

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Galt Traced to 2 Schools Here by FBI Agents

He Studied Bartending  
in City and Took Dance  
Lessons in Long Beach

BY JOHN KENDALL  
Times Staff Writer

The trail of the elusive Eric Starvo Galt, accused slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King, led Wednesday to a Long Beach dance studio and a Los Angeles bartending school.

In Long Beach, the manager of the National Dance Studios, 2026 Pacific Ave., acknowledged that Galt had attended classes there from mid-December to Feb. 12.

Rod Arvidson, 46, the manager, said that shortly after the murder of Dr. King and the mention of Galt in news broadcasts, Arvidson thought he recognized the name.

Upon checking his enrollment records, Arvidson found a listing for a pupil who had signed his name Eric S. Galt.

The FBI was called and they impounded the school's enrollment records, Arvidson said.

## Recalls Galt Had Money

Arvidson also recalled that Galt had money. He peeled out five \$20 bills for the \$100 deposit on his lessons and then returned the next time with \$165 to pay for his course in cash.

"He seemed to be a Southern gentleman . . . He was neatly dressed but not sharply dressed, except for the alligator shoes he wore all the time. He was the shy, withdrawn type of individual," Arvidson said.

Kathy Norton, 21, a mini-skirted dance instructor at the studio, said of the former pupil, "He told me he had a restaurant or bar along the coast of Mexico somewhere. He told me the name but I've forgotten." She said Galt was very vague about his Mexico connections.

Andreas Jorgensen, 45, another instructor, said, "One time I talked with him for an hour and tried to break him down. Every time the conversation got personal he became quiet. He was a clam."

## Galt Had White Automobile

Jorgensen said he had noticed Galt drive away in a white automobile but did not recall the make.

Arvidson said that on Feb. 12 Galt left before completing all 50 hours of dance instruction that were due him. "He said he planned to open a bar in the Los Angeles area. That was the reason he gave us for leaving before the course was completed. He wanted to concentrate on his bartending course," Arvidson said.

The director of the International School of Bartending, Tomas Reyes Lau, disclosed that a man called Eric S. Galt was graduated from the school March 2.

Lau said FBI agents visited his one-story, store-front school at 2125

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Editor: Nick B. Williams  
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Sunset Blvd. Tuesday, asked about Galt and took away the suspect's school application and graduation photographs.

The picture was later circulated by the FBI along with a Department of Justice announcement that Galt was being sought in the April 4 assassination of Dr. King in Memphis.

The announcement disclosed that Galt had attended dancing classes and bartending school in the Los Angeles area but they were not named. Newsmen traced the schools.

The Times learned from Eastern sources that evidence recovered on the assassination scene shortly after Dr. King's murder was what pointed federal agents to Los Angeles.

These sources described the evidence as "physical items" that were traced here by FBI investigators. Presumably they were articles that both Memphis police and FBI agents said were found in a leather bag abandoned by the killer.

Lau did not know why FBI agents came to his school, he said, except he had a vague recollection that they somehow had learned about Galt's school activities from sources in the East.

But, he did remember the man he knew as Galt, recalling that he seemed to be a "nice fellow with a nice personality," and an able pupil of bartending.

When Galt talked to him, Lau said, "he was desperate to get a job and he wanted to go to work as soon as possible."

However, upon graduation, the school director said, Galt declined to take a job Lau had obtained for him and quoted him as saying:

"Well, I have to leave to see my brother. What good would it do for me to work for only two or three weeks? I'd better wait until I return to town and get a permanent job."

Lau said he last heard from Galt about a week after graduation when the latter telephoned the school but again declined the offer of a job.

"He was very intelligent and had the ability to develop this type of service," Lau said.

Galt was quiet and reserved, with a pleasing personality and a "slight Southern accent," Lau added.

"I was really surprised when the FBI came here and asked about him," he said. "I could believe it was almost anyone but him."

#### Silent on Politics

Lau said Galt never discussed politics or his personal affairs but simply paid a \$220 fee and filled out an application.

Galt's application listed his address as 5533 Hollywood Blvd. gave his birthdate as [redacted], and stated that he was single.

The Hollywood Blvd. address is that of the St. Francis Hotel. The hotel manager, Alan Thompson, said that a man named Galt had lived there and that the FBI had questioned hotel employees about him.

However, Thompson said the FBI had concluded that there was nothing to indicate that the former tenant was the man the agency is seeking in the Dr. King murder.

Galt gave his height as 5 feet, 10 inches, his weight as 175 pounds, and stated that he was a high school graduate.

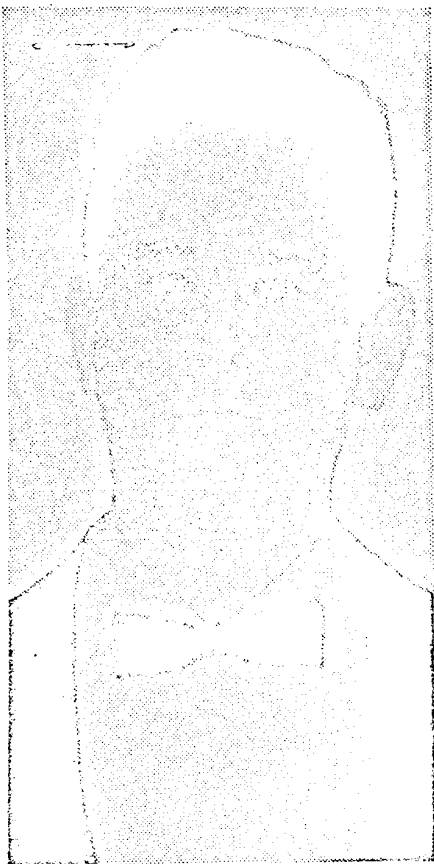
The FBI description of Galt generally matched the measurements on the school's application.

A "Mr. Weller" of 751 S. Figueroa St. was listed as a former employer who had paid him \$50 a week.

The three references listed on Galt's school application were Marie Deninno, 5533 Hollywood Blvd.; Rita Steen and Charley Dennino, both of 5666 Franklin Ave. in the Hollywood area. None of them could be reached for comment.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI Accuses Galt of King Plot; Murder Charge Filed



**CHARGED**—The FBI released this photo, which it identified as that of Eric Starvo Galt. The bureau said an artist drew in the eyes because they were closed in original photo.

(W) Wirephoto

## Second Man Also Implicated in Conspiracy Writ

BY ROBERT L. JACKSON

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—The FBI Wednesday charged Eric Starvo Galt with conspiracy in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King and appealed to the public for help in apprehending him.

In its first public statement since Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis April 4, the FBI conceded that it believes the slaying was a conspiracy and not the work of one man.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, who flew to Memphis on President Johnson's orders, had told a news conference April 5, there was no evidence of a conspiracy. "All the evidence we have is that this is the work of a single person," he said at that time.

In Memphis, Galt was charged with first degree murder late Wednesday in the assassination of Dr. King.

### Warrant Issued Within 5 Hours

The state warrant was issued five hours after the FBI announced that Galt had been charged with conspiracy in Dr. King's death.

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I-1 Los Angeles Times  
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The FBI described Galt, 36, as a former merchant seaman and cook who traveled widely by automobile in the months preceding the crime. It said he used the names John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer as aliases.

He lived in the Los Angeles area from December, 1967, until last month, first taking dancing lessons in Long Beach and then attending a Los Angeles bartender's school, the FBI said.

The white 1966 Mustang in which he is believed to have fled Memphis was found abandoned in Atlanta April 11. Galt bought it from a Birmingham, Ala., resident last Aug. 30 and drove it 19,000 miles, the FBI said.

#### Gun Purchased in Birmingham

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said Galt and a person Galt referred to as his brother entered into a conspiracy on or about March 29-30 and purchased a Remington .30-06 pump action rifle and a telescopic sight from a Birmingham store.

The rifle was found near a rooming house on S. Main St. in Memphis immediately after the slaying. The rear of the rooming house faces the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King had been staying at the time of his death. The rifle has undergone ballistics and fingerprint tests at the FBI laboratory. The bureau declined to give any results of the tests or to specifically identify the rifle as the murder weapon.

One factor supporting the theory that a conspiracy existed in the assassination was an apparent lack of similarity between a photograph of Galt issued by the FBI and drawings identified earlier by witnesses in Memphis, Atlanta and Birmingham. These witnesses said the man they know as Galt did not resemble the man in the photograph.

Witnesses told authorities in Memphis that a man checked into

the rooming house under the name of John Willard, one of the aliases attributed to Galt.

In its complaint filed at Birmingham, the FBI charged that "on or about March 29 . . . Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate Martin Luther King Jr. . . in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States; namely, the right to freely travel from state to state.

"In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Ala. . . ."

The FBI used the conspiracy statute as the legal basis for its investigation since Dr. King's murder would be a state, not a federal, crime. Once apprehended, however, the killer would be tried by a Tennessee court, Clark has indicated.

Sources said reference in the FBI complaint to a conspiracy involving Galt and his alleged brother did not of itself indicate a wider plot is suspected.

The FBI did not elaborate on the identity of Galt's conspirator or how it knew a conspiracy had existed. However, one indication of a conspiracy was in the FBI's disclosure that Galt took a course at the bartending school in Los Angeles and was graduated March 2.

#### Sought New License

On March 1 the Alabama Highway Patrol received a telephone call from someone who identified himself as Galt and asked that a duplicate driver's license be sent to a Birmingham rooming house where Galt stayed from Aug. 26 to Oct. 7 last year. Presumably, Galt was in Los Angeles March 1.

The duplicate license was mailed the same day, but the manager of the rooming house, Peter N. Cherpes, said he did not remember seeing it arrive in the mail and no one has been found who recalls seeing the man known as

Galt in Birmingham since October.

Cherpes provided further indication of a conspiracy Wednesday when he told The Times he could not identify Galt from the photograph and description put out by the FBI.

"I'm not sure," Cherpes said after looking at the photograph. "I think he didn't have as much hair and that it was much lighter—a light brown."

#### Doesn't Recall Traits

Cherpes said he did not recall that the man he knew as Galt had a habit of pulling at an ear lobe with his left hand or that his left ear protruded farther from his head than his right ear—traits that the FBI ascribed to Galt.

William Paisley, a Birmingham auto salesman who sold Galt the white Mustang Aug. 26, also was unable to identify him from the photograph. (The FBI said the Mustang was purchased Aug. 30.)

"If the man in the photograph sat down in front of me, I never would have recognized him," Paisley said.

Both Cherpes and Paisley said the FBI had not shown them the photograph. On Monday Cherpes disclosed that last week he identified for the FBI two sketches resembling the man who stayed in his rooming house under the name of Galt.

