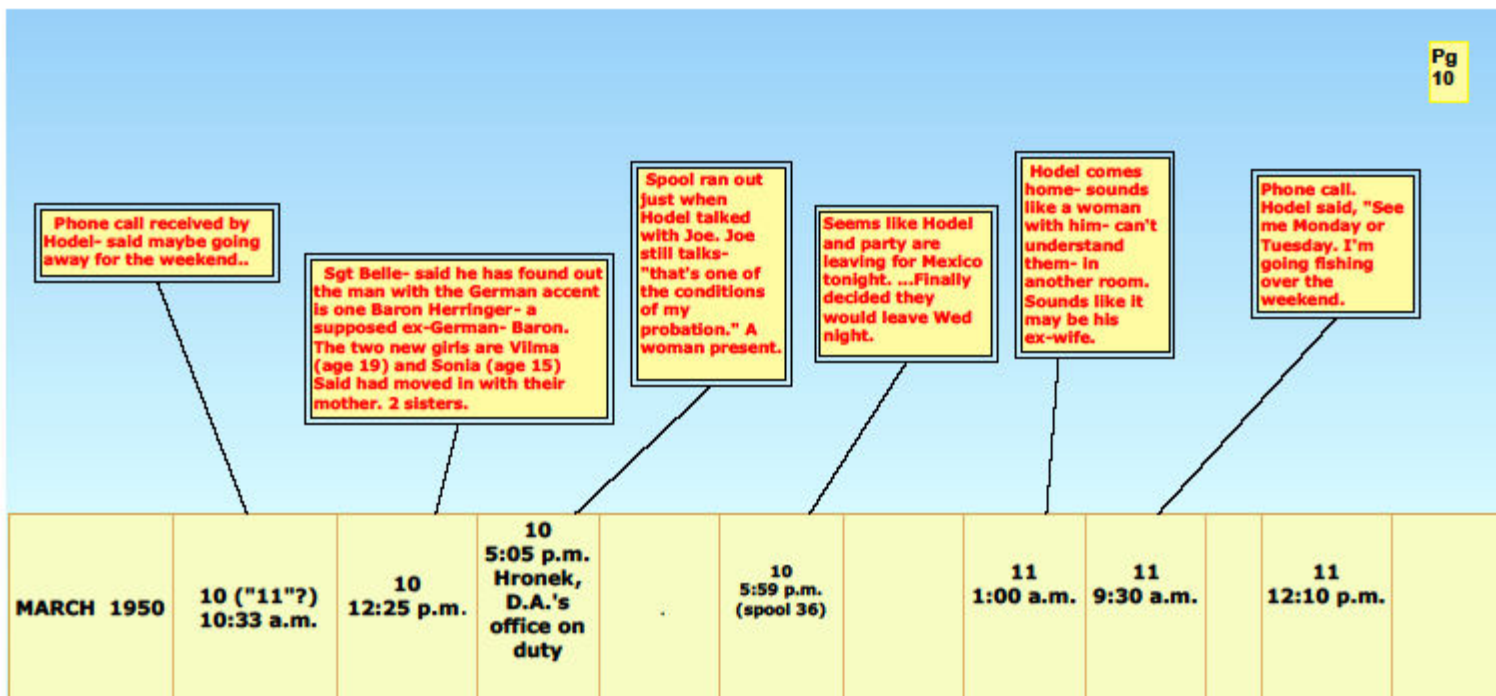
**Feb. 1, 1950 Barbara Shearman given probation ordered not to see/associate with Dr. Hodel**

**Probation Given in Morals Case**

Barbara Sherman, 34, was given probation for a year and ordered not to see or associate with Dr. Hodel. She was arrested for perjury in the incest trial. The court found her guilty of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. She was sentenced to probation for one year. The court also ordered her to pay a fine of \$100. She was released from custody on Feb. 1, 1950.







**2006 AUTHOR NOTES ON INVESTIGATION**

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

Research attempts to identify "Baron Herring" have proved negative to date. Name may be misspelled, phonetic, or incorrect?

