

## Chapter 22

### TOUCH DNA

“The family of JonBenet Ramsey has been formally cleared of any role in the 6-year-old’s 1996 murder, a Colorado prosecutor announced Wednesday, citing newly discovered DNA evidence.”

*USA Today*  
April 16, 2009

The 2009 *USA Today* article went on to state:

“Boulder, Colorado District Attorney Mary Lacy said in a statement on Wednesday that DNA evidence recovered from the child’s clothing [pajamas] pointed to an “unexplained third party.” Lacy apologized to the family for the suspicions that made their lives “an ongoing living hell.”

... The new evidence, described as “irrefutable” in clearing the Ramseys, would be checked against other profiles in the national DNA database managed by the FBI.”

The new physical evidence was obtained by technicians from *Bode Technology*, in Lorton, Virginia. *Bode* is considered to be one of the top forensic laboratories in the United States and is frequently the lab of choice used by the FBI, and law enforcement agencies across the nation.

The relatively new procedure used by *Bode Labs* in extracting the suspect DNA in the Ramsey investigation is called, “Touch DNA.”

Touch DNA is the collection of skin cells which have been transferred from an individual’s skin to the surface of items it has come in contact with such as the grip of a gun, luggage, a car’s steering wheel, a victim’s clothing, or a ligature used in the commission of a crime.

The collection of the skin cells can be accomplished in various methods such as swabbing, cutting, tape-lift, and scraping.

In the past several years this method of collecting evidence has resulted in a number of successful murder prosecutions as well as aiding in establishing the actual innocence of a number of wrongfully convicted individuals.

## A Search for George Hill Hodel's DNA

In April, 2009 I contacted *Bode Laboratories* and after exchanging telephone calls, letters and e-mails with Dr. Angela Williamson, Director of Forensic Casework, to determine the best method to proceed, the search to isolate and obtain my father's DNA began.

I carefully packaged and forwarded to the Virginia based lab a number of my father's personal effects, some of which had been in my possession for over forty-years. They included: a pair of his *Bally* dress shoes, size 10e, as well as four separate letters written by him over the past decades, all of which contained stamps and envelopes which could potentially yield his DNA.

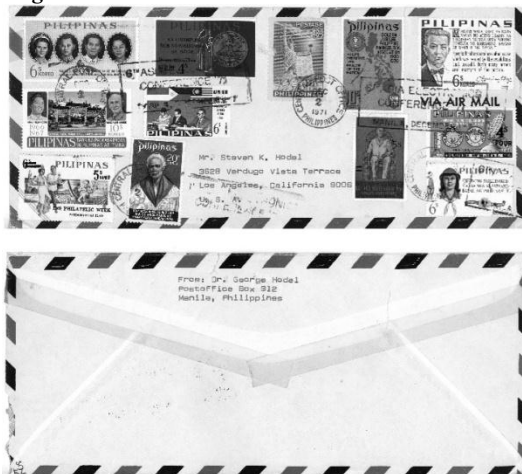
By July, 2010, over a year had elapsed and three of the four items, including the shoes had proved negative for paternal DNA.

We were down to the last item, a letter my father had mailed to me in 1971 from Manila, Philippines.


**BINGO!**

Success came on this very last evidentiary item- the envelope mailed to me by my father in 1971, contained his full genetic DNA profile!

George Hill Hodel Letter mailed from Manila in 1971



George Hill Hodel's DNA profile remains in my possession and will upon request be made available to any legitimate law enforcement agency in furtherance of their Cold Case investigations.



Locus	CCA0972-0134-E04a1
D8S1179	George Hodel full DNA profile obtained in 2010 and on file and available for comparison.
D21S11	
D7S820	
CSF1PO	
D3S1358	
TH01	
D13S317	
D16S539	
D2S1338	
D19S433	
vWA	
TPOX	
D18S51	
Amelogenin	
D5S818	
FGA	

George Hodel 1949 Booking      DNA full profile now available

For those who have not read my sequel to BDA, *Most Evil: Avenger, Zodiac, and the Further Serial Murders of Dr. George Hill Hodel* I will here provide only the briefest of summaries.

I do this so that you may understand that the discussion that follows related to potentially connecting George Hodel's newly obtained DNA to other crimes in other cities is not simply arbitrary, but rather is based on, compelling circumstantial evidence as provided in that book.

## Los Angeles DA Files- Elizabeth Short- The Chicago Lipstick Murders

In my further review of the Los Angeles DA Files I discovered documents that showed that in July 1946, while my father was stationed with UNRRA in China, Elizabeth Short traveled to Chicago, Illinois and began her own personal investigation into three exceptionally high-profile crimes known as Chicago's "Lipstick Murders."

The three crime victims; Josephine Ross, Frances Brown and Suzanne Degnan had been national headlines in 1945 and 1946.