Thus it appeared that more than one man may have used the name Galt, and the obtaining of the duplicate license further indicated that more than one person was involved.

#### FBI Is Hopeful

Although the FBI has learned details of Galt's movements before and after the crime, it admittedly has lost his trail.

"If we knew where to find him, we would pick him up," an FBI spokesman said. "But we're hopeful that with the public's help we can find him soon."

A photograph distributed by the FBI showed a brush-cut-haired man in a dark coat and bow tie. His eyes, which were shut in the picture, were sketched in by an FBI artist.

The bureau declined to say where it obtained the

picture. However, The Times learned that it was taken at the bartender's school in Los Angeles last month.

The FBI said Galt has blue eyes, brown hair worn in a brush cut, a straight, narrow nose and clean, even teeth.

"Intensive investigation by the FBI has disclosed that Galt has claimed to have been employed as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a merchant seaman," Hoover said in his statement.

"He is said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham during September and October, 1967; and in Long Beach, Calif., from

December 1967, to February, 1968.

"Galt left Los Angeles on Dec. 15, 1967, and drove his white Mustang to New Orleans, where he claimed he contacted either an engineering or a contracting firm. He left New Orleans on Dec. 19 and arrived back in Los Angeles on Dec. 21, 1967.

"While in the Los Angeles area early this year, Galt took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968."

The FBI declined to reveal the names of the dancing schools, the bartending school or any companies Galt may have worked for, saying to do so might prejudice the case.

Galt was further described as a Caucasian, about 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighing between 160 and 175 pounds. He is said to be a neat dresser.

Hoover said persons who

have met Galt picture him as "a loner" and say his speech has a rural accent. He is reportedly a fan of Western and country music and drinks alcoholic beverages, mainly vodka and beer.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

AT STUDIO HERE

# Galt Remembered as Inept Dancer

By FRANK ANDERSON

The manager and two instructors at a Long Beach dance studio Wednesday positively identified the FBI's prime suspect in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a student at their studio from December 1967 through mid-February of this year.

"That's the Eric Starvo Galt who took fox trot, cha-cha and go-go lessons here," said Ron Arvidson, manager of the National Dance Studios, 2026 Pacific Ave., when a Long Beach Independent reporter showed him a photo circulated by the FBI.

Arvidson's identification of Galt was confirmed by Kathy Nolan, 21, and Andreas Jorgensen, 46, instructors at the studio.

Arvidson said the wanted man had signed the name "Eric S. Galt" last December when he enrolled for a course of 50 lessons at the studio.

"The name rang a bell when I saw it in the papers last Saturday," Arvidson said. "I came down, checked the files, determined that Galt was the man and notified the FBI. Their agents have taken all

(Continued Page A-4, Col. 1)

## GALT REMEMBERED

(Continued from Page A-1)

the records to the FBI crime laboratory."

Jorgensen said Galt paid cash for the \$465 course, which he didn't finish.

"We last saw him in mid-February — maybe the 12th," Jorgensen said. "He was still debating whether to continue with the dance lessons or enter the restaurant business."

Miss Nolan said she had Galt as a pupil for "maybe two or three hours" and he "said very little" except he had been in the cafe business in Mexico.

Arvidson said Galt was vague about his background but did say that he was a merchant seaman.

"But he didn't sound like a merchant seaman," Arvidson said. "His accent was Southern — not Deep South but somewhere in the middle of Dixie. His En-

glish grammar was poor and he had no fluency in Spanish, although he claimed to have worked in Mexico."

The three dance studio staff members recalled Galt as having "brilliant blue eyes, an aquiline nose and a crew cut."

"He was youngish looking and neatly dressed," said Arvidson, "and I remember those alligator shoes he wore. They just didn't seem to fit his personality."

Jorgensen said he "couldn't figure out why Galt took lessons. He had no natural grace."

Miss Nolan said Galt "never showed any sign of racial prejudice."

"He just didn't show much of anything," she said, "except a crooked smile and a fidgety manner."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

LONG BEACH

INDEPENDENT

LONG BEACH,

CALIF.

PAGE A-1

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Edition: MID MORNING FINAL  
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**ROD ARVIDSON ... Recognizes Galt Photo**  
—Staff Photo by CURT JOHNSON

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# CHECKS

# GALT'S

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LONG BEACH  
INDEPENDENT

LONG BEACH,  
CALIF.

page A-1

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# STAY IN L.B.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

## Barmaids Recall His Shyness

By FRANK ANDERSON  
and BILL DUNCAN

FBI agents combed Long Beach Wednesday for still-warm leads to the whereabouts of Eric Starvo Galt, the white man charged by federal authorities with conspiracy in the April 4 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Though the FBI refused to confirm their activity in the Long Beach area, interviews by The Independent with a dozen different people who identified Galt's photograph showed that Galt had:

—Been a student at a Long Beach dance studio from December, 1967, through mid-February.

—Never evidenced signs of racial prejudice while frequenting country-western bars in Long Beach, Norwalk, Gardena and Hawaiian Gardens during the period that paralleled his dance instruction.

—Whiled away his bar-room visits in the area with games of pool and drinks of beer and vodka.

—Was a loner who made it a point to avoid introductions and told acquaintances little about his background or reasons for being in Southern California.

—Had graduated from a Los Angeles bartending school in March, then refused a job.

The hunt for Galt accelerated with issuance in Birmingham, Ala., of a federal warrant for his arrest on charges of conspiracy to violate Dr. King's right to "freely travel from state to state."

Sought with Galt is a man he has claimed is his brother. The second man has not been charged or identified.

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FBI AGENTS in Los Angeles refused to add to the bulletin they put out earlier, which described Galt as 5-feet-8 to 5-feet-11 inches tall, weighing between 160 and 175 pounds

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# King Assassin Suspect

(Continued from Page A-1)

and having "brush-cut" brown hair and blue eyes.

"He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build," the FBI said. "Those who have met him describe him as a loner, say his language and diction have a "rural" quality and suggest that he has little education.

The FBI released two photos of Galt, one showing his eyes closed; the other containing a notation on the back: "Eyes drawn in by FBI artist."

IN THE Long Beach area, those who claim to have met and talked with Galt identified the suspect readily from the photos, but all of them "noted something funny about the eyes and the lower part of the face — too heavy."

The FBI said that Galt's travels after the King slaying took him and his white Mustang to Los Angeles, New Orleans, Birmingham and Mexico and Atlanta.

Federal agents have determined that Galt bought a rifle in Birmingham on or about March 30, but the

30.06-caliber rifle, with telescope sight, found near a Memphis rooming house after the shooting has not been linked to Galt.

Rod Arvidson, 46, manager of the National Dance Studios, 2026 Pacific Ave., identified Galt as a pupil at his studio from December 1967 through mid-February. Arvidson's identification also was confirmed by Miss Kathy Nolan, 21 and Andreas Jorgensen, 46, instructors at the studio.

MISS ANDERSON, who spent "three or four hours" of lessons with Galt, said he "never showed any racial bias or prejudice" either to her or the other girl instructors at the studio.

Jurgensen described Galt as an "unlikely candidate" for dancing lessons. He noted that Galt had "no natural grace."

Jurgensen said Galt signed for 50 lessons and paid \$465 in cash for them but never finished the course. "I last saw him in February, and he was still debating whether to continue or enter the restaurant business."

In Hollywood, director Thomas Reyes Lau of the International School of Bartending, said Galt graduated March 2 and disappeared after refusing a job. He was an excellent student, said Reyes.

MARIE ANDERSON, about 60, 2221 Cameron, Long Beach recalls Galt from the Nashville Club, Crenshaw Boulevard and Rosecrans, Gardena. She said she sought to introduce Galt to a blind drummer at the club, Jollie Ollie Roff, but that Galt was cold and refused to "tell anybody my name."

Shirley Anderson, 33, 12133 Jersey Ave., Norwalk, said she used to dance with Galt at the Pioneer Club in Norwalk. "He always had a grudge," she said, "but he was a good dancer."

At the Red Barrell Bar in Hawaiian Gardens, a bartender (who wouldn't give his name) recalled playing pool with "that man in the picture (Galt)"

THE BARTENDER said Galt came in one night to listen to Western music, but it came on a night the band wasn't playing. "He drank beer and whiled away time playing pool," the bartender said.

A patron at the Red Barrell said the FBI picture of Galt looked familiar, but he couldn't say positively that he had seen the suspect.

Nan Richards, 27, a barmaid at the Pioneer Room in Norwalk, said she remembered the man except that "he had a thinner face as I recall. He always ordered a weird drink, too — vodka and water."

A FORMER bartender at the Parkway western tavern, 4604 Lincoln Ave., Cypress, looked at the picture and said: "I waited on this guy at the Parkway — him or someone who is a dead ringer."

And back at the Red Barrell, Marie Anderson still remembering Galt:

"He was strange looking. Had an icy look and wore a Western outfit. That eerie smile, kind of funny, it was. And when he talked to you he looked straight ahead."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Portrait of Eric Galt Emerges: Moody, Short-Tempered, Racist

BY DAVE LARSEN

Times Staff Writer

Eric Starvo Galt, prime suspect in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, emerged Thursday as:

—A fervent supporter of the presidential bid of former Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace.

—An anti-Negro who once got into a wild argument at a Hollywood bar with a girl who defended Negroes.

—A man who made at least one mysterious trip in recent months to New Orleans, a fact that appears to be of great interest to the FBI.

—A steady drinker, alternately moody and contentious in public.

This picture came into focus as the result of a series of exclusive interviews conducted by The Times with persons who knew Galt when he lived here.

A songwriter whom Galt drove to

New Orleans and back in a white Mustang in December said he had a strong impression that the suspect was not using his right name.

The belief was expressed by Charles Stein, 38, who was offered the free ride after he agreed to add his signature to the drive by Wallace to qualify for a place on the June primary ballot.

Stein said his sister, Rita, had made the travel arrangements. While at the Sultan Room, a cocktail lounge at 5533½ Hollywood Blvd., she had let it be known that her two children had to return soon from her sister's place in New Orleans. Galt, a patron, let it be known that he would be going there.

Stein appeared at the Sultan Room

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that same night, and Galt agreed to take him along to fetch the children if Stein would sign up for Wallace.

The next day, Stein said, Galt picked him up at the sister's home at 5666 Franklin Ave. and drove him to the Wallace headquarters on Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood.

"I thought he was some kind of politician," Stein recalled. "I got the impression they all knew him."

Robert Walters, campaign coordinator for Wallace in California, disputed this. "We checked all of our name files here—particularly those from the North Hollywood office—and found nothing under the name of Galt or the other names he reportedly used," Walters said.

