6

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 1955 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 16 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 spoofs 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"

Case No. 30-1268 Date: 2/27/50
Title: Short, Eliz
Suspects: Dr. Geo. Hodel 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

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.
DA/LAPD MICROPHONE INSTALLATION LOCATIONS

Two microphones (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.
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AUTHOR NOTES
[Bloted statements are verbatim as they appear on original transcripts including spelling errors]
Feb 15 - Police microphones installed white Dr. Hodel is being questioned by detectives at the DA detectives
downtown office at the Hall of Justice. DA investigator Walter Morgan shine locked down on Hodel
residence and placed two microphones inside the walls in living and master bedroom.
Charles Smih, referred to above, was an abstinent friend of Hodel's, and in Sept. 1949, assisted in the abortion
of his 14-year-old daughter, Tamra. Smith and a Dr. Francis O. 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 J.L. Jenison and Walter Morgan interview Charles Smith's girlfriend,
Mildred Bray, and discovery she witnessed a $100 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 Tamra is quoted in J.L. Jenison's report as saying:
"Someday I'm going to fix Tamara. I'm going to cut a chunk out of the
softhair and fry it and eat it in front of her eyes and then put 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 arrests.

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 payoff I've ever seen between Law
Enforcement
Agencies. You do not have the slightest 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 contuse ever. Two and two is not four."
Mark 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. Should be noted that every question
asked of Mrs. Hodel was rejected verbatim by Hodel to
this German.

He (Hodel) then began to explain to the
German about his recent trail—making
statements that, "They're 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 presented to him
during that time. One statement made to the
German was as follows: "Suppose I did kill
the Blak 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?"
Woman screamed.

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.

AUTHOR NOTES

[Blood 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 home 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 this 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 D.A.] 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 Harringal] 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 certainly 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..."
Lady talking in distance (sounds like maid's voice) It sounded as though she said, "are there any more cops around?" Heard no answer.
Conversations with a patient. Talking with a man about some special treatment apparently syphilis and marital troubles... The man leaves with instructions to call Wednesday.
Hodel & Ellen enter room. Hodel—will you leave the light on there. I'm just a little nervous. Hodel says he is worried. Ellen admires a Chinese box. Hodel says a Manchuan 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 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.

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 Donere Hodel as well as other Franklin house guests such as surrealist 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.
Phoile

Hodel answered.

Ellen took over.

Hodel don't tell you not to tell

people things over the

telephone...Ellen said

something about the FBI

investigating us.

Hodel-

"Oh, something about the

FBI...Ellen didn't tell you

not to tell people things

over the telephone."

(Hodel) Turns phone

(Ends)

Hodel mentions

something about

MURDER.
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): "Suspicious." 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."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 1950 27</th>
<th>12:00 a.m.</th>
<th>12:25 a.m.</th>
<th>12:35 a.m.</th>
<th>12:50 a.m.</th>
<th>1:14 a.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**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.

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

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

Hodel: "I'll really have to ride herd on them. 4 young chicks in a strange country.
Man: "He-4 young girls and we two-what a combination..."

Hodel: "You better take a generous supply of penicillin. [Talking to same party]"

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**L.A. Times Feb 27, 1950**

Composer Kolline and Protege Feud in Explosive Divorce Suit

Composer Theodore Kolline, a protege of opera composer Georges Lang, was arrested today in connection with the Black Dahlia murder. Kolline, who is also a composer, poet and painter, was arrested in his Hollywood home after being "suspiciously" seen in the area on the day of the murder. The murder victim, a young woman, was found dead in a car in the Hollywood Hills. Kolline is accused of killing the victim, a local actress, and disposing of her body in the car. The car was found abandoned in the desert near the murder scene.

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**Juvenile officers observed a 41 cream 4 door Black parked in front of Hodel's residence at this time. License #751014 registered to Etbslye E Bennett-Legal owner, Hollywood Citizen News.**
...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 Ellen. Mostly unintelligible...Talking about some woman, says she needs chewing up. Hodel says, "I'll be going up pool 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.

February 26, 1960
4:18 p.m.
Brachel, LAPD
On duty (spool 22)

27
2:06 p.m.

27
8:45 p.m.

27
11:10 p.m.

Mar 1
10:30 a.m.
Morgan DA office
on duty (spool 26)

10:35 a.m.
12:05 p.m.