The third Lipstick victim, gained the most notoriety as it involved the horrific kidnap-strangulation murder and surgical bisection of a six-year-old girl, little Suzanne Degnan. Her sadist killer after kidnaping the sleeping child from her bedroom carried her to a basement just a few blocks from her home where after strangling her, performed a highly skilled surgical operation known as a "hemisectomy" and divided the body by cutting through the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> lumbar vertebrae. [The exact same operation performed on

Elizabeth Short one-year later.] The suspect then carried the body parts to six separate catch basins in and near that north-side neighborhood and then wrote a message in lipstick on a post in front of the “murder room” which read:

“Stop Me Before I Kill More.”



Lipstick printed sign on post near building where body of Suzanne Degnan was dismembered, discovered yesterday.

Chicago’s 1945 Frances Brown Lipstick Murder

**HUNT MAD ‘LIPSTICK KILLER’**

**Woman Found Stabbed and Shot to Death in Apartment**

**EX-WAVE SLAIN, PLEA WRITTEN IN RED ON WALL**

Catch Me Before I Kill More!

Signs left on wall of bedroom in apartment at Pine Crest hotel by slayer of Miss Frances Brown, whose body was found in the bathroom of the apartment. (Story on page 12)

Miss Frances Brown, a former WAVE, who was victim of slayer who used both gun and knife in his crime. (Story on page 12)

Former WAVE Found Slain on North Side

The blood-soaked knife that slayed Miss Frances Brown, slayer of slayer, was found in the bathroom of the apartment where she was slain. (Story on page 12)

Written on apartment wall in lipstick:

“For heaven’s sake catch me Before I Kill more. I cannot control myself”

The DA Files document that Elizabeth Short spent three weeks in Chicago and slept with four separate Chicago newspaper reporters, apparently attempting to gain some “inside information” on the three separate Lipstick Murder investigations. She also informed the newsmen that “she knew a Chicago detective that was working the Degnan case.”

The DA Files also contained information indicating that the Dahlia suspect could possibly have been an “Unknown Chicago Police Officer.” Why?

The information was based on the fact that Elizabeth Short attended the Jack Carson radio show at the CBS studio in Hollywood in early January, 1947, just days prior to her being slain.

The chief usher, Jack Egger identified her as standing in line with an older “dapper male in his 30s” who identified himself to Egger as a “Chicago Police Officer,” showing Egger a police badge. Egger allowed both Short and the man to jump the line and enter the studio for the show. Egger was familiar with Short as she regularly attended the shows, but this was the first time he ever recalled her being accompanied by a male.

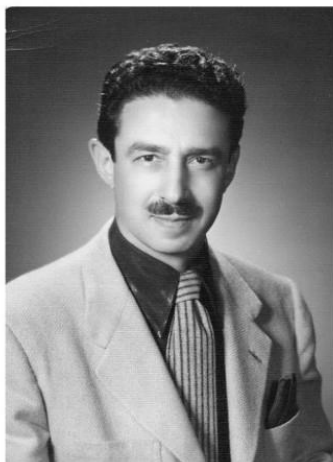
Jack Egger went on to become a DA Investigator, then joined Beverly Hills Police Department, and rose to command that department’s Detective Bureau. After retirement he became Chief of Security for Warner Brothers Studio in Hollywood.

As detailed in my sequel, I discovered that Jack was still employed with Warner Brother’s studio as their chief investigator and I met with him in 2004.

After reviewing and verifying the facts as detailed by him in his original 1950 DA interview, I then showed Chief Egger a photograph of Dr. George Hill Hodel, circa 1950, *which he positively identified as the person with Elizabeth Short at the CBS studio and the same individual who showed him a Chicago Police Officer’s badge.*

I am also in possession of original Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department investigative reports that show that LASD in 1946 was *actively investigating* the possibility that the 1944, Hollywood *Lone Woman Murder* of oil-heiress, Georgette Bauerdorf could be connected to the later Chicago Lipstick Murders.

Photo identification by Warner Brother's Chief Jack Egger



**George Hodel**



**Elizabeth Short**

### ***L.A. Lone Woman Murders- New Touch DNA procedure potentially opens door to solving many of the 1940s and 1960s Serial Killings***

In addition to the Black Dahlia murder, as has been noted in BDA and reviewed again in earlier chapters of this book, from 1943-1949 a number of other *Lone Woman Murders* occurred all in a tight geographical area between Hollywood and downtown Los Angeles.

As discussed in previous chapters, LAPD's original on-scene detectives were convinced that many of these unsolved murders were committed by the same suspect and released a summary to the press listing "11 Points of Similarity" as well as in multiple press releases connected with the additional *Lone Woman Murders* that occurred in 1948 and 1949.

In six of those crimes the suspect left a taunting note, just as he had in the Elizabeth Short murder. This act by and of itself, is so unusual a crime signature as to raise the suspicion of linkage to the other murders.

With the recent obtaining of Dr. George Hill Hodel's DNA profile, along with the newly develop technique of "Touch DNA", which provides a process where the suspect's skin cells can be collected off of a victims clothing, or even from a ligature used to tie or strangle the victim, the prospect of solving many of these additional LAPD and LASD murders becomes a very real possibility.