Stein said that after he had registered for Wallace's American Independent Party, he and Galt departed that afternoon on a two-day trip to New Orleans.

#### Makes Phone Calls

Galt did not disclose why he was making the drive. He told his passenger he "knew some people there" and had been in the Louisiana city before.

While passing through Texas, according to the songwriter, Galt made several long-distance calls from phone booths, but declined to discuss any of them.

Stein said Galt went to uncommon pains to impress upon him his name, emphasizing it in unnecessary ways, such as when they checked in at motels.

"I think he was establishing a fictitious identity," Stein said. "I don't think it was his real name."

"Besides," Stein added, "he didn't look like any Eric to me."

Galt told his passenger he had just sold a bar in Mexico. "I didn't believe it," the songwriter said. "His Spanish was too touristy."

During the drive Galt also remarked that he liked to hunt, Stein said.

At one point, Stein continued, Stein brought up the subject of race, commenting that the same Creator made everybody and that color was just incidental. He said Galt was noncommittal.

Stein said he was a believer in the equality of the races. The night of the assassination of Dr. King, he recalled, he wrote a song entitled: "Though His Body is Gone, Luther Is Living On."

The bearded songwriter said he "kept getting strange vibrations" about Galt. "I felt something was wrong."

Stein said he believed the suspect made a subsequent trip to New Orleans. "I heard he was asking people if they wanted him to drop anything off while

he was down there," Stein said.

FBI agents have been visiting him almost every day, the songwriter added, saying they showed great interest in the suspect's activities in New Orleans.

He said, however, that he and Galt went their separate ways while in that city, and he had no idea what the latter was up to.

At the time of the trip, Galt was staying in an apartment at 1535 Serrano Ave. Residents there either did not know him or remained tight-lipped about him.

However, Galt subsequently moved to a hotel, the St. Francis, at 5533 Hollywood Blvd. One block away is a cocktail lounge known as the Rabbits Foot Club, at 5623 Hollywood Blvd.

The crowd there remembers Eric Starvo Galt very well indeed.

Until three or four weeks ago, according to bartender Bo Del Monte, Galt was a nightly patron.

He would come in at around 9 p.m., perch on a stool near the door, and order the first of several screwdrivers (vodka and orange juice).

Adele Lewis, who was working there at the time, recalled that Galt often got into arguments when he tried to strike up conversations.

"He once asked if he could buy me a drink," she said. "Since I was working, I said no."

"Huh, you think you're too good," Galt bristled, she said.

But the thing everybody at the Rabbits Foot Club remembers most about Galt is a big dispute he got into.

Jim Morrison, who was the bartender that night, recalled that Galt had begun talking with a young woman named Pattie. Somehow the conversation turned to Negroes, and she declared them to be "good people."

Suddenly, Galt began dragging her by the arm toward the door.

"I'll drop you off in Watts and we'll see how you like it there!" Galt shouted.

Del Monte said another customer who had been dating the girl followed the pair outside, and Galt fled.

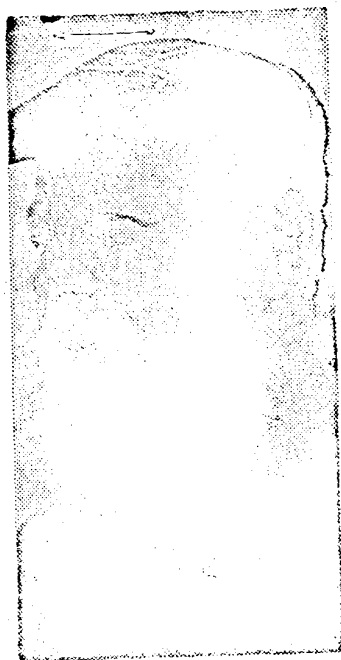
A short time later, according to Del Monte, a Negro was struck in the head by a rock while in a nearby parking lot.

Morrison remembered that as Galt would sit at the bar, sipping his screwdrivers, he often preached his support of Wallace.

"He's the man we want," the bartender quoted Galt as saying.

Del Monte said Galt once tried to begin a conversation with a Negro girl, but that she walked away from him.

Nobody interviewed at the Rabbits Foot Club remembered Galt revealing his name. In fact,



Charles Stein  
Times photo

nobody realized who he was until his picture appeared in newspapers on Thursday.

Del Monte said the photo of Galt with his eyes

closed caused an immediate recollection. "That's the way he sat here," the bartender said. "When he wasn't talking, he would sit sort of dozing."

Del Monte said Galt usually had four or five screwdrivers a night.

Joe Peters, bartender at the Sultan Room, said Galt sometimes drank vodka and Coca Cola at his place.

Galt apparently was not one to get names straight. In his application to attend a Los Angeles bartending school, the suspect listed as a former employer a "Mr. Willer" of 751 S. Figueroa St.

Presumably he was referring to R. J. Weiler, who runs an office building at that address. Weiler was unavailable for comment Thursday.

As character references,

Galt listed three persons:

"Marie Deninno," a cocktail waitress at the Sultan Room. She said her name is Marie Martin.

"Rita Steen," of the Franklin Ave. address, who is presumed to be Rita Stein, sister of the passenger on the trip to New Orleans and cousin of Marie Martin.

"Charly Deninno," also of the Franklin Ave. address, presumed to be Charles Stein.

Miss Martin, 35, Stein's cousin, said she served Galt on at least 30 occasions at the Sultan Room and said the picture released by the FBI was of the Galt she had known.

Miss Martin and a friend, John P. Joyce, 24, told The Times of an acquaintance with Galt that lasted from January to mid-February.

"He seemed to be a nice

enough chap," she said.

"He had only one mood—quiet. He smiled one time I can remember and his mouth curled up on one side all the way up to his nose."

She said she gave her permission to Galt to use her name as a reference in his application for admission to the International School of Bartending here. Joyce, however, had objected because, he said, they knew so little of Galt.

Galt did list a "Marie Deninno" on his application as a reference, but Martin had no explanation for the difference in the last names. She said Mar-

tin is an alias she adopted when she was an exotic dancer. She declined to give her real name.

She said Galt had peculiar drinking habits at the Sultan Room: "Galt used to drink vodka — straight. He always tugged on his

left ear. He stuck out his jaw and he'd pour in a jolt of vodka and then he would twirl the glass in front of him, concentrating on it all the time."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# The King Suspect

# GALT'S TRAIL WERE BARED

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1 Herald-Examiner  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/18/68  
Edition: Night Final  
Author:  
Editor: Donald Goodenow  
Title: MURKIN

Character:  
or  
Classification: LA 44-1574  
Submitting Office: Los Angeles  
 Being Investigated

44-1574-31  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
/ APR 19 1968  
FBI—LOS ANGELES

*cc  
4/19*

# Attended Vocation Schools In Area

Footsteps of Eric Starvo Galt—sought by the FBI in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King—have been traced through the Los Angeles area prior to the assassination, but they left little impression.

The FBI yesterday issued a warrant charging Galt and a companion conspired to kill Dr. King, the civil rights leader shot down April 4 in Memphis.

Two Los Angeles men say they told the FBI that a man identified as Galt was a shy, quiet man who spent \$700 in three months on bartending and dancing lessons.

The managers of a dancing school and a bartending school recognized Galt from a composite drawing and notified the FBI Saturday.

Rod Arvidson, 46, general manager of the National Dance Studios, said Galt was "certainly no mixer. He had trouble coordinating one foot with another."

A photograph of Galt circulated by the FBI was obtained Tuesday from the International School of Bartending, 2125 W. Sunset Blvd. The director, Tomas Reyes Lau, said a man called Eric S. Galt was graduated from the Hollywood school March 2 after an excellent record in a \$225 four-week course which he attended Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons.

"He was an excellent student who got along very well with the seven other students in the class," Lau said.

"He never said anything about Negroes."

There were no Negroes in the class which Galt attended on weekends.

According to Lau, Galt made a \$20 down payment and paid the \$205 balance of the tuition fee before the class began. The class met in four weekend sessions.

Lau said that he was interviewed by the FBI for the first time on Tuesday.

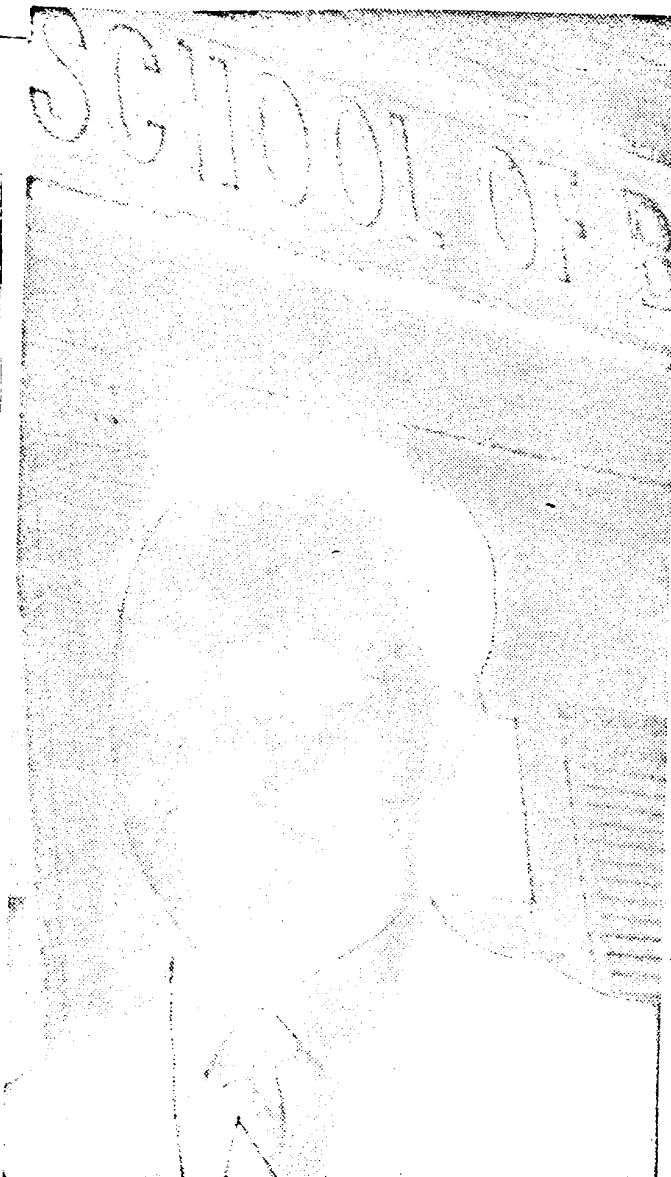
"I was surprised when I found out," Lau said.