10:25 a.m.
12:06 p.m.

...Hodel and man enter library. ...Man (probably Mr. Hagan) ...conversation about auction-something about FBI. Hodel, "I had an offer in Hawaii."

Conversations about Mrs. Hodel, alimony, support of children.

Hodel, "You accountants and auditors sure make things complicated."

AUTHOR NOTES

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

Above reference to woman at Camarillo refers to Lillian Lenorak, the witness who admitted to committing perjury at George Hodel's incest trial and then later at Dr. Leslie C. Ballard and Charles Smith's trial for performing Tamar abortion. Lillian Lenorak, Officer Mary Unkefer story summarized in previous chapter of this book.
Phone rang. Hodel answered. Wherever he was talking to be said, "Don't say anything on the phone - it is tapped". He had the phone number, and would call tomorrow, said he would have to go out to call if he said the 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 him 1000.00, 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 children.


Hodel answers (recorded) "You're 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 1960
1 11:37 p.m. Meyer, LAPD
2 4:10 a.m. Rachel LAPD (pool 21)
3 12:07 a.m. Sullivan DA
4 1:11 p.m. 1:21 p.m. 2:45 p.m. 3:28 p.m.

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 [Sherman] 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. Sherman 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 "stay away." Hodel tells the man that "She is coming over this P.M." [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-fraud 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 "stuck out" on an empty house.
Hodel in conversation with man and woman, but cannot pick it up very well. Seems to be talking of photography of a surrealistic nature. Hodel shows some pictures of his own to the two people.

Hodel called up a girl named Carol, asked her about buying a couch from her. Hodel bought the couch for $15.00 and said, "It is a deal, now you only owe me $50.00" and said goodbye and hung up.

Hodel to Ellen—something about reservations. Sounds like Ellen to go to Arizona.

Hear child's voice in background. Very faint.

Woman humming in background.

**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.
David B. Hodel phones someone and asks name and exact title of Chief of Staff of Burma and Tibet, wants to know how they are addressed. Name of Minister Public Health of Burma. Goes back to typing.

Hodel talking with man with German accent—talking about going to the auction and buying and selling things...

Officer Bimson and Sgt. Belle checked Hodel’s residence for license plates to find out who man with German accent is—following plates were in sun in front of Hodel’s house:
35 Packard F.E. Mattoon...
47 Chev. Willie Wheeler...
41 Ford Violet Jean Wallen...
36 Packard Marie L. Valia...

March 1950
8 10:30 a.m. McDade DA
8 5:10 p.m. Mayor LAPD
9 2:50 p.m. Breach LAPD

One or two men and about same amount of women—talking to Hodel. Hard to understand—something about place in Mexico not too far from AZ—good roads—something about a Whore House, or sanitarium. 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 knew about noon tomorrow—Friday about trip.

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

The March 10 "she – Camarillo" entry refers to Lillian Lenorak and is independent corroborative 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. This precipitated the dragging and superficial cutting of her wrists, BY OR. HODEL. This staged attempt suicide" by Hodel as document 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.
Phone call received by Hodel—said maybe going away for the weekend.

Sgt. Belle—said he has found out the man with the German accent is one Baron Harringer—a supposed ex-German Baron. The two new girls are Vima (age 19) and Sonia (age 15) said had moved in with their mother. 2 sisters.

Spoke ran out just when Hodel talked with Joe. Joe still talks—'that's one of the conditions of my probation.' A woman present.

Seems like Hodel and party are leaving for Mexico tonight... Finally decided they would leave Wed night.

Hodel comes home—sounds like a woman with him—can't understand them in another room. Sounds like it may be his ex wife.

Phone call. Hodel said, 'See me Monday or Tuesday. I'm going fishing over the weekend.'

March 1980
10:33 a.m. 10
12:35 p.m. 10
5:05 p.m. 10
5:59 p.m. 10
1:00 a.m. 11
9:30 a.m. 11
12:10 p.m. 11

Hronek DA

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

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

Officers misspelled name as "Baron Harringer," 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 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.
Mrs. Hodel doing a lot of talking.
... Sounds like she might be reading from a book or script.

Woman dials phone. Sounds like she's sad.
'There's Else. Talked about Vincent Price. Also, about M.G.M. Talked about John getting her a job. "Say Bob." I found 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 dating then. I'll get to see you." End of conversation.