*All that is required is THE ATTEMPT.*

It would require minimal investigative manpower, a single two-person team to coordinate and oversee the collection of potential evidence for testing to the known unsolved Cold Cases for the presence of suspect DNA. Those findings could then be

entered into state and federal CODIS for inclusion or exclusion to the known George Hodel sample, as well as providing an automatic comparison to all DNA samples already in the data banks. The DNA collected by investigators from the various *Lone Woman Murders* cold cases could then also be compared not only to potential suspects, but to other existent crime scene DNA already in the data banks for linkage to other unsolved crimes.

The names of some of the 1940s cold cases that remain unsolved and were actively investigated and suspected of possibly being connected and could *-if tested-* potentially yield suspect DNA are:

(Listed chronologically by investigating agency)

**LAPD**

Miss Elizabeth Short, 1/15/47

[It is unclear if the victim's purse, known to be handled by the suspect remains in evidence? Retired detective Brian Carr claimed all the physical evidence, letters etc. had "disappeared" but did not specifically mention the victim's purse.]

Mrs. Jeanne French, 2/10/47

Miss Evelyn Winters, 3/11/47

Miss Rosenda Mondragon, 7/8/47

Mrs. Gladys Kern, 2/14/48

Mrs. Louise Springer, 6/13/49

**LASD**

Mrs. Ora Murray, 7/27/43

Miss Georgette Bauerdorf, 10/12/44

Mrs. Gertrude Evelyn Landon, 7/10/46

Mrs. Dorothy Montgomery, 5/2/47

Miss Geneva Ellroy, 6/22/58

Miss Bobbie Long, 1/22/59

Long Beach PD

Laura Trelstad, 5/11/47

San Diego PD

Miss Marian Newton, 7/17/47

Based on my investigation of the publicly known facts of these 1940s *Lone Woman Murders*, it is my belief that the best chance of obtaining positive DNA would most likely come from LAPD's—LOUISE SPRINGER murder.

However, all of the above listed crimes are *excellent potential sources* for obtaining "Touch DNA" due to the suspect's extensive use of ligatures and or the unusually rough ripping and tearing of the victim's clothing. Several include a man's handkerchief left at the crime-scene.

Cold Cases in the 1940s and 1960s crimes summarized in my sequel: *Most Evil: Avenger-Zodiac and the Further Serial Murders of Dr. George Hill Hodel* that could also potentially yield suspect DNA- *if tested*- include:

Chicago

Miss Josephine Ross, August, June 5, 1945

Miss Frances Brown, December 10, 1945

Miss Suzanne Degnan, January 6, 1946

All three of the Chicago "Lipstick Murders" would offer a high probability of yielding "touch DNA."

In addition, Chicago P.D. hand-carried and booked into evidence at the FBI Laboratory, a hair follicle found on Suzanne Degan's body, which they insisted "had to belong to her killer." Additionally, Chicago PD detectives informed the press that victim Josephine Ross "was clutching in her hand some black hair follicles belonging to the suspect which may help us in identifying him."

Does the hair follicle evidence in both the Ross and Degnan crimes still exist? Can DNA be obtained?

**1945 CHICAGO "LIPSTICK KILLER" UPDATE-**

Attempted rape victim/witness confirms Lipstick Killer description as:

**"Tall, thin, with black hair" used clothesline rope to bind her."**



In a recent review of 1945 newspaper articles related to Chicago's "Lipstick Killer", specifically the June 5, 1945 murder of victim, Josephine Alice Ross, I discovered an interesting and hitherto unknown witness/victim account, long buried and forgotten which should have had an important bearing on the later investigation. This is a new discovery, post-publication of *Most Evil* and therefore was not discussed in that sequel.

This new information revealed that *just a few hours prior* to the brutal Lipstick Killer murder of Miss Josephine Ross, another victim, Mrs. Eileen Huffman, age-34 was accosted in her apartment house basement by a suspect who was armed with a handgun.

*Described as "tall and thin with black hair" he tied the victim's hands with clothesline and attempted to rape her, but fled when she screamed out.*

Shortly after this assault, just a few hours later, and only five blocks away, the first "Lipstick Killer" victim, Josephine Ross was attacked and murdered in her home. [See below diagram for victim locations.]

In the later, December, 1945 murder of victim Frances Brown, the same killer would use both a gun and a knife on his victim, stabbing her through the neck and shooting her twice.

Obviously, Chicago detectives made the connection between the Huffman and Ross crimes and, according to the article, delayed the murder inquest so that they could proceed with their search for a "tall, dark-haired man, wearing a light colored sweater seen leaving the Ross apartment building" who closely fit the description provided by Mrs. Eileen Huffman.

**"Tall, black-haired suspect" committed the Huffman and Ross crimes on June 5, 1945, just two hours and five blocks apart**



Can DNA from FBI Evidence Lab link George Hodel to Chicago Lipstick Murders?