As a student of bartending and dancing, not only Lau and Arvidson but another dance instructor agreed Galt was withdrawn and a loner.

"He just didn't show anything but a crooked smile and a fidgety manner," said instructor Kathy Nolan, 21.

Arvidson said a man who signed enrollment records as Eric S. Galt took "50 or 60" lessons in social dancing over a 2½-month period ending in mid-February. The lessons cost about \$500.

Galt told Arvidson he had operated a restaurant-bar in Mexico, the manager said. But Arvidson, who is taking Spanish lessons, said Galt failed to respond when he put questions in Spanish to him.

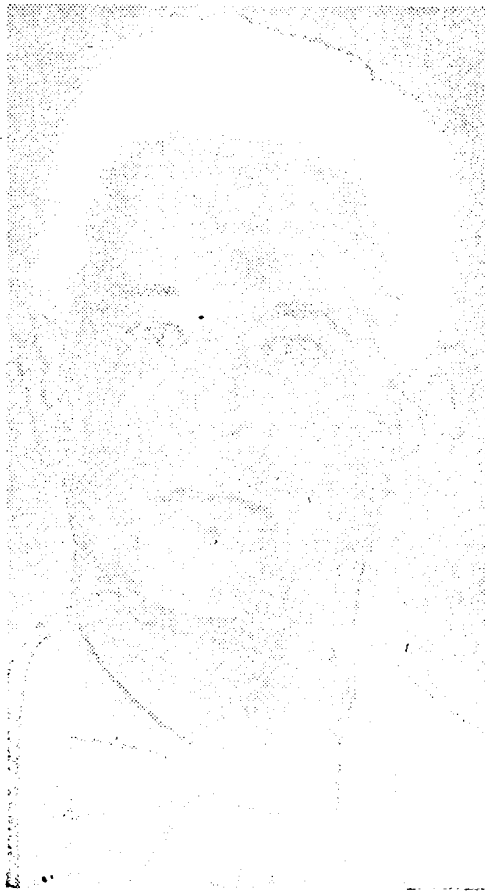
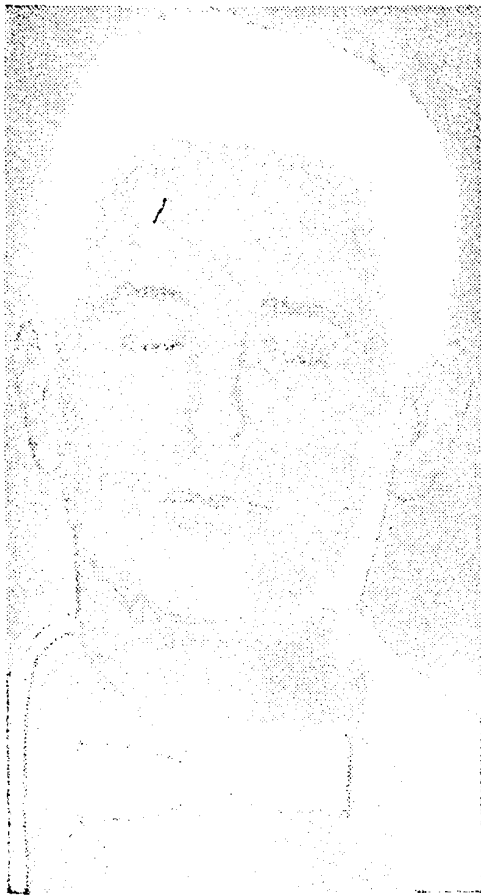


—Associated Press Wirephoto

**SUSPECTED ASSASSIN** Eric Starvo Galt is remembered by Tomas R. Lau as "an excellent student, who got along well with the seven other students." Galt graduated from Lau's Hollywood bartending school March 2.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# IF YOU SEE THIS MAN, CALL FBI



—United Press Telephoto

TWO VIEWS of Eric Starvo Galt, wanted for conspiracy in the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. The FBI issued two

photos of a man it identified as Galt, also known as Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard. Open eyes at right were sketched by artists.

## Two Men Charged With King Murder

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1 Herald-Examiner  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/18/68  
Edition: Night Final  
Author:  
Editor: Donald Goodenow  
Title: MURKIN

Character:  
or LA 44-1574  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Los Angeles  
 Being Investigated

44-1574-52

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
/ APR 19 1968	
FBI—LOS ANGELES	

C<sup>0</sup>B  
4/19



WASHINGTON (UPI)—The FBI has issued a warrant charging that mysterious Eric Starvo Galt and a man he claimed was his brother conspired to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Memphis police responded by charging Galt with murder and FBI agents across the nation distributed a photograph of the man they said was Galt.

But witnesses in Memphis and Birmingham who said they had seen Galt claimed the man in the FBI photograph did not even resemble him. The FBI refused to comment on this.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark's announcement was the first official confirmation of a conspiracy in the April 4 assassination of King in Memphis. Clark had first claimed it was the work of one man.

The FBI warrant said the 36-year-old Galt, alias Harvey Lowmeyer and John Willard, and a person "whom he alleged to be his brother entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate Martin Luther King Jr." Memphis police issued a warrant charging Galt with "the first degree murder of Dr. Martin Luther King." It did not mention any conspiracy.

The FBI said Galt—a man without a past whose trail ends abruptly in Atlanta the day after the killing—was a passionate dancer, a graduate bartender and a devotee of hillbilly music.

It claimed he and the other man launched their plot March 29—seven days before the slaying—and that Galt came to Memphis the day before King was killed. Although it said Galt

and his "brother" did not hatch their conspiracy until March 29, the FBI did not comment on what appeared to have been an elaborate attempt by the man called Galt to conceal his history.

The FBI did not explain how it had tied Galt to the case. But it said the white Mustang which he purchased in August had been driven 19,000 miles before it was found in Atlanta the day after King died.

They said he had driven to Los Angeles, to New Orleans, Birmingham and Mexico before the assassination.

It placed the man called Galt in existence in 1964—three years prior to his appearance in Birmingham in August, 1967.

The FBI also refused to say how it acquired the photograph it claimed was a likeness of Galt. It issued two prints—one in which his eyes were closed, and another in which an FBI artist had sketched in opened eyes.

In Birmingham, Peter Cherpes, operator of a rooming house where Galt stayed from Aug. 26 to Oct. 7, 1967, was shown the picture and said "No, that's not him. I don't think so."

The man who sold him the 1966 Mustang said "I couldn't recognize him from these pictures." A roomer at the Birmingham boarding house said "I can't be sure" the pictures were of Galt.

Joseph H. Gamble, special

agent in charge of the FBI in Birmingham, insisted the picture was of Galt. "It's him all right," Gamble said. He said the picture was taken this year—"In March, I think."

Charlie Stevens, a resident of Mrs. Brewer's flophouse who said he saw the killer, said the photograph "doesn't register."

The FBI said Galt—between 5-foot-8 and 5-foot-11, weighing 160 to 170 pounds—was an avid dancer, who took lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham last September and October, and in Long Beach, Calif., from December to February.

He left Los Angeles Dec. 15, the FBI said and drove to New Orleans where he contacted either an engineering or a contracting company. The FBI did not elaborate on this.

He returned to Los Angeles Dec. 21, the FBI said, and while there took a course at a bartender's school and graduated March 2.

It said he was a "loner," whose language and diction had a "rural" quality indicating that "he probably does not have a high degree of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages with a preference for vodka and beer."

The FBI statement, issued by Clark and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, concluded by saying that Galt was a fan of country and western music, and should be considered armed and dangerous.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Galt Believed the Only Suspect Despite FBI Conspiracy Charge

BY JACK NELSON  
Times Staff Writer

ATLANTA—The mysterious Eric Starvo Galt is the lone subject of the FBI's investigation into the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, despite an FBI complaint charging that the assassination resulted from a conspiracy.

The complaint, issued Wednesday, alleged that Galt conspired in the assassination with "an individual whom he alleged to be his brother."

But a federal source pointed out to a Times reporter Thursday that the complaint could have been based on nothing more substantial than a statement by a witness that he had heard Galt say he and a brother planned to kill Dr. King, or to use the rifle believed to be the murder weapon.

The FBI apparently knows little about the man called Galt—probably not even whether he has a brother. The complaint charges that on or about March 29 at Birmingham, Galt and his alleged brother entered into a conspiracy, which

continued until on or about April 5, to violate Dr. King's civil rights. Dr. King was slain in Memphis April 4.

The civil rights law does not authorize federal prosecution unless there is evidence of a conspiracy.

Several sources have said Galt purchased two rifles from a Birmingham sporting goods store March 29, and made a remark to a sales clerk that could have formed the basis for the conspiracy charge. He reportedly purchased a .243 Remington rifle, then returned later in the day and exchanged it for a .30-06 rifle, declaring that he and his brother had decided the .243 was not suited for their hunting purposes.

Indications are that Galt left a cold trail, but a federal source in Birmingham close to the investigation said the government has "a very strong case" if the subject can be apprehended. The assassin reportedly left a trail of clues, including the

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/19/68  
Edition: Home  
Author: Jack Nelson  
Editor: Nick B. Williams  
Title:

MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: LA 44-1574  
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

Being Investigated

44-1574-5000  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_

APR 19 1968  
FBI—LOS ANGELES

*Handwritten:*  
① 4/19

.30-06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight.

(The Birmingham News, in a copyrighted article Thursday, said that the .30-06 rifle had been determined by ballistics tests to be the weapon used to kill Dr. King. The News also said the search for Galt had spread outside the United States, and quoted an investigator as saying it is believed Galt is in either Mexico or Cuba.

(In Washington, it was learned that the FBI conducted an extensive search dating back to at least 1964 to determine if the State Department had ever issued a passport to Galt. The search found that none had ever been issued in that name. An American citizen does not need a passport to enter Mexico or Canada.)

Meanwhile, the search for Galt continued with scores of FBI agents scouring the Birmingham, Memphis and Atlanta areas in search of persons who might have seen him. In Birmingham one witness, Jimmy Phillips, told reporters he had informed FBI agents that a man who looked like Galt visited a gasoline station where Phillips worked last February and talked with him for about an hour.

Shown an FBI photo of the subject, Phillips said, "It looks like him."

#### Talked About Georgia

Phillips said that from the conversation he judged Galt was from Georgia. "He talked about it a lot," Phillips said, and added that the white Mustang Galt was driving at the time had Georgia license plates on it, although earlier it had Alabama plates on it. A white

Mustang, registered in Galt's name and found abandoned April 11 in Atlanta, had Alabama plates. A white Mustang was seen fleeing the area of the assassination in Memphis.