Roomer Joe Barrett now placed on probation for "contributing to delinquency of a minor" re. Tamar Hodel. (D.A. investigators using him as an "Informant" inside the Franklin residence.)

Mrs. Hodel doing a lot of talking. ...Sounds like she might be reading from a book or script.

Woman dials phone. Sounded like she said, "This is Elsie". Talked about Vincent Price. Also, about M.G.M. Talked about John getting her a job. "Say Bob", I found a story. A story of a black saint, a negro. Do you know John Farrow? I thought of him because of his Catholicism. I met him years ago. I have the babies down at the beach. But, I'd love to see you. (It must be Dorothy talking) You're at home all day. Oh, wonderful darling then I'll get to see you." End of conversation.

Hodel and Dorothy conversing in background. Getting ready to leave.

MARCH 1950	11 12:10 P.M. Sullivan, D.A.'s office on duty (spool 36)	11 1:59 p.m.			11 3:15 p.m.						
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Dorothy Hodel previously wrote scripts for MGM, RKO, and other Hwd studios. "John" is her ex-husband, John Huston, whom she did rewrites for as recently as 1947. (*Treasure of Sierra Madre*) It is significant that she mentions film director, "John Farrow". Farrow is relevant to the investigation for the following reasons.

In the early 1940's, film director, John Farrow, then married to actress Maureen O'Sullivan, had an affair with LILLIAN LENORAK, then a young dancer with the famed Ruth St. Denis studio. A son "John" was born out of this relationship, and was the three-year-old child who witnessed the assault on his mother by George Hodel at the Franklin House! ("He hit mommie hard and hurt her.") John Lenorak in adulthood, changed his name to Farrow and is the half-brother of Mia Farrow.

Tragically, John Jr's mother, Lillian Lenorak was murdered near Palm Springs in 1959. A suspect was arrested, and it is believed this murder WAS NOT RELATED TO GEORGE HODEL.