Does the FBI laboratory still have the hair follicle DNA evidence on the 1946 Degnan "Lipstick Murder" investigation?

FBI Receipt No. PC-16339-AO Q21 dated 1/8/46

Original Jan 8, 1947 receipt from FBI

booked in evidence

### Additional Potential Sources for Touch DNA

#### Riverside PD

Miss Cheri Jo Bates, October 30, 1966

[Hair follicles also found in victim's hand which reportedly have been tested. Do they contain a full DNA profile? Are they available for comparison?]

#### Manila PD, Manila, Philippines

Miss Lucila Lalu, May 30, 1967

#### Solano County S.O.

Miss Betty Jensen/Mr. David Faraday, December 20, 1968

#### Vallejo PD

Mrs. Darlene Ferrin/Michael Mageau, July 4, 1969

#### Napa County S.O.

Cecelia Shepard/Bryan Hartnell, September 27, 1969

#### San Francisco P.D.

Mr. Paul Stine, October 11, 1969

### Signature Crime Linkage-

**SIGNATURE CRIME:** noun-any of two or more crimes that involve the use of a method, plan, or modus operandi so distinctive that it logically follows that the crimes must have been committed by the same person

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Law

M.O. is a very broad term and it is oftentimes mentioned in very general non-specific terms when it comes to criminal investigations.

The squad-room roll call sergeant when reading off crimes from the previous week might say, "The suspect is a hot prowler burglar and his M.O. is to enter upscale private residences during daytime hours."

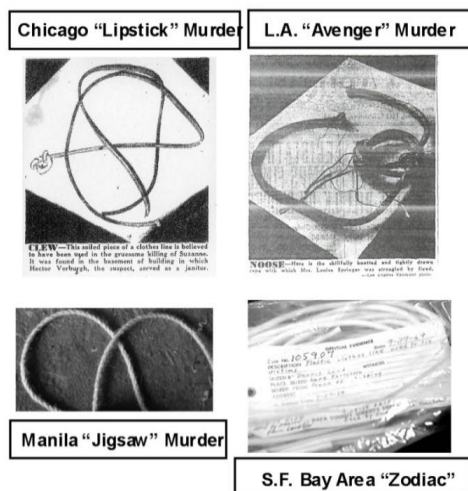
That said, there are signature crimes and *signature acts* within those crimes that are so specific that they become extremely important in attempting to link serial crimes and serial killers.

In my *MOST EVIL* investigation, there are many such acts that I believe not only link the suspect from crime to crime, but from city to city. As relates to the potential for "Touch DNA" let's examine what I consider to be one of George Hodel's most significant SIGNATURE ACTS—That being:

**Bringing with him and use of *pre-cut clothesline* to either strangle or bind his victims.**

Chicago's, "Lipstick Killer"; Los Angeles' "Black Dahlia Avenger"; Manila's, "Jigsaw Killer" and San Francisco's, "Zodiac" *EACH BROUGHT AND USED PRE-CUT SECTIONS OF CLOTHESLINE WITH THEM AND USED IT IN CONNECTION WITH ONE OR MORE OF THEIR CRIMES*

"Lipstick Killer," "Avenger," "Jigsaw," and "Zodiac" all used precut clothesline to commit their crimes.



In the 1967 Manila, Philippines surgical bisection murder of victim Lucila Lalu the suspect used that country's version of clothesline rope. He bound her with "abaca" commonly known as Manila hemp. The photo seen above is a depiction and not the actual rope used in the Lalu crime. The other three photos do show the actual clothesline rope used in those murders.

Touch DNA processing could potentially result in obtaining suspect DNA skill cells on any or all of these ligatures

## Do LAPD & Riverside PD Letters contain Zodiac's full DNA profile?

In 2010 LAPD and DOJ teamed up to connect and solve a series of Cold Case murders that occurred in Los Angeles over a twenty-two-year period. [1985-2007]

The suspect, Lonnie David Franklin Jr. who the L.A. press named, "The Grim Sleeper" was arrested on DNA evidence which allegedly connected him to multiple victims. As of 2011 LAPD believes he may be responsible for as many as twenty separate rape-murders over twenty-years in the South Central Los Angeles area.

Based on my now eleven-years of investigation and the new evidence as reported in *Most Evil* and now in this my 2011 Follow-Up, I would suggest that George Hodel, also resumed his serial killing in California some twenty-years after the commission of his "Black Dahlia Avenger" crimes.

Setting aside for the moment the twenty or more Northern California Zodiac letters and evidence, let's just focus on the letters he sent to the police and press in the L.A. area.

There are four letters: Two mailed in Riverside in 1967, one to the *L.A. Times* in 1971 and one to the KHJ-Television station in 1978.

Do these four (4) Untested Southern California Evidence Letters Contain Suspect's DNA?



[Top] Killer mailed notes to both victim's father and Riverside P.D. in 1967  
 [Lower left] 1971 Zodiac Letter mailed to *KHJ TV* booked into LAPD as evidence  
 [Lower right] 1978 Zodiac Letter mailed to *L.A. Times* booked into LAPD as evidence

## 1971 Zodiac Letter to *Los Angeles Times*

“I do have to give them credit for stumbling across my riverside activity, but they are only finding the easy one, there are a hell of a lot more down there.”