The filing of the conspiracy complaint and issuance of an FBI press release on the investigation apparently were designed to solicit public help in finding Galt. The FBI urged that any information concerning him be furnished to the nearest FBI office.

Such a release normally would include information about a subject's birth date, places of residence, education and occupation, but the release on Galt contains scant background information and some of it was based solely on what

Galt had told other persons.

The release reported Galt had given his date of birth as July 20, 1931 and noted that persons who had met him said his language had rural quality and "suggests" that he probably does not have a high degree of education.

Some information Galt gave to persons who have talked to the FBI apparently has proven to be false. He was quoted as

saying he had been employed as a shipyard worker in Pascagoula, Miss., and as a merchant seaman, but extensive checking of records has produced no evidence that he ever held either job.

The FBI release makes no mention of his occupation except to say he claimed to have been a merchant seaman and a cook on Mississippi River boats.

The conspiracy theory in the case was strengthened somewhat Wednesday when witnesses who had identified FBI sketches of Galt as being the man they knew by that name, declared that a photograph the FBI released did not look like him. This raised the question of whether

two different men had been using the name.

A source close to the investigation, however, pointed out that the sketches were drawn by artists who were working on information supplied by the witnesses. He added, "It probably would be natural for the witnesses to think that what they remembered that went into the sketches looked more like the subject than the photograph."

An unanswered question, however, concerns a telephone message, presumably from Galt, asking that a duplicate Alabama driver's license be issued to replace one he had lost. The call was made to the highway patrol in Montgomery March 1, the same

day witnesses say Galt was attending a bartender's school in Los Angeles.

Galt was graduated from the school March 2 and it was from the school that the FBI obtained his photograph. It showed him with his eyes closed. The FBI released a copy of it, as well as a copy of one in which an artist had sketched in eyes.

The FBI's news release noted that Galt also had used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past, but it mentions no times or places he did so. It is known that a man using the name killed, the day of the assassination. Investiga-

tors said the fatal shot came from the rooming house.

(The Associated Press reported Thursday that a man registered as Eric S. Galt in a Memphis motel the day before Dr. King was slain. Ivan B. Webb, night desk clerk at the Rebel Motel, said a white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates and Mexican tourist stickers was parked near the room occupied by the man.)

The name Galt also may be fictitious, of course. With all its agents and investigative resources, the FBI apparently has been unable to find anything substantial about his background before 1964.

#### 'Talked About Women'

The FBI's news release traces him back only to "1964 or 1965" when he reportedly took dancing lessons in New Orleans. Again, this may be false information that Galt had passed on to other persons. A check of New Orleans dancing schools turned up no trace he had been there.

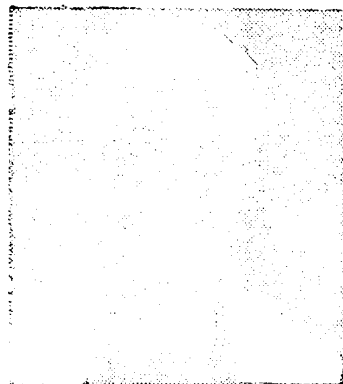
Phillips, the Birmingham station attendant, said the man he thought looked like Galt who visited his station in February was dressed neatly in a suit, shirt and tie. He said the man made no mention of racial problems or communism. "Mostly, we just talked about women," he said.

Another attendant at the station, Henry Rowell, also told agents that he had seen Galt there. He said the man stopped "a couple of times for gas" last fall.

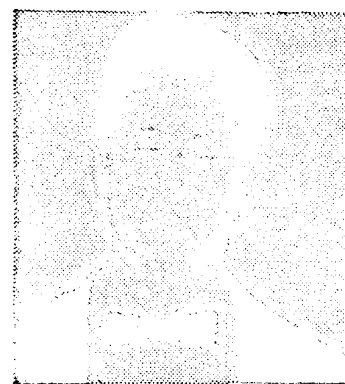
Galt lived in a rooming house at 2608 Highland Ave. for six weeks from August to October of last year. The service station where the attendants said they saw him is at 2188 Highland Ave.

# WANTED BY THE FBI

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY  
**ERIC STARVO GALT** FBI No. 405,942 G



Photograph taken 1963  
(eyes drawn by artist)



Photograph taken 1964

Aliases: Harvey Lowmyer, John Phillips

#### DESCRIPTION

Age:	33, born July 29, 1931 (not supported by birth records)	Eyes:	Blue (as stated)
Height:	5'8" to 5'11"	Complexion:	Medium
Weight:	130 to 175 pounds	Hair:	White
Build:	Medium		
Hair:	Brown, possibly cut short		
Occupation:	Has claimed employment as musician		
Remarks:	Noticeably protruding left ear, reportedly is a lone wolf; allegedly attended dance instruction school; has reportedly completed course in bartending.		

#### CAUTION

GALT IS SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH A MURDER WHEREIN THE VICTIM WAS SHOT. CONSIDER ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

A Federal warrant was issued on April 17, 1969, at Birmingham, Alabama, charging Galt with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a citizen, (Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 238)

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PERSON, PLEASE NOTIFY ME OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FBI OFFICE. TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES OF ALL FBI OFFICES LISTED ON BACK.

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535  
TELEPHONE, NATIONAL

44-1987-Sub B-112  
April 17, 1969

ISSUED BY FBI—This is poster that the FBI began circulating in the search for Eric Starvo Galt. The poster bears two photographs—one with eyes closed, the other with the eyes drawn by an FBI artist.  
Story on Page 1 (W) Wirephoto

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Assassin - Suspect

## Piecing The Puzzle Together

By D. N. OPPENHEIMER

Herald-Examiner Science Writer

In the late fall of 1949, a Los Angeles probation officer anxious to help a "first offender"—wrote Mrs Lucille Ray, mother of 21-year-old burglary suspect James Earl Ray.

Records fail to indicate whether Mrs. Ray replied. And no trace of Ray can be found in local court records of the trail he left from his brush with the law in 1949.

But the FBI and the police in Memphis believe they have a pretty good idea what happened to the 21-year-old youth caught in the act of burglarizing a Los Angeles restaurant 19 years ago.

The trail leads from job to job, jail to jail, prison to prison... and finally—according to federal and Tennessee warrants—to that fateful afternoon on Friday, April 5.

James Earl Ray, an unknown wanderer, a school dropout—a man who was a good prisoner, a fair soldier and apparently a totally unsuccessful civilian—is the object today of one of this nation's most intensive man-hunts. He's wanted for the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Authorities elsewhere are putting together a fairly complete record of his activities that took him from his Illinois childhood to his current notoriety. Court records here provide them with at least a partial picture of this 40-year-old man who told police he came to Los Angeles either to

WASHINGTON (UPI) —Escaped convict James Earl Ray was given an extraordinary emergency listing on the FBI's roster of 10 most wanted criminals Saturday, intensifying the nationwide manhunt for the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King.

work or to try to get a job overseas.

It was Oct. 7, 1949, when Ray first came to the attention of any known persons in Los Angeles. That was the night Lee Strayhorn, assistant manager of the Forum Cafeteria, 620 S. Broadway, found Ray hiding in the cafeteria's office.

But Ray, reluctant to wait a round for conversation, struck Strayhorn and tried to dash to freedom via a fire escape from the upstairs office. Parking lot attendant George Russell, responding to a shout for help by Strayhorn, caught Ray and tried unsuccessfully to grab him.

Ray broke Russell's grasp and fled into the night... but not until Russell tore Ray's shirt pocket, causing papers and money to fall to the ground. A check of the papers revealed Ray's name and his address at 1119 S. Spence St.

Three days later, Strayhorn spotted Ray in the Bank of America at Seventh and Broadway, and enlisted the aid of police officer R. R. Ballou who apprehended Ray. The young man then was taken to City Hall, where he was booked on a burglarly charge—apparently the first charge in a criminal career that carried him through state prisons at Joliet and Pontiac, Jeffer-

son City, Mo., and the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

The record showed that no property was taken from the cafeteria, but that a typewriter had been removed to the fire escape on the night Ray was caught by Strayhorn. Ray denied having been involved in a robbery.

He told police "I never was in the building and I don't even know where it is. I've only been in town three or four days. Someone stole my identification papers."

But testimony by cafeteria employes, particularly identification by Strayhorn backed by that of Russell, weighed too heavily against the young man. He was found guilty and sentenced to eight months. That sentence was reduced to 90 days and three years probation on recommendation of probation officer Robert V. Sieloff. Judge W. Turney Fox also extracted from the defendant a promise to abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages.

That promise was called for because Ray's testimony during the trial indicated Ray's memory of events during the robbery may have been affected by earlier beer drinking.

Ray told the court: "I guess,

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Sec. A p.2 Herald Examiner, Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/21/68  
 Edition: Final  
 Author: D. N. Oppenheimer  
 Editor: Donald Goodenow  
 Title: Assassin-Suspect Piecing The Puzzle Together  
 Character:  
 or MURKIN  
 Classification:  
 Submitting Office: Los Angeles  
 Being Investigated

34

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
/ APR 22 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

maybe, I had some beers or something." His probation officer said, "He denies that he is anything more than a social drinker and indicates that a few beers have a rather strong effect on him."

The probation officer's report said Ray was a school dropout after completing the 9th grade at Union High School, Ewing, Mo., "because he did not want to attend school further."

He worked for International Shoe Co., Hartford, Ill., until December, 1945, when he was laid off. He had been earning 77 cents per hour as a laborer. Two months later, he entered the U.S. Army as a private. In December of 1948, he received a general discharge. He was a private then, too.


After his Army discharge, Ray drew servicemen's readjustment checks until May of 1949, during which time he began going through his savings account, which apparently he had been building since 1944. The probation officer said Ray's passbook showed a balance as high as \$1180, but that Ray started to withdraw money Jan. 28, 1949, and that the account was closed by June of that year.

He moved on to Chicago in May of 1949, and worked full time as a rubber mold operator for the Dryden Rubber Co. He was earning \$45 per week, but was laid off in September.

The probation report showed Ray liked to go to the movies, read magazines and date girls. He "appears to be

# WANTED BY THE FBI

**CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY  
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ROBBERY  
JAMES EARL RAY**



**DESCRIPTION**

<p><b>Age</b> 35 years</p> <p><b>Height</b> 5' 11"</p> <p><b>Weight</b> 175 lbs</p> <p><b>Build</b> Slender</p> <p><b>Hair</b> Brown, wavy, slicked back</p> <p><b>Complexion</b> Fair</p> <p><b>Eyes</b> Blue</p> <p><b>Scars and Marks</b> Small scar on right forehead and smaller ones on left forehead</p>	<p><b>Complexion</b> Fair</p> <p><b>Eyes</b> Blue</p> <p><b>Race</b> White</p> <p><b>Nationality</b> American</p>
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**Remarks:** Subject is a white male, 35 years of age, 5' 11" tall, 175 lbs, brown wavy hair, blue eyes, fair complexion, small scar on right forehead and smaller ones on left forehead.