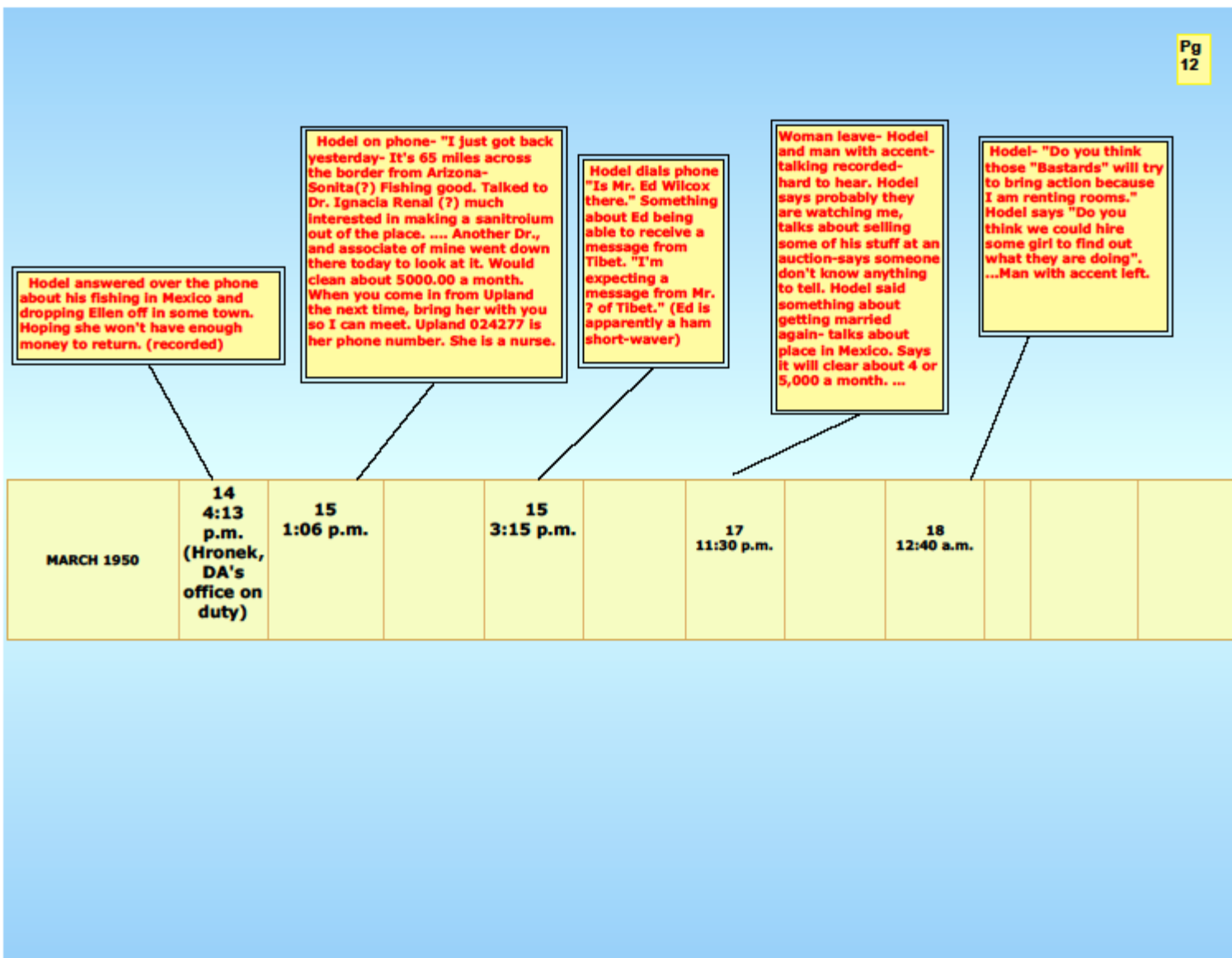
Three months after this police surveillance ended, Director John Farrow released a film-noir (made in 1949) WHERE DANGER LIVES. The story involves: a woman who attempts suicide, a young doctor who falls in love with her, a murder, and their fleeing to Mexico. Cast in a bit part in the film was an attractive Eurasian actress, Kiyu Cuddy, the ex-lover of George Hodel, and future wife to be (1962) of, Steve Hodel.



Lillian Lenorak & son, John. Lillian as dancer.



John Farrow film, made in 1949, released in July, 1950



Hodel answers door bell, lets in woman- he talks to her about renting her a room in return he will knock off the rent.. Phone rings- Hodel says "Mrs. Hodel is out- I can take message. He said he is going down to the beach about 4 PM today- talks about renting room.

...  
 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 Wednesday. 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 Wednesday. He is going 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's office on duty (spool 37)	20 10:15 a.m. McGrath, DA's office on duty (spool 38)	.	.	20 10:50 p.m. Meyer, LAPD, on duty	21 10:55 a.m. McGrath, DA's office on duty	21 11:05 a.m.	21 1:00 p.m.
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**2006 AUTHOR NOTES ON INVESTIGATION**

Here we have Dr. Hodel actually admitting on tape that he has performed many surgical abortions! (I've done lots of them.") The term currettement is synonymous with what is known as a "D&C". Dilation & Curettage. 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 anaesthetic. A 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 1940's "politics". Joe Barrett mentions Dr. Hill as owning a ball bonds company, and was the one who put up the bail on Barrett's "contributing" arrest. The following day, after bailing him out of jail, Dr. Hill invited Joe to accompany him to a swank gathering, where Joe recalls the mayor, police chief and other City officials were in attendance.

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 12-4 P.M.	22 6:10 p.m. Egger, DA's office on duty			23 7:45 p.m.	24 1:15 a.m.														
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#### 2006 AUTHOR NOTES ON INVESTIGATION

\* Page 143 of DA transcripts DA 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 and with her mother in San Francisco, as the birthday wishes would have been meant for- TAMAR who was born March 24, 1935, and would have turned 15 on this date.