### ZODIAC

I believe *this letter contains the highest probability of containing actual suspect DNA.* It is recognized as being a legitimate letter written by Zodiac. In it, he acknowledges and takes credit for the 1966, Cheri Jo Bates murder, and informs the public that he has killed a lot more victims “down there.” [Southern California]

#### 1971 *Los Angeles Times* Zodiac Letter

Mailed: March 13, 1971  
Postmarked: Pleasanton, Calif.  
Sent to: Los Angeles Times

This is the Zodiac speaking  
Like I have always said  
I am crack proof. If the  
Blue Meannies are even  
going to catch me, they had  
best get off their fat asses  
& do something. Because the  
longer they fiddle & find  
ground, the more slaves  
I will collect for my after  
life. I do have to give them  
credit for stumbling across  
my riverside activity, but  
they are only finding the  
easy ones, there are a hell  
of a lot more down there.  
The reason that I'm writing  
to the Times is this, They  
don't buy me on the best pages  
like some of the others.  
SFPD-0      ⊕ -17+


## 1978 Zodiac Letter to KHJ-TV

When I first viewed this letter, I had mixed reactions as to whether this was/is a legitimate Zodiac Letter. The handwriting in the body of the letter, though apparently disguised, when compared to other known writings, seems a bit off. However, the handwriting on the envelope is much more consistent with known Zodiac samples. In the past few weeks in focusing my attention on this letter, I have discovered what I believe to

be new information that may well strengthen the case for the letter having actually been written by Zodiac. [My apologies if some of the information has been referenced elsewhere by other researchers/investigators. If it has been, I have not come across it.] Here's what I've discovered:

Dear Channel Nine;

This is the Zodiac speaking. You people in LA are in for a treat. In the next three weeks you are finally gonna have something good to report. I have decided to begin killing again - PLEASE hold the app lause. Nothing is going to happen until I do. You people just want let me have it any other way. I plan to kill five people in the next three weeks (1) Chief piggy Darryl Gates (2) Ex Chief piggy Ed Davis (3) Pat Boone - his theocratic crap is a obscenity to the rest of the world! (4) Also Eldridge Cleaver - the niggers gotta get their 20% quota - after all. And Susan Atkins - The Judas of the Manson Family. Shes gona get hers now. Hey - - - you actors - this is your lucky Break. Remember - whoever plays me has ~~to~~ his work cut out for him. See you in the News!



This letter was received by KHJ-TV in May, 1978 and turned over to the LAPD as evidence. It contains death threats against five individuals: LAPD Chief of Police, Darryl Gates, Ex-LAPD Chief Ed Davis, singer, Pat Boone, Black Activist, Eldridge Cleaver, and Manson Family member, Susan Atkins. Specifically relating to Susan "Zodiac" writes:

**"And Susan Atkins-the Judas of the Manson Family. Shes gona get hers now."**

## The Envelope

On the outside of the envelope where the return address should be “Zodiac” has written some backward letters and numbers. The top line reads “CIA” with the letter C reversed

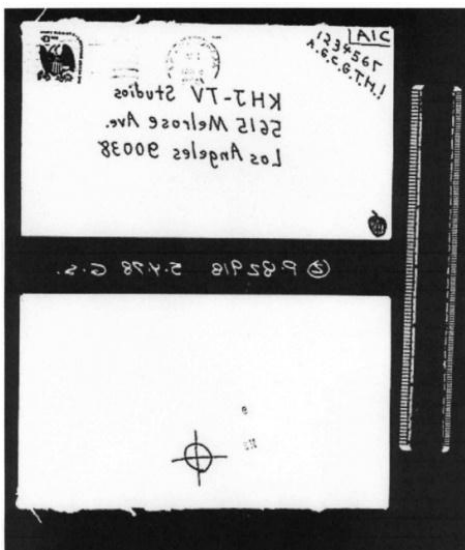
Original 1978 envelope booked in LAPD custody



Below I have mirror reversed the original printed information which now reads:

“1,2,3,4,5,6,7” (7 reversed)

A.G.C.G.T.H!”



## Helter Skelter - Bugliosi/Manson

Based on “Zodiac’s” reference to the Manson Family in the text of his letter it becomes obvious that the source of the enigmatic message on the outside of the envelope is also a direct reference to Charles Manson.

Further, it is my belief that the person who wrote this letter had also read and was familiar with author Vincent Bugliosi’s, *HELTER SKELTER: The True Story of the Manson Murders*, published four-years earlier. (1974)

### Why?

Read this excerpt from Bugliosi’s bestseller, page 294:

On May 25, I was going through LAPD’s tubs on the LaBianca case when I noticed standing against the wall, a wooden door. On it was a multicolored mural, the lines from a nursery rhyme, “1,2,3,4,5,6,7—All Good Children Go to Heaven”; and, in large letters, the words “HELTER SKELTER IS COMING DOWN FAST.”