**Fingerprint Classification:** L 1 0 2 1 1 0 1 2

**CRIMINAL RECORD**

Ray has been convicted of burglary, robbery, and interstate flight, among other offenses, without a plea of guilty.

**CAUTION**

RAY IS BELIEVED TO BE INVOLVED IN A CONSPIRACY WITH OTHERS TO COMMIT ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AND HIS FAMILY.

Ray was arrested on a warrant issued on April 17, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee, charging Ray with interstate flight with intent to obstruct justice, in violation of Federal Title 18, U.S.C. Section 1071. A Federal warrant was also issued on April 17, 1968, in Chicago, Illinois, charging Ray with interstate flight with intent to obstruct justice, in violation of Federal Title 18, U.S.C. Section 1071.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PERSON, PLEASE NOTIFY ME OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FBI OFFICE. TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES OF ALL FBI OFFICES LISTED ON BACK.**

*J. Edgar Hoover*

DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535  
TELEPHONE NATIONAL 4474

**FBI IS DISTRIBUTING THIS PHOTOGRAPH OF JAMES EARL RAY Suspected slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on "most wanted" list**

of normal intelligence and admits only an occasionally excessive use of intoxicants," the court was advised.

Ray told authorities he had

come to Los Angeles in search of an uncle who had been doing overseas construction work in Guam and was scheduled to meet him here. But he

said he then discovered his uncle had gone to Illinois and that he "has no local friends who could give him any recommendations."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI Thought Galt Tracked to Southland

BIRMINGHAM, Ala (UPI) — FBI agents believed at one point Wednesday that they had tracked down Eric Starvo Galt, the alleged assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, somewhere in California, sources close to the investigation have disclosed.

The tip reportedly came from the "alleged brother" or some other co-conspirator in the killing.

It apparently was because of the expected impending arrest that authorities obtained a first-degree murder warrant against Galt, and also a federal warrant charging him with conspiracy.

The exact location in California where authorities expected to make the arrest was not disclosed, but Galt is known to have spent time in the Los Angeles area.

Sources said the tip obviously was wrong, or that Galt—if he is in California—eluded authorities.

An FBI spokesman in Washington said "the FBI has no one in custody in connection with Dr. King's slaying," but another source indicated the FBI was either in communication with or questioning the "alleged brother" of Eric Galt. The brother has not been charged.

After Galt bought a rifle from a sporting goods store here March 29, sources said, he took it to the "alleged brother" who was quoted as saying the .243 Remington rifle was "not the gun we need." Galt returned to the sporting goods store and swapped the first rifle for a 30-06 Remington pump action rifle on March 30, sources close to the investigation said.

The FBI has refused to pay what ballistics tests on that weapon, found near the Memphis, Tenn., flophouse that served as the snipers post, had revealed.

The FBI apparently had reason to believe that Galt, who speaks with a rural accent and had several aliases, might have

returned to Birmingham after the assassination April 4.

A check of 22 rooming houses in Birmingham yesterday found 10 managers who said FBI agents had questioned them in search of Galt early this week.

Most of the same boarding houses had already been checked by FBI agents in the days immediately after the slaying when agents traced the rifle found in Memphis to the

(Continued on Page A4, Col. 1)

# The Search For Galt Goes On

(Continued from Page 1)

Birmingham sporting goods store.

Galt was charged Wednesday on a federal warrant signed by FBI agent Joseph H. Gamble and U.S. Commissioner Mildred F. Sprague with conspiracy to violate the civil rights of Dr. King.

All copies of the warrants from the charge were in FBI hands and not being released publicly. The complaint from which the warrant was drawn said the charge was based in part on "identification of the gun used by defendant Galt found at the scene of the crime."

Thousands of black-and-white wanted posters were distributed throughout the nation yesterday describing Galt as "extremely dangerous," listing his aliases as John Willard and Harvey Lowmeyer, and carrying the FBI's special emergency phone number in Washington, NA 87117, for persons to call with information.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1 Herald Examiner  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/19/68  
Edition: Night Final  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Los Angeles  
 Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1 APR 22 1968	
FBI—LOS ANGELES	

44-1574 B-35

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Tips Swamp FBI in Manhunt for James Earl Ray

BY JERRY COHEN  
Times Staff Writer

Callers claiming to have knowledge of the whereabouts of James Earl Ray kept the switchboard humming Saturday at Los Angeles FBI headquarters.

Ray lived here until mid-March under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, the name used in Memphis on April 4 by the man believed to have assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King.

Telephone traffic in tips to the FBI here since disclosure of Ray's identity Friday has been remarkably heavy, it was learned.

The same apparently has been true of other FBI offices throughout Southern California, where Ray has been an off-and-on resident for 18 years.

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department reported the FBI's Indio office had received more than 75 calls by noon Saturday.

"They were from persons who thought they had seen the guy in stores or walking along highways. None panned out," said a sheriff's deputy.

The deputy said an unfounded report that a man resembling Ray had been seen walking along an Imperial County road Friday may

have helped trigger the crush of calls.

The FBI office in El Centro also was swamped with tips.

Most persons who believed they possessed information apparently called the FBI directly. Most local police jurisdictions reported no unusual volume of tips.

Some callers obviously were cranks or practical jokers. Others were well-intentioned citizens whose tips, on occasion, led to awkward situations.

A team of detectives stopped a man on Wilshire Blvd. Friday afternoon after a tipster had said he resembled Ray (Galt). The man was cleared immediately.

Another tip Saturday morning sent the same detective team to nearly the same spot on Wilshire. ~~The suspect~~ turned out

~~to be the very same man~~ they had questioned a few hours earlier.

Gardena police received a call from a man who hissed, "I'm the guy that shot Martin Luther King." Squad cars sped to the location where he said he would await arrest, a pay phone booth. When police arrived, no one was in sight.

For a time Saturday, the

Baldwin Park police station buzzed with activity after officers picked up a man said to resemble Ray.

FBI agents arrived at the station, followed shortly by representatives of news media.

The man was questioned for three hours, then released—a procedure developing into a common pattern Saturday across the nation.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Sec. A p.1 Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/21/68  
Edition: Final  
Author: Jerry Cohen  
Editor: Final  
Title: Tips Swamp FBI in Manhunt for James Earl Ray  
Character: MURKIN  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Los Angeles  
 Being Investigated

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
/ APR 22 1968  
FBI - LOS ANGELES

*Handwritten notes:*  
next copy to  
Franklin Bess  
Clark, Lincoln  
S.O. 4/22/68  
good



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI's Lone Role in Ray Manhunt May Prove Embarrassing

BY JACK NELSON  
Times Staff Writer

ATLANTA—The investigation of the Dr. Martin Luther King assassination has been almost entirely an FBI production, a fact that could prove embarrassing to the bureau if its No. 1 suspect, James Earl Ray, isn't apprehended—alive.

The trail of Ray, who went by the name of Eric Starvo Galt, ended in Atlanta, where his white Mustang was found abandoned on April 11, seven days after the killing of Dr. King by a sniper in Memphis. There has been no trace of him since early the morning of April 5—some 12 to 14 hours after the shooting—when a man believed to be him was seen leaving the car in an Atlanta public housing project.

## Labeled 'Extremely Dangerous'

The FBI has labeled Ray "armed and extremely dangerous," and there is growing concern here that if the elusive ex-convict ever is located, he will be shot by his captors. This could mean the motive for the slaying would never be known and the country would be wracked with rumors and doubts about the killing, much as it has been about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, whose assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was fatally shot by Jack Ruby.

The Atlanta Journal, in its lead editorial Saturday, declared: "We regard it as imperative that James Earl Ray . . . be taken into custody alive and closely protected thereafter. If this is the killer, every

possible step must be taken to see that he is not silenced before he talks

. . . The country can be done great harm if the truth is not established." It added that it questioned the wisdom of labeling Ray "armed and extremely dangerous."

In four cities where the investigation has been concentrated — Memphis, Birmingham, Atlanta and Los Angeles—local police have been practically shunted aside by the FBI. The FBI investigation has been handled at the

highest levels, with its two press releases on the case coming out of Washington and quoting Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark and FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. The releases have given no indication why more widespread local police efforts have not been encouraged in a case that primarily concerns a state offense—murder.

Memphis police filed a murder warrant against Ray (then known as Galt) Wednesday, immediately after the FBI filed a federal complaint in Birmingham charging him with conspiring to violate

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/22/68  
Edition: Home  
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Editor: Nick B. Williams  
Title: MURKIN

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or

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4/22*

the civil rights of Dr. King. On Friday the FBI identified Galt as Ray, a 40-year-old escapee from a 20-year robbery term at Missouri State Penitentiary.

The FBI has been especially sensitive about its investigation, perhaps because it had stopped keeping a protective eye on Dr. King. In the turbulent days of civil rights demonstrations in Alabama in 1965 and Mississippi in 1966, FBI agents frequently were seen keeping close tabs on him. However, none apparently was in the area of Memphis' Lorraine Motel on April 4 when he was shot while standing on a balcony outside his room.

Until its press releases,

designed to solicit public aid in locating the suspect, the FBI also had been unusually secretive about its investigation.

Dr. King was shot at 6:01 p.m. (CST) and moments later a man believed to be Ray, using the alias, John Willard, was seen hurriedly leaving a cheap boarding house from which the shot was fired. Witnesses said a white Mustang left the scene.

Witnesses at the Capitol Homes Project near the state capital here said a white Mustang registered to Ray was parked there by a man sometime between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. April 5. They could not identify him. Their estimate of the time, consider-

ing an hour's time zone differential, meant the car was parked about 12 to 14 hours after the shooting.

The Georgia Motor Club, an affiliate of the American Automobile Assn. recommends a 380-mile route for highway travel between Memphis and Atlanta.

The club recommends this route as the shortest and most feasible: U.S. 72 from Memphis to Tusculumbia, Ala.; U.S. 72 alternate to Decatur, Ala.; Alabama State 67 to Junction of U.S. 231; U.S. 231 to junction of U.S. 278; U.S. 278 to junction of Georgia State Route 6; State 6 to junction of Interstate 20 and Interstate 20 into Atlanta.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol issued an alert for the Mustang shortly after the assassination, but did not send the alert on to state police in Mississippi, Alabama or Georgia.