March 1950
12:16 p.m. Sullivan DA (spool 34)
1:59 p.m.
3:15 p.m. 11

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

Dorothy Hodel previously wrote scripts for MGM, RKO, and other Hollywood studios. "John" is her ex-husband, John Huston, whom she did rewrite for as recently as 1947. (Treasure of the 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 1940s, film director, John Farrow, then married to actress Maureen O'Sullivan, had an affair with Lilian 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 in January, 1950. ("He hit mommie hard and hurt her"). John Lenorak in adulthood changed his name to Farrow and is the half-brother of Mia Farrow. John Farrow Jr. died in 2010.

Tragically, John Lenorak's mother, Lilian, was murdered near Palm Springs in 1959. The crime was a random act committed by a disturbed 21-year-old who was arrested a week later. The Lenorak murder WAS NOT RELATED OR CONNECTED IN ANY WAY TO GEORGE HODEL.

Three months after this police surveillance ended, Director John Farrow released a film-noir [made in 1948] 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, Kiko Cuddy, the ex-lover of George Hodel and the future wife to be [1962] of Steve Hodel.
Hodel on phone: "I just got back yesterday. It's 65 miles across the border from Arizona-Sonora (?) Fishing good. Talked to Dr. Ignacia Renal (?) much interested in making a sanatorium out of the place."

Another Dr. and associates of mine went down there today to look at it. Would clear about 5000.00 month. When you come in from Upland the next time, bring her with you so I can meet. Upland 024277 is her phone number. She is a nurse.

Hodel dials phone: "Is Mr. Ed Wilcox there?" Something about Ed being able to receive a message from Tibet. "I'm expecting a message from Mr. T.? of Tibet." (Ed is apparently a ham short-waver)

Hodel- Woman leaves. Hodel and man with accent talking recorded-hard to hear. Hodel says probably they are watching me, talks about selling some of his stuff at an auction-says someone don't know anything to tell. Hodel said something about getting married again talks about place in Mexico. Says it will clear about 4 or 5.000 a month...

Hodel—Do you think those "Bastards" will try to bring action because I am renting rooms...

Hodel says "Do you think we could hire some girl to find out what they are doing."

Man with accent left.

**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 offer she declines. He also offers to help her find a job. Phone call from Hodel - he is out. Can take message. He says he is going down to the beach about 4pm today to talk about renting room. Hodel again talking to Negro woman. Woman starts talking about doctors. Hodel tells her about his clinic at 17 & Central. Woman said she had a curettage (?) 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 diner 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 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 on someone.

Hodel phones someone about $50.00 a month to pay some woman. Said 'I'm in trouble' want someone who you have a farm.

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 | 10:30 a.m. | Mayor LAPD |
| 21 | 10:05 a.m. | McGrath DA |
| 21 | 11:05 a.m. | |
| 21 | 1:00 p.m. | |

**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 curettage 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 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-out rounds 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.
March 1950

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>12:05 - 4:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>6:10 p.m.</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>7:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>1:15 a.m.</td>
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**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- 9: Talk of trial
27- 9:40 much talk of juggling figures.
27- 12:15 talk about deducting some money as repayment of loans to father and son.
19-22 wire had 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 Dahila

Spool 37: 5:17 Conversation regarding code and mailing: have to be careful.
   Income tax starts at 11 on spool 28

Reference to Mrs. Elbee 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 Math 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 George obviously providing him detailed information about those photos and the DA interview and questions asked.
Hodel and Baron (man with accent) came in talking low—can't hear (recording) only stays few minutes and leaves. I was wrong—in bathroom. Sounded like Hodel said something about Black Dahlia. 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 Sananarium—if he got in started in Mexico—would be "Safe."

Spool ran out—changing—talking about woman. Hodel says he wants money and power—talking about China—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 quilt 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 after the Baron. Hodel and Baron talking low.

All quiet. Good nite.

March 1950

25

11:00 p.m.
Meyer, LAPD

26

10:00 a.m.
(spool 38)

26

11:00 a.m.
LAPD

26

8:00 p.m.
Meyer LAPD

27

2:00 a.m.

AUTHOR NOTES

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

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

He splits, literally leaving the DAILAPD 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 DAILT 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 confided Dorothy with the fact that he had information that she had slated 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 stone-walled Lt. Jemison, denying any knowledge, and lying about not knowing Madi (Mathe) 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.