Stunned, I asked Gutierrez, “Where in the hell did you get that?”

“Spahn Ranch.”

“When?”

He checked the yellow property envelope affixed to the door, “November 25, 1969.”

“You mean for five months, while I’ve been desperately trying to link the killers with Helter Skelter, you’ve had this door, with those very words on it, the same bloody words that were found at the LaBianca residence?”

Gutierrez admitted they had. The door, it turned out, had been found on a cabinet in Juan Flynn’s trailer. It had been considered so unimportant that to date no one had even bothered to book it into evidence.

Gutierrez did so the next day.

Photo of the Spahn Ranch door booked in evidence at LAPD Property



Writing on door reads, “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7—All Good Children (go to heaven)”



I believe the enigmatic reference on the 1978 envelope is classic Zodiac. He preferred to write it backwards and in code—another of his cat-and-mouse games. A new taunt from the “master criminal.” Let the cops try and connect these dots.

I know for a fact that my father had read and was familiar with Bugliosi’s bestseller, *HELTER SKELTER*, because during that time period he expressed an interest in the investigation and on one of his regular visits with me in L.A. told me he had read it and asked me directly, “What I thought about the book?” My response back then was, “Sorry dad, I haven’t read it.”

## John Walsh—Anderson Cooper—More Zodiac Letters and DNA?

*CNN Anderson Cooper 360 "Notorious Crimes"—July 22, 2011*



2011-John Walsh & Anderson Cooper discussing Black Dahlia & Zodiac cases

On his July 23, 2011 CNN Anderson Cooper 360 Show, Cooper aired an updated segment devoted to various "Notorious Crimes"

In September 2006, Anderson had interviewed me on the Black Dahlia Murder and on that show I eliminated the one photo in my father's album as *NOT BEING ELIZABETH SHORT*, and discussed the posing of the body and various signature connections of my father's crime to- SURREALISM.

In the 2011 segment Anderson updated my investigation and introduced the viewers to one of my most important new discoveries, the linking of physical evidence from my father's Sowden/Franklin House to evidence found near the body at the 39th & Norton vacant lot.

He presented the photographs and original receipts I had discovered at the *UCLA Special Collections Department*, linking the cement bags from the house to identical bags that LAPD determined were used to transport Elizabeth Short's body to the vacant lot. [All previously detailed in Chapter 5 of this book- Scene of the Crime.]

In his update he also mentioned the important fact that Dr. Hodel had fled the country BEFORE detectives were able to arrest and interview him regarding the tape-recorded admissions and confessions he made to killing Elizabeth Short and his secretary, Ruth Spaulding, as well as personally admitting to “performing abortions at his V.D. clinic and to making payoffs to the police.”

In the interview, John Walsh of *America's Most Wanted*, expressed a strong conviction and belief that, “in my heart and in my gut from doing this for so many years, I believe it was the doctor.” [George Hodel]

Here is the excerpted exchange between Walsh and Cooper regarding the Black Dahlia Murder:

AC: The Black Dahlia case. This is a case that has been fascinating Hollywood and the country for decades.

JW: Bestselling book, movie all that spin. But, I do believe who killed the Black Dahlia, the main suspect they had. The doctor who is now deceased. I believe he got away with that case. They never charged him. He was a stalker. He was the main suspect. [Dr. George Hill Hodel] They never had enough to indict him. She was dismembered by someone who had great knowledge of anatomy and skills in surgery. He was the logical suspect, but back in those days they didn't have the tools that we have now.

AC: They obviously sensationalized the case not because she was beautiful, but because of the gruesome way that she was killed.

JW: The way that he displayed her. He displayed her as a trophy, like lots of serial killers and horrible narcissistic murderers do. He displayed her in the field for the whole world to see his work.

*In my heart and in my gut from doing this so many years I believe it was that doctor. [Emphasis mine]*

After discussing the *Black Dahlia* case the program then reviewed the ZODIAC murder. Here is an excerpt from that discussion where John Walsh describes personally receiving multiple letters and death threats from a man identifying himself as “Scorpion” but, who had identical handwriting and codes and ciphers to “Zodiac.”

...

AC: The Zodiac killer's probably the most famous cold case in the U.S. Why do you think there is so much fascination with it?

JW: Because he terrorized and held San Francisco captive for so long. They locked down that city when he said, "If you keep looking for me, I have a sniper's rifle, I will kill the kids getting off of the buses. He claimed to have killed multiple victims. They believe he killed seven people. It actually paralyzed a city. A United States city. One low-life coward paralyzed that city. People were fascinated. He always sent this cryptic code around, and everybody analyzed it. When I first profiled the Zodiac Killer, I got a letter sent exactly like his code. Sent to me in exactly the same kind of envelope that he sent others. I had to give it to the FBI. It was signed in blood. In human blood. He said, "I will kill you. You will be the ultimate victory. I got away with it. I've committed mayhem since I murdered those other people. You will be my ultimate prize. I still have the ability to kill people. It's fascinating. We don't know if it was the Zodiac killer? Nobody knows. It fascinates people when somebody gets away with murder and they brag about it.