"There really is not a good alternate route," said a motor club spokesman. "Some people discuss going by way of Nashville and Chattanooga because it includes a lot of super-highway, but it is almost 100 miles farther."

If Ray was fleeing the assassination scene in the Mustang, there arises the question of why it was 12 to 14 hours before he arrived at the public housing project.

There has been speculation that he drove to Atlanta because it has a major airport with international flights and direct jets to major cities. But the place he parked is about 10 miles from the airport.

An Atlanta taxi driver had told FBI agents that he recognized a sketch of Ray as the man he picked up in Atlanta's northeast hippie section the night of April 5 and took for a two-block ride. But after seeing a photograph of Ray, the cabbie said, "That is definitely not the man I picked up."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Ray Had Restless Year After Escaping Prison

James Earl Ray, the man suspected of killing Dr. Martin Luther King, spent a restless year after his escape last April from Missouri State Penitentiary.

The moves and cross-country journeys of Ray, the man authorities first identified as Eric Starvo Galt, are retraced chronologically from reports of news media, the FBI and eyewitnesses:

**April 23, 1967**—James Earl Ray escapes from Missouri State Penitentiary.

**Aug. 26, 1967**—Eric Starvo Galt rents a room in a Birmingham boarding house run by Peter Cherpes, telling Cherpes he plans to stay three or four months.

**Aug. 30**—Buys a 1966 white Mustang from William D. Paisley of Birmingham, paying about \$2,000 in cash for the car.

**September** — Sometime this month Galt receives a package in the mail from Chicago weighing 20-25 pounds, 3 feet long by 1 foot wide.

**Oct. 7**—Checks out of the Birmingham boarding house after staying only six weeks, not the three or four months he told Cherpes he was going to stay. Says he is going to Mobile to look for a job.

**December** — Sometime during this month he closes a safe deposit box he obtained at Birmingham Trust National Bank last August.

**Dec. 14**—On or about this evening in Los Angeles, offers to drive Hollywood song writer Charles Stein to New Orleans and back free of charge if Stein will sign former Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace's qualifying petition for California's June primary ballot.

**Dec. 15**—On or about

this date, drives Stein to Wallace headquarters in North Hollywood. Later that afternoon, accompanied by Stein, drove in white Mustang to New Orleans. During the two-day drive tells Stein he has just sold a bar in Mexico.

**Mid-December** — Ray signs up for dancing lessons at the National Dance Studios in Long Beach, paying five \$20 bills for the \$100 deposit, then returns with \$365 to pay the balance. During a dance lesson, tells one of his

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-18 Los Angeles Times  
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instructors that he has a restaurant or a bar along the coast of Mexico.

**Dec. 19**—Ray and Stein leave New Orleans (in the Mustang) for Los Angeles.

**Dec. 21**—Arrives in Los Angeles.

**Jan. 19, 1968**—Applies for a six-week course at International School of Bartending in Los Angeles. The school's director has said that Ray paid the \$220 fee in cash and at the same time told him

that he (Ray) wanted to go to work as soon as possible.

**Jan. 20** — Begins bartending course.

**January to March** — During these months,

Ray is known to have been a nightly patron of the Rabbit's Foot Club, a cocktail lounge at 5623 Hollywood Blvd. Bartenders recall he often preached his support of Wallace and once was involved in a dispute in which he indicated that he was anti-Negro.

**Feb. 12**—Ends his dance lessons in Long Beach before completion of all 50 hours coming to him because, he tells studio manager, he wants to concentrate on his bartending course.

**February** — A gasoline station attendant recalls talking with a man who looks like Ray at his Birmingham gas station sometime during the month. The attendant says the man was driving a white Mustang with Georgia license plates.

**March 1**—A person, who identifies self as Galt, calls Alabama State Highway Patrol in Montgomery to request a duplicate driver's license. It was mailed to his former Birmingham boarding house address and subsequently picked up by someone who was not seen by anyone living in the boarding house.

**March 2** — Graduates from his bartending course, has his picture taken and declines a job that the school's director obtained for him saying he has to leave to see his brother.

**March 9**—On or about this date, calls the director of the bartending school and again refuses a job offer.

**Mid-March** — Ray last seen in Los Angeles at the Rabbit's Foot Club, sometime during the week of March 20 or March 27, according to a bartender.

**March 29** — Purchases rifle from a sporting goods store near the airport in Birmingham. Buys a .243-caliber Remington rifle, but returns later the same day to exchange it for a .30-06 rifle, declaring that he and his brother have decided the .243 is not suited for their hunting purposes. The .30-06 retails for \$139.95; Ray paid cash.

**April 3**—The night clerk at the Rebel Motel in Memphis says a man registered as Eric S. Galt on this date. He also noticed that a white Mustang with Mexican tourist stickers was parked at the motel while the man stayed there.

**April 4**—A man named "John Willard" who fits Ray's description registers at a S. Main St. rooming house about 3:15 p.m. The landlady recalls that the man preferred a room in the back (that had a view of the Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King was staying).

One of the occupants of the Memphis rooming house has said he saw "Willard" walk out of the bathroom immediately after he heard a shot, then walk down the stairs and out of the rooming house on S. Main St.

Witnesses have told of seeing one or two white Mustangs parked in front of the rooming house before they heard a shot. A white Mustang was seen pulling away minutes after the firing.

**April 5**—Residents of a housing development near the state capitol in Atlanta recall seeing a man fitting Ray's description park the white Mustang registered to Galt around 8:30 a.m. this morning.

Two Atlanta taxi drivers remember driving a man who looked like Ray on two short cab rides.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**SHACK ON EDGE OF TOWN****Ray Family Alias  
Traced in Missouri****BY VINCENT J. BURKE**

Times Staff Writer

EWING, Mo.—The man of many aliases who is being sought by the FBI as the suspected slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King apparently spent his boyhood years here living under an assumed family name.

An expanding web of circumstantial evidence indicated Sunday that the fugitive, James Earl Ray, 40, is the same individual as the youngster who is remembered here as James Raynes, eldest son of the impoverished family of Jerry Raynes.

If so, an appraisal of the character traits of James Raynes made by school authorities contains a grimly prophetic note.

The school records of James Raynes include a notation rating him as an untrustworthy person who "needs watching."

It had been previously disclosed that James Earl Ray's parents used the family name of Ryan, as well as the name of Ray under which his birth on March 10, 1928, was registered at Alton, Ill. Documentary and other evidence here provided the first indication that Ray's family during his boyhood years lived under a third name.

**Dropped Out of School**

The suspected slayer, Ray, several years ago told a probation officer in Los Angeles that he dropped out of school at Ewing, Mo., at about the age of 15.

James Raynes is the only pupil listed in the Ewing public school's records who fits Ray's description. Moreover, the birth date recorded in school records for James Raynes is the same as Ray's.

Like Ray, Raynes had a younger brother, John. Like Ray, Raynes' mother was named Lucille. Like Ray, Raynes had a sister, Marjorie Raynes, who died at the age of 6 and is buried at the Ewing Cemetery.

Both the Raynes and the Ray family are known to have lived in Quincy, Ill., in the 1940s.

Melba Ryan, of Quincy, has identified herself as a sister of Ray, but has declined to permit detailed questioning.

During two decades of arrests and convictions Ray has used such aliases as James McBride, James Walton, W.C. Herron and James O'Connor, in addition to Harvey Lowmyer, John Willard and Eric Starvo Galt.

**Came in Early '30s**

The Raynes family came to Ewing in the early 1930s and spent the years of the Great Depression living in a shack on the edge of town. As one old timer recalls it, "Everybody was poor then but the Rayneses were poorer."

The elder Raynes apparently never held a steady job.

James Raynes dropped out of the Ewing public school at the age of 15, failing to graduate with his eight-grade class. His family moved away soon thereafter.

The school records show that James Raynes entered school in 1935 and flunked the first grade, but caught up later by skipping the fifth grade. After a poor start, his grades improved and became better than average until the eighth grade when his performance slumped.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Editor: Nick B. Williams

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Character:

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The Rev. Virgil Oscar Graves, a minister and teacher at nearby Philadelphia, Mo., was Raynes' last teacher, serving as his instructor in the seventh and eighth grade.

"As I remember James Raynes," the Rev. Graves told a reporter, "he had an intelligence that was a little better than average but he didn't apply himself. He showed a little

resentment. He had given some previous teachers some trouble but he didn't give me any trouble. He missed school some and he did his work pretty well but he made no real extra effort."

On an intelligence test given him at the age of 10 he scored 108, slightly better than average. The score is close to the 105 mark that was achieved on an intelligence test given

Ray when he was a convict two years ago.

The test was administered at the Missouri State Hospital at Fulton as part of a psychiatric examination given Ray after his

second unsuccessful attempt to escape from the penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo., where he was serving a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

On his third escape at

tempt a year ago he succeeded by hiding in a basket of loaves of bread that

were to be delivered from the prison to a prison farm.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Ray: Strange Conflicts

(From Herald-Examiner Wire Services)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Widely varying descriptions given by witnesses to newsmen and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation has prompted speculation that Eric Starvo Galt was a "cover" name used by several men in a conspiracy to assassinate the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

After the F.B.I. said Friday that Galt was James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old escaped convict, it was noted that his description did not match that given by earlier witnesses.

Witnesses who had known Galt in the past six months have described:

A long-nosed man in his late 20's who was seen in Memphis at a rooming house from which the shot was fired that killed Dr. King.

A 36-year-old "avid dancer" who bought a rifle in Birmingham and who took dancing lessons in New Orleans at the time when James Earl Ray, the fourth Galt, was imprisoned in Missouri.

The witnesses who saw Galt at a Memphis rooming house said that he was 5 feet 11 inches or 6 feet tall, slender, weighing 165 pounds, with sandy hair and a long pointed nose. The oldest estimate of his age was 32 years, the youngest 26.

At a Birmingham rooming house where Galt lived for six weeks last fall, he was described as being 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 175 pounds, about 30 years old with brown hair and a slightly Southern accent.

The F.B.I. description that was released Wednesday night said that Galt was between 5 feet 8 inches and 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighed about 160 to 175 pounds, was of medium build, and had brown hair and blue eyes.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Part 1, Page 10  
Herald Examiner  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/20/68

Edition: 8 Star

Author:

Editor:

Title: MURKIN

Character: CR

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Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# The Many Faces Of James Earl Ray

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1, Part 1,  
Herald Examiner  
Los Angeles, Calif

Date: 4/20/68  
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Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

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Character: CR  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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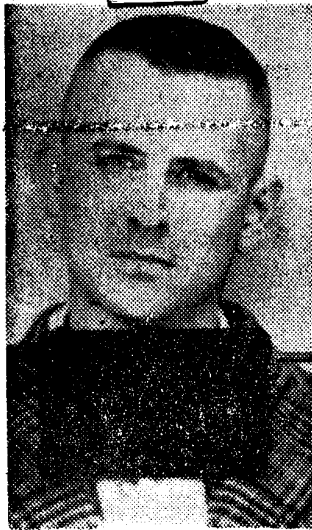
44-1574-B-41

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**THE MOST** recent photo of James Earl Ray. . .graduate of bartending school here



**ALIAS** Eric Starvo Galt in 1960 . . . FBI identified this man as suspect Ray



**CHICAGO POLICE** claim to have earliest known photo, taken upon arrest in 1954



**MISSOURI** state prison's file mugs, Jan. 1966 . . . He fled in April of 1967



**IN** 1959, James Earl Ray is arrested for robbery of St. Louis grocery store

# SUSPECT'S TROUBLED L.A. LIFE TOLD

Los Angeles court records revealed today that the man sought in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King led the life of a drifter from the time he dropped out of high school.

The report was made public at the County Probation Office on the background of James Earl Ray, 40, also known as Eric Starvo Galt, and other aliases.

A complete dossier was written on Ray following a 1949 burglary arrest here. The probation officer's biography of the dropout depicts him as a wanderer constantly seeking greener grass.

Ray was arrested here Oct.

11, 1949, four days after he was seen burglarizing the Forum Cafe. During the burglary he was spotted inside the restaurant and a typewriter was found on a nearby fire escape.

He tussled with two men during his escape, but his pocket was torn, spilling his identification onto the ground. The arrest followed.

Then Superior Judge W. Turney Fox sentenced Ray to eight months in jail, but reduced the sentence to 90 days

and three years probation plus a promise to abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages.

Prior to Ray's court appearance Deputy County Probation Officer Robert V. Sieloff probed Ray's past for a report which helped guide Judge Fox in sentencing Ray.

Sieloff's report showed Ray was born on [redacted] in Alton, Ill., a suburb of St. Louis directly across the Mississippi River. He was the eldest of three sons and was

reared in Alton and Quincy, Ill., nearby. Later the family moved to Ewing, Mo., where Ray dropped out of high school in his freshman year.

"I didn't want to go any more," Ray told Sieloff during his probationary discussion.

After moving around the Midwest for several years, he went to work at International Shoe Co. in Hartford, Ill., at 77 cents an hour. Christmas-time 1945 he was laid off.

Two months later, six

months after World War II ended, Ray entered the U.S. Army, from which he received an honorable discharge in December 1948. He served in Germany two years both in the infantry and military police. Sieloff's report indicates he made a "reasonably adequate adjustment while in the Army, though he had some difficulty in the infantry."

For five months after his discharge he was unemployed. Then he found work with the Dryden Rubber Co. in

Chicago at \$45 a week. He lost that job, too.

During this time he purchased a 1947 automobile, but fell behind in payments and it was repossessed.

But he also maintained a bank account after his discharge at Alton Banking and Trust Co. which once had a balance of \$1108. But the sum was depleted and the account closed in June 1949.

Sieloff's report said he found Ray to be a man of normal intelligence. The report said Ray was an avid movie fan attending theaters two or three times weekly. He dated frequently.

Asked why he came to Los Angeles, Ray told Sieloff he planned to meet his uncle (unidentified), an overseas worker who then was employed on Guam. Ray told the probation officer he wanted to work outside the Continental United States.

When he was arrested here, Ray listed his mother as Mrs. Lucille Ray, Alton, Ill. His father died in 1946.

A wanted poster contained in the probation report stated his grandmother, Mrs. Mary Maher, and a brother, John, lived in St. Louis. Another brother, Jerry, resided in Wheeling, Ill.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# GALT

# EX-CON

# VICT

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Part 1, Page 1  
Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/20/68  
Edition: Preview  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title: MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

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114-7510-5-42

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**FOUR VIEWS OF ASSASSIN SUSPECT**—A 1960 prison picture of Earl Ray, left, is compared to an artist sketch of the assassin



suspect. The picture of Ray at the far right, also made in 1960, is compared to the photo witnesses identified as Eric Starvo Galt. (AP Wirephotos)

## Missouri Escapee Revealed as Onetime Prisoner in L.A.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The FBI said Friday that the "Eric Starvo Galt" who was sought across the nation in connection with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King is in fact James Earl Ray, who escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary 51 ~~weeks~~ ago.

Ray, who had an arrest record dating back to 1949, was convicted of burglary in Los Angeles in 1949 and served 90 days in the Los Angeles County jail that year.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said a systematic comparison of fingerprints uncovered in the case with the prints of more than 53,000 persons led to the determination "that Galt and Ray are identical."

But the announcement raised some questions. On Wednesday, when Hoover identified Galt as the man sought for conspiracy in the slaying, he said that Galt had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965. But Friday's FBI announcement said Ray was in prison between 1960 and April 23, 1967, when he escaped.

### Sentenced to 20 Years

Ray was sentenced to 20 years on Dec. 18, 1959, on a charge of armed robbery in St. Louis Circuit Court. He and another ex-convict, James Owens, were convicted of robbing a St. Louis supermarket of \$190.

Convicted by a jury which deliberated 20 minutes, Ray attempted to escape from the courtroom by jumping into an elevator. He made two unsuccessful attempts to escape from the Missouri penitentiary before he succeeded last year.

Hoover did not mention the discrepancies between his statement Wednesday and his latest announcement. FBI officials handed the announcement to reporters but ~~would answer no questions.~~

The Alton, Ill., city clerk said Friday a James Earl Ray was born in Alton March 10, 1928.

The FBI gave the birthdate in announcing Ray's identity, but did not give a birthplace.

Clerk Paul A. Price said all other details of the record were confidential. However, it was learned the Alton Ray was born at 1021 W. 9th St. His father reportedly had the same name and was listed as a laborer.

#### Left School in 10th Grade

The FBI said Ray left school in Alton in the 10th grade.

The principal at Alton Senior High School said his records showed three James Rays attended the school during the period Ray would have been a student and he was trying to determine whether any of them were the man identified by the FBI.

The FBI handed out two pictures of Ray taken in 1960. In several ways, they matched pictures of Galt taken in 1968. In both pictures, deep lines ran from the subject's nose to his mouth. The ears looked identical and so did the lines around the eyes.

In its announcement Wednesday the FBI said a warrant had been filed charging that Galt entered into a conspiracy with "an individual whom he alleged to be his brother." It said the conspiracy "continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate Martin Luther King Jr."

Dr. King was slain on the balcony of a motel in Memphis on April 4. He was shot from ambush by a man in a rundown rooming house across the street. The man escaped in a white Mustang, later found abandoned in Atlanta.

No mention of the alleged brother

was made in the new announcement. It was reported Thursday that an informer cooperating with the FBI led to a belief that Dr. King's slayer was in California.

A reliable source told UPI that FBI agents were in communication with Galt's "alleged brother."

Out of its belief that an arrest was imminent Wednesday, the FBI had filed its charges against Galt. Officials in Memphis followed up by swearing out a murder warrant for his arrest.

But if the manhunt—one of the most intensive in American history—was in fact closing around Galt, he apparently managed to escape it.

#### Aliases Told

Ray was identified in the FBI announcement as having used the aliases of Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer, John Willard, James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Conner.

The man who checked into the Memphis rooming house a few hours before Dr. King was shot used the name John Willard.

The latest development strengthened the theory that Dr. King's slayer had carefully created the personality of "Eric Starvo Galt" in the months before the murder in a plan to escape after the crime was committed.

Hoover said Ray's criminal record dated back to 1949 when he was convicted of burglary in Los Angeles. He was convicted of armed robbery in Chicago in 1952 and of forging U.S. postal money orders in Missouri in 1955.

He had served time in the Los Angeles County jail in 1949; in state prisons at Joliet, Ill., and Pontiac, Ill., from 1952 to 1954; and in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., from 1955 to 1958.

The FBI attributed a number of characteristics to Galt which it did not mention in its announcement of Ray.

It said Galt had a nervous habit of pulling on an earlobe, a taste for beer

and vodka and a love for dancing.

It had identified Galt by profession as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a seaman. It said Ray worked as a baker, laborer and "color matcher."

No mention was made of Galt's graduation last March 2 from a Los Angeles dancing school in the announcement about Ray.

But the physical description issued under Galt's name fit Ray. Galt was described as having given his age as 36; Ray was reported as 40.

Galt was described as white, between 5 feet 8 inches and 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighing between 160 and 170 pounds. Ray was described as white, approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing between 163 and 174 pounds with blue eyes and brown hair.

Galt was described as a

"loner" and Ray as a "drifter."

Warden Harold Swenson of the Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City, said Ray was "an evasive type of person."

"I don't think anybody either liked him or disliked him," the warden said.

Swenson said Ray had succeeded in escaping from the prison by hiding in a bread truck. He had been working in the prison's food service system.

Galt was said on Wednesday to have used language and diction reflecting a "rural" quality and Hoover said his speech suggested "that he probably does not have a high degree in education."

Hoover said Ray had joined the Army in February, 1946, and was given a general discharge in December, 1948, due to ineptness and a lack of ability to adapt to military life. During his service

days, he was sentenced to three months at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest.

Ray was named as a federal fugitive in an FBI complaint filed on July 20, 1967, charged with illegal flight.

"Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous," the FBI said.

In addition to being convicted on two armed robbery charges for holding up the St. Louis supermarket, Ray was convict-

ed of automobile theft and was sentenced to 20 years.

A mental examination in the fall of 1966 showed him to have no personality difficulties not common to confined men, Warden Swenson said.



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Suspect's Criminal Career Started With L.A. Theft in 1949

BY JERRY COHEN  
Times Staff Writer

The criminal career of James Earl Ray, the man suspected of killing Dr. Martin Luther King, began in the heart of downtown Los Angeles early on an October evening 18 years ago.

He tried to steal a typewriter from the third floor office of the Forum Cafeteria at 620 S. Broadway.

The assistant manager caught him in the act and scuffled with him, but Ray got away—not for long, however.

As he fled across a parking lot at 525 S. Spring St., a parking lot attendant heard the assistant manager's cries and grabbed Ray.

The two struggled. Ray broke free, but a bank savings book and his Army discharge papers fell to the pavement from his torn shirt pocket.

## Recognized at Bank

That incident, and an extraordinary coincidence, led to the first arrest in Ray's long career of