Hodel and Baron (man with accent) came in talking low- can't hear (recording) only stays few minutes and leaves. I was wrong- was in bathroom. Sounded like Hodel said something about Black Dallah. Baron said something about FBI Then talked about Tibet- sound like Hodel wants to get out of the country. mentioned passport- Hodel giving Baron dope on how to write to Tibet. Hodel talking about Mexico- going down and take pictures and write a story. Hodel seems afraid about something. Hodel says his Sanatarium- If he got is started in Mexico- would be "Safe."

Spool ran out- changing- talking about woman. ..Hodel says he wants money and power- talking about Chine- talking about selling some of Hodel's paintings or something. Hodel talking about picture police have of him and some girl- thought he had destroyed them all- wire quit at 50- new one going on- not much talk.

Had trouble with one spool. Had to use another- still talking about selling paintings.  
... Sounds like Baron left- don't know if there is anything on these records or not.

Hodel- some woman come in- also the Baron. Hodel and Baron talking low-

All quiet. Good nite.

MARCH 1950	25 11:10 p.m. Meyer, LAPD, on duty		26 12:00 a.m. (spool 39) .		26 1:00 a.m. (spool 40)	26 8:00 p.m. Meyer, LAPD on duty (Spool 41)	26 11:55 p.m.	27 2:00 a.m.
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**2006- AUTHOR NOTES ON INVESTIGATION**

**THE DA/ LAPD SURVEILLANCE/STAKE-OUT UNEXPECTEDLY ENDS HERE, WITH GEORGE HODEL DECIDING THINGS ARE TOO HOT, He leaves the country, literally leaving the DA/ LAPD stakeout team with their microphones in the walls of the Franklin House.**

On this last night we hear mention of Hodel "wanting to get out of the country", the "FBI", "Black Dahlia", and pictures police have of a girl which Hodel "thought he had destroyed."

Just four days earlier, on March 22, 1950 DA Lt. Frank Jemison interviewed Dorothy Hodel at her Santa Monica residence 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 Hodel 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 report Jemison states the actual wording was, "They will never be able to prove I did that murder.") Dorothy Hodel stonewalls Jemison, denying any knowledge, then provided George Hodel with the fact that investigators had the photographs etc. See complete DA transcripts of Dorothy Hodel interview of 3/22/50.

The below article appeared in the Los Angeles Daily News on March 31, 1950 just 8 days after Lt. Jemison showed Elizabeth Short's picture to Dorothy Hodel and informed her that his officers had witnesses connecting George Hodel and Elizabeth Short together and who could place her at the Franklin House before her murder. The date of this article is just four days after George Hodel fled his residence which unexpectedly terminated the DA's forty-day electronic surveillance and stakeout.

In the spring of 1950, the public did not know the name of the suspect(s) Lt. Jemison was "stalking" and about to arrest. But, today, thanks to the DA secret Hodel-Black Dahlia transcripts,--we do. Clearly, the man he was "stalking" and about to arrest and obtain a formal murder complaint against was-

**Dr. George Hill Hodel.**

According to Lt. Jemison's partner, Sgt. Walter Morgan, the day following the publication of this article (April 1, 1950) both he and Lt. Jemison were effectively taken off the Dahlia investigation and ordered to turn over their evidence to LAPD and Dep. Chief Thad Brown. The excuse given to them for their removal was ostensibly, "the leaking of the disappearance of bloody clothing to the press." Morgan in 2004 publicly confirmed "that at the time (1950) a cover-up of the investigation was suspected by many active DA investigators." Morgan and Jemison would quietly attempt to continue their own independent DA investigation into 1951 until Lt. Jemison was ordered to officially "close it.")



