



THE BLACK DAHLIA: PART 2

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The Black Dahlia's Autopsy

- The autopsy revealed the following:
- The blood from the body had been drained of blood and washed clean.
- Dahlia had been eviscerated; her intestines found tucked underneath her body.
- Bruising on the right side of the face and head....occurred pre-mortem.
- Investigators suspected that the victim had been tortured for days before her death.
- Cause of Death was ruled to be blunt force trauma to the head with subsequent blood loss....HOMICIDE.



Autopsy Continued

- The victim's body was examined for trace evidence, no was found.
- No traces of semen or evidence of vaginal intercourse.
- However, the victim had been sodomized postmortem.



- By measuring the lengths of body part segments-
- Height: 5'5"
- Weight: 115 lbs.
- Age: 15-30 Y/O

- Police artists created and distributed the victim's likeness to the media...without initial success.

Identifying the Victim 1st Attempt

- The victim had been fingerprinted once she arrived at the morgue @ 2:45 PM.
- Snowstorms in Washington, DC would have delayed the delivery of the victim's fingerprints for more than a week.
- Therefore....the victims' fingerprints were sent over telegraph wire....however the images were blurry and unusable to identify or classify into searchable fingerprints for comparison.



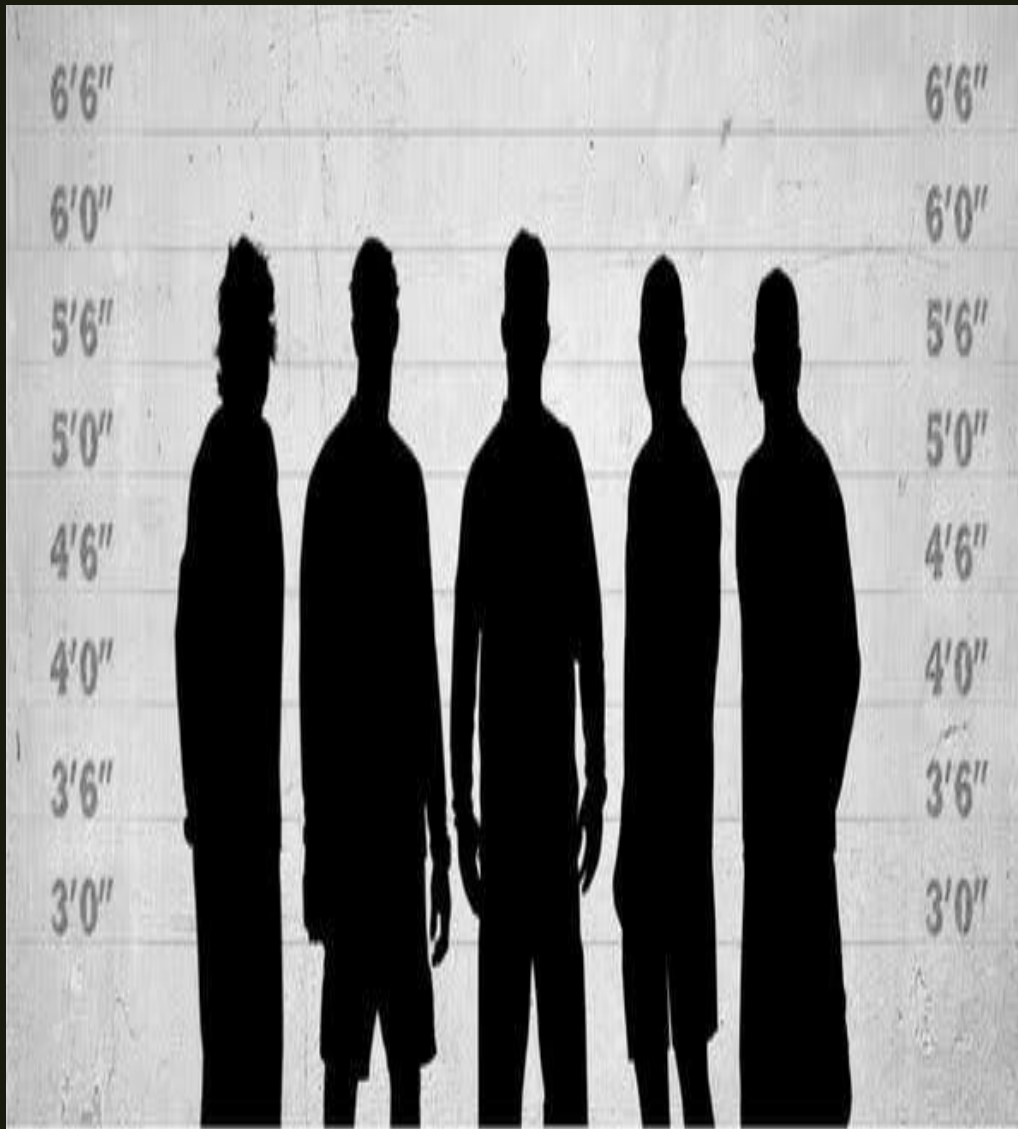


Identifying the Victim

2nd Attempt

- In the second attempt to submit the victim's fingerprints....police send an enlarged photograph of to the FBI.
- Analyst were able to identify the victim as 22-year-old Elizabeth Short.
- Born in Massachusetts
- Victims Fingerprints were on file (Civilian Employee at Camp Cooke Army Base in CA).

Suspects



- Police questioned
- Short's father
- Personnel at the army base
- Previous boyfriends
- The last person to see her alive was a salesman named Robert Manley, who had met Short about a month before her death.
- Manley passed the lie detector test and had a solid alibi for the night that Short's body was dumped.

Ago----Known as Beauty at Medford High----Thought of MOV

NICHOLSON FAVORS END OF COUNCIL

State Senate Leader
Claims Governor
Does Not Need It

SAYS APPOINTMENTS
WOULD BE BETTER

Against Initiative
Petitions Being on
Ballots, Also

Abolition of the Governor's
Council was recommended by State
Senate President Donald W. Nichol-
son last night at the annual meeting
of the Suffolk County Republican
Club at the Hotel Lenox.

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FORMER MEDFORD GIRL SLAIN

Miss Elizabeth Short, 22, a native of Hyde Park, whose family now lives
in Medford, was identified last night as the victim of a Los Angeles
horror murder.

Savagely Attacked Before Death----Dis Dismembered, L

West Coast Infuria ----Move to Post \$10,000 to Find

The amazing discovery that the
pretty victim in a Los Angeles
butcher killing was a Medford girl
came last night with startling sud-
denness as the FBI announced that
the nude, bisected body of a young
woman found in a vacant lot there
yesterday had been identified as that
of Elizabeth Short, 22.

As the investigation of a crime
almost without precedent in its
brutal savagery sped swiftly across
the breadth of the nation, it was
learned that the girl was the daugh-
ter of Mrs. Phoebe M. Short, of
115 Salem st., Medford, and that
her father, Cley A. Short, had

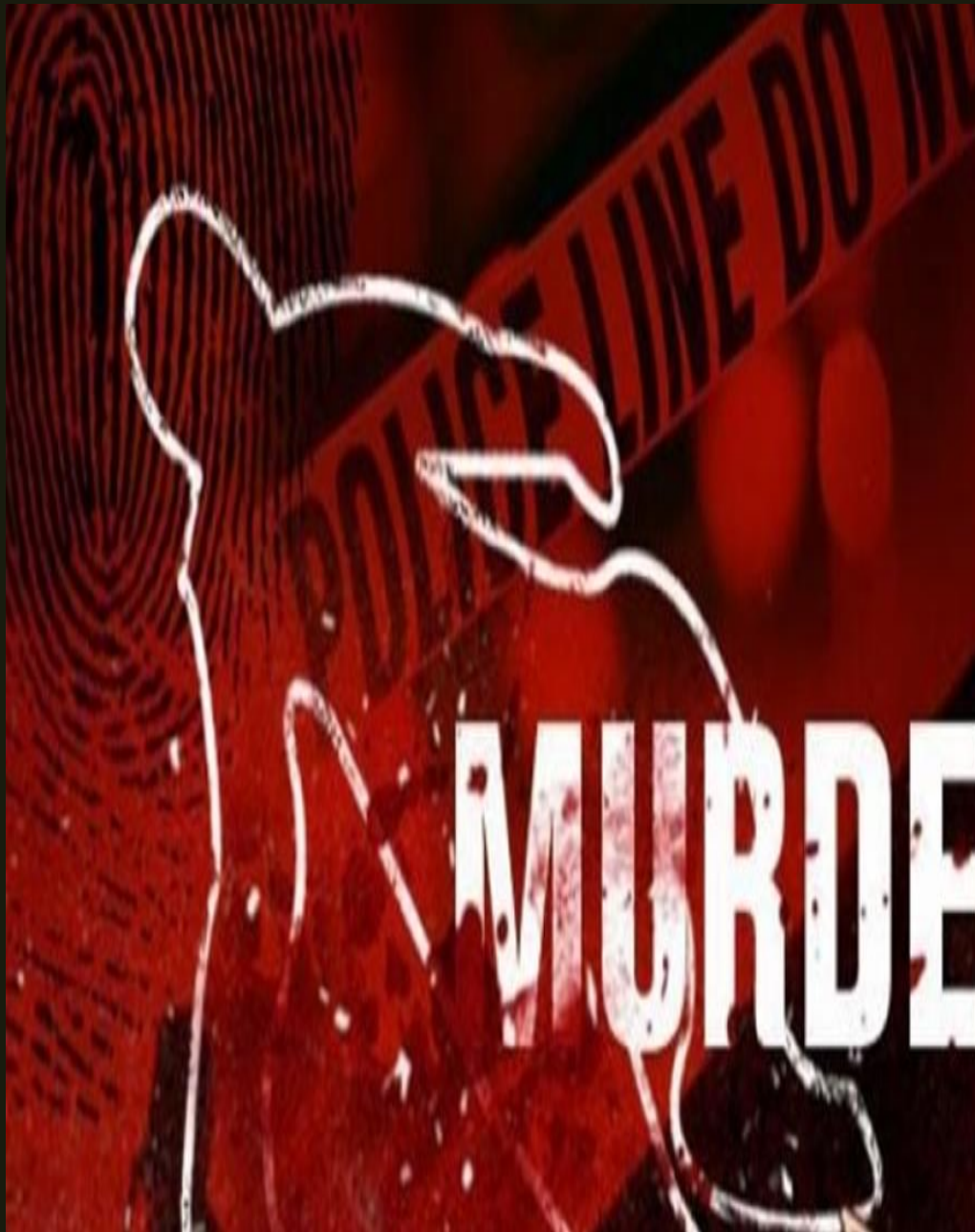
- 8-days after the body was found, a man contacted the local newspaper, claiming to be the killer and saying that he would send the newspaper Short's belongings.

- The next day...a package arrives containing photos. Short's birth and an address book with the name Mark Hansen embossed on it.



Night Club Life

- Hansen was a nightclub owner who had befriended Short.
- The night club owner admitted to owning the address book.
- Every person in the address book was questioned, without results.
- In 1951, during the follow up to this case, Hansen was still considered the number 1 suspect, but charges were not filed.
- Hansen died in 1964!



Conclusions

- Short's brutal murder appears to have been random.
- No Similar cases have been linked to Short's Death.
- Given the typical pattern of multiple killings, why or how could a lust murder limit himself to a single killing?

Conclusions Continued

- Its unlikely that Short's murder stopped killing rather changed his MO.
- Likely more careful about body disposal
- With Jack the Ripper, investigators theorized that the killings stopped because the murder has died, was incarcerated for another crime, or moved on. In the Dahlia case...its possible that the killer moved to operate somewhere else in the US. Investigators looked at similar crimes but found no links that seem likely today.
- The suspect has never been identified!





**QUESTIONS
AND
COMMENTS**