AC: The Zodiac killer had seven confirmed victims. Five of them died. But, he's suspected possibly to have dozens more.

Several years prior to this interview, John Walsh had published the actual letters on his America's Most Wanted website informing the public the letters and ciphers containing the death threats were sent to him in 1990. The suspect signed his letters "Scorpion." [That is the same year that George Hodel relocated from Asia back to San Francisco.]

Both the hand printing and ciphers are similar to those of the original "Zodiac" and John Walsh in his Anderson Cooper interview informs us "that the envelopes were the same kind he [Zodiac] sent others."

"Scorpion Letters" mailed to John Walsh in 1990

*intricate and difficult to recopy onto these cards. My style of handwriting on these cards is very much altered, and controlled in order to show off graphology. I would much rather communicate with you with letters that before we but you and your over anxious associates would try to nail me even if I used a PO box for a return address. This would create a rather messy situation since I do not plan to be taken alive if at all and I truly believe in the use of superior firepower. This creates a problem for our communication since the only way I can communicate with you is by letter and possibly phone and your safe return to both of us, best interests is your information and help if I can. Consider this your second and definitely last chance. Since I will soon start collecting bodies for you, to prove that this is not a prank. Hopefully for you no one will expose themselves to me as an easy target for my ever growing anger from you. I now realize with many hundreds of hours of*




*mindracking experimentation with my complex ciphers that my first one that I sent you was comparatively simple to my second, third, fourth, and now temporarily final cryptograph system. I have been encoding use ful information for your use and have done it fairly, since all of my ciphers can be decoded simply, once the limited patterns and systems are discovered. I have enclosed another cipher for you to deal with. See you in hell amigo! <*

**SCORPION**  


**AMERICA'S MOST WANTED**  
OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION TRANSCRIPT

"Scorpion Letters"



Brief:  
It's been more than 15 years, but America's Most Wanted is just now ready to reveal a series of very personal threats. In 1991, AMW host John Walsh was sent a series of anonymous, threatening letters that contained cryptic clues, secret codes and claims that the author committed some serious crimes.

The FBI has examined the letters, and while they still don't know who sent or sent these letters, they say they were not sent by The Zodiac Killer.

And the cryptographs have yet to be solved. Can you help solve this mystery?

For your solution to (202) 821-9987 or call our hotline at 1-800-CRIME-TV

*I am your worst nightmare coming true. My true identity is not known to you yet, and hopefully will not be for a long time. Your show is more exciting, interesting and factual than any tabloidized movie series. I have recently moved into New Jersey and begun a new crime spree. I am currently responsible for 23 unsolved crimes ranging from arson to burglary to snubbing homicide and occasionally everything in between. I strongly advise that you keep this letter and start a rather large file, since you will be hearing from me again. I have enclosed a rather difficult to decode message containing information that will prove ~~useful~~ useful to you. This code took a lot of time and effort to decipher, in hopes that it will defeat FBI and CIA code-breakers. Anything you wish to tell me or ask me can be conveyed to me on your show.*

**SCORPION**  


Based on Walsh's information, clearly these letters should be examined and processed for potential DNA.

John Walsh has been a dedicated fighter for victim's rights for twenty-three years and his success as the host of *America's Most Wanted* has resulted in more than 1200 "solves" and he has been a major force in helping law enforcement take so many vicious criminals "off the streets." His crime fighting efforts have also resulted in an incalculable number of CRIMES BEING PREVENTED.

He has my highest respect and personal congratulations for an OUTSTANDING JOB IN STANDING UP FOR VICTIM'S RIGHTS AND HIS LONG YEARS OF ASSISTANCE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

### **ZODIAC- San Francisco Paul Stine Murder—Shirt and Gloves**

In my opinion, the best potential for hard physical evidence in the unsolved ZODIAC murders can be found in the physical evidence booked in connection with the San Francisco, Paul Stine cabbie shooting.

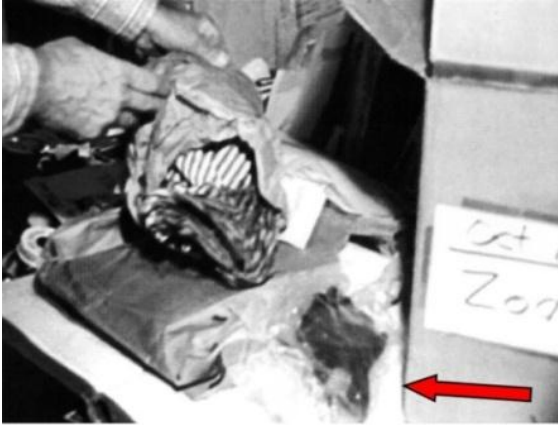
The suspect's gloves and the section of shirt torn from the victim's body by his killer and mailed to SFPD both REMAIN UNTESTED. Both items are highly likely to yield a full Zodiac profile—IF TESTED.

The gloves, men's size 7, apparently containing the victim's blood splatters were inadvertently left behind and very likely fell out of Zodiac's pocket prior to the shooting. The 1969 police and DOJ reports confirm that law enforcement believes they were owned and worn by Zodiac.

In addition, there remain some 15-20 notes mailed by Zodiac that could be retested using today's much more sophisticated techniques.

I find it incredible that NO CONFIRMED ZODIAC DNA has yet been obtained. There is NO ZODIAC DNA entered into any state or national CODIS data banks.

The last report I am aware of from law enforcement sources dates back to 2002 and that sample reportedly is highly suspect and *contains only a partial DNA profile which is insufficient to include or exclude anyone. That sample only contains three (3) out of the thirteen (13) loci found in a full DNA profile.*



SFPD evidence photo showing Stine shirt and men's black leather gloves ("Size 7") at the bottom of the frame in clear plastic evidence bag. (red arrow points to gloves)



George and June Hodel Rosario Retreat, Orcas Island, Washington 1995.

[Left] SFPD Paul Stine Evidence- Suspect's gloves and victim's shirt

[Right] George Hodel putting on his Size 7 gloves on a visit to me on Orcas Island, in Washington State in 1995.

## Bottom Line:

I believe that the potential for obtaining suspect DNA on many of the 1940s unsolved *Los Angeles Lone Woman Murders* does exist.

I believe that analysis of those samples will, like they did in the GRIM SLEEPER MURDERS—prove linkage.

Once DNA is obtained Cold Case detectives can enter the samples into state and federal CODIS data-banks and very possibly identify a suspect and clear many of the cases.

At the very least detectives should make the attempt to obtain DNA from the Los Angeles area Zodiac Letters booked in evidence at LAPD and Riverside to see if they can *be linked to a killer already entered in CODIS*.

With the recent advancement of "Touch DNA" I am extremely confident that the forty-year-old unsolved Zodiac serial murders CAN BE SOLVED.

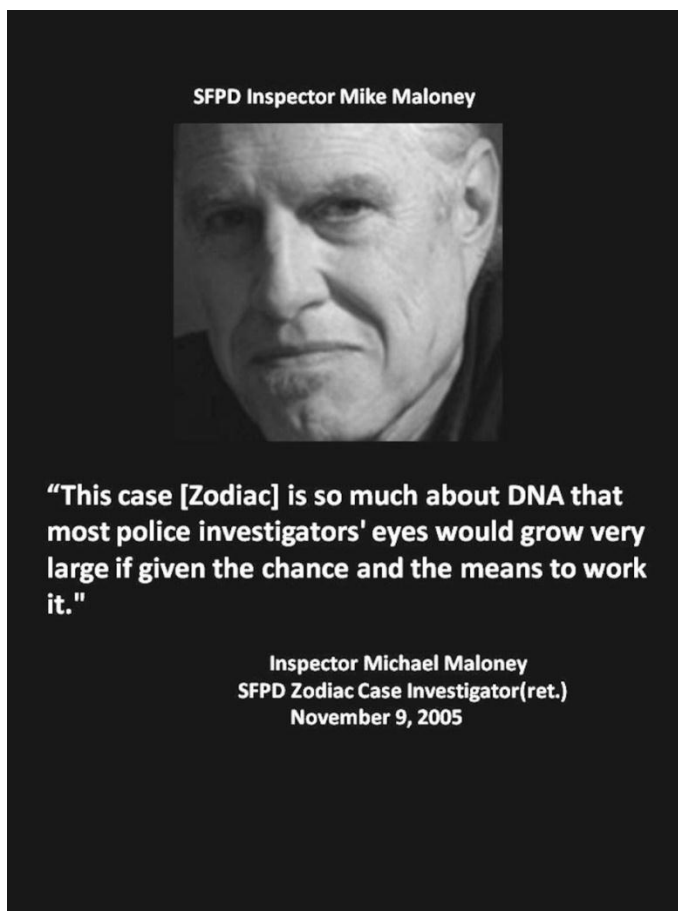
All that it requires is that just one dedicated Cold Case investigator, in just one of the many jurisdictions, *take the initiative and make a first step forward!*

That detective may now be assigned to any of the following departments or agencies: Riverside PD, LAPD Homicide CCU, Long Beach PD, San Francisco PD, Napa, or Solano Sheriff's or Vallejo PD.

The solution is there, just a simple phone call away. As an old-time homicide detective who has been there and done that, I strongly urge that detective to pick-up the telephone and make the call to his or her crime-lab.

I'll close with a quote from SFPD Zodiac Inspector Mike Maloney who was one of the last detectives actively assigned to work Zodiac. He died in 2005, believing that DNA would one day solve the case.

In an open letter to the public, written shortly before his death he said:



I believe Mike's assessment was absolutely correct!

**REST IN PEACE MIKE!**