# Daily News



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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER FOR INDEPENDENT PEOPLE

SEVEN CENTS  
TEL. RICHMOND 4565

## D. A. aide stalks mutilation killers

Dist. Atty. William E. Simpson said today one of his investigators is making "very good progress" in a renewed investigation of the unsolved mutilation murders of Jeanne French and Elizabeth Short, the Black Dahlia.

Simpson disclosed investigator Frank C. Jemison has been working several months on the cases,

independent of the Police department. Jemison was assigned to the task at the request of the 1949 County Grand jury.

The district attorney added his aide will continue with his inquiry "until he thinks he has sufficient evidence against a party or parties, and then will ask for formal murder complaints."

The blasted body of Elizabeth Short, 22, was found Jan. 15, 1947, in a vacant lot in the southwest sector.

Exactly one month later the body of Mrs. French, 45, obscenely marked with lipstick, was discovered in a field in West Los Angeles.

Chief of Detectives Thad Brown, meanwhile, discounted reports that vital evidence in the French slaying, in the form of blood-stained clothing, had disappeared from the West Los Angeles detective bureau.

Brown said the clothing, belonging to a short-lived suspect in the case, never was recorded as evidence because its owner was absolved of any connection with the crime two weeks after it occurred.

—CHECK CLASSIFIED AD—

Daily News 3/31/50

Subsequent to this March 31, 1950 article documenting that Lt. Jemison “was stalking the suspect” and preparing to submit a case for prosecution, neither Lt. Jemison, nor anyone from LAPD or law enforcement ever again had contact with George Hill Hodel. **(In other words, investigators, after establishing that George Hodel and Elizabeth Short were acquaintances and establishing that she had been to the Franklin House prior to her disappearance and after hearing his taped admissions to her murder,--Dr. Hodel was never contacted, confronted or questioned regarding any of these facts.)**

However, four of the top law enforcement officers involved in the original 1947 investigation (LAPD Chief William Parker and his Chief of Detectives, Thad Brown, LASO Under Sheriff James Downey, and DA Lt. Frank Jemison) would each privately and independently confirm that, **“the Dahlia case was solved and that her killer was a doctor that lived in Hollywood on Franklin Avenue, involved in abortions.”**

Dr. George Hodel’s name would not be officially identified and made public for fifty-three years--until the discovery and unlocking of the DA vault and review of the DA-HODEL-BLACK DAHLIA FILES in 2003-post publication of BDA.

In 2003, at a meeting at Parker Center, then active Head Deputy DA Stephen Kay, and I jointly presented an overview of the facts and investigative evidence to LAPD’s top brass as well as detectives from Robbery-Homicide Division. Then active, Deputy Chief of Detectives, James McMurray was present and subsequent to the review agreed with prosecutor Steve Kay that the facts were sufficient to obtain a filing against George Hodel –were he still alive. **Chief McMurray ordered his Robbery-Homicide detectives to “immediately check out the DA files and then clear and close the Black Dahlia case unless they could find some major holes in Hodel’s investigation.”** (Chief McMurray’s order was ignored and put on a back-burner by detectives pending Carr’s review of the DA files, which did not occur until 2005, a full year after the briefing. Chief McMurray retired in 2005.)

In a 2004, Robbery-Homicide Detective Brian Carr, (self-proclaimed, “gatekeeper of the Dahlia files”) was ordered to cooperate and provide an interview with CBS’ 48-Hours for their pending investigation, *“Black Dahlia Confidential.”* Reluctantly, detective Carr informed investigative reporter, Erin Moriarty that **“all the physical evidence and original Black Dahlia Avenger letters as well as George Hodel’s fingerprints have disappeared from the files and therefore LAPD is unable to proceed with the investigation as relates to DNA.”** (Carr further acknowledged that the critical Hodel tape recordings and 14 witness interviews personally turned over to LAPD by Lt. Jemison, **“are not in LAPD custody.”**

In 2006 Detective Carr informed the press that in his opinion **“the Dahlia case will never be solved and due to other investigative demands on his time, he is unable to allot the time to either prove or disprove Hodel’s investigation.”**