

ELEVEN YEARS AGO

Patty Hull Murder Recalls Dorothy Lee Gordon Slaying

By STANLEY G. ROBERTSON

The brutal murder of Patty Hull, the 10-year-old Buena Park child, horribly brings to mind the macabre slaying of 9-year-old Dorothy Lee Gordon.

It's been more than 11 years since all that remained of the little Eastside girl was found in a Del Rey area field. More than 11 years, and the man who raped and killed her hasn't been apprehended.

Some two dozen suspects have been questioned, re-questioned, and released in connection with the Gordon slaying.

As the dust of time grows heavier and heavier on the case, and people who were associated with it die out, retire, or move elsewhere, the chances of the killer ever being brought to justice grow slimmer and slimmer.

The last time that Dorothy Lee Gordon was seen alive was at 5 p.m. on March 5, 1940, when she got into a blue-grey club coupe near 17th and Hooper, driven by an unidentified white man.

A tiny skeleton clad in a tattered calico dress, discovered by a

chance passerby on the morning of April 18, 1940, was all that remained of the child.

In the seven weeks between the child's disappearance and the finding of her body, all Los Angeles sorrowed with the bereaved parents.

Radio stations broadcasted hourly descriptions of the man who abducted the little girl. A metropolitan newspaper front paged an artist's conception of what the fiend looked like.

A group of citizens organized into the Eastside Citizens' committee in an effort to raise funds for a reward to anyone bringing information which might lead to the



THE LAST PLACE that Dorothy Lee Gordon was seen alive was at the intersection of 17th street and Hooper Ave. at 5 p.m. on the afternoon of March 5, 1940. The brutal murder of the 9-year-old Eastside school girl, after 11 years, is still unsolved.

finding of the girl and her abductor.

At the height of the search for Dorothy, a brawl almost took place in the City council chambers when a motion to offer a \$100 reward on behalf of the city to anyone finding the child, was defeated.

The manhunt grew more dramatic as time went on and no trace of the girl was found.

Led by Homicide Captain Bruce Edwards, now retired, late one Spring afternoon, dozens of police roped off Slauson avenue and made an intensive search of the sewer on that street looking for the girl's body.

With the finding of the child's body and the eventual "running out" of suspects by the police, people began to forget about the horrible death that little Dorothy Gordon met at the hands of a sex fiend.

As the years went by, one or two men a year were picked up and questioned about the case, but always they would be released.

Today, very few people live in the 1400 block on East 22nd street who were living there when the Gordons did. Of those that are, the majority refuse to talk about the case.

Friends of the dead girl's parents alleged that they are divorced now and that the husband has married again. Also, it is asserted that Mrs. Gordon has been quit ill since the tragic slaying of her child.

Who abducted, raped, and killed Dorothy Lee Gordon when she left an Easter play rehearsal at the Cornerstone Baptist church on the afternoon of March 5, 1940, will go down as one of the tragic mysteries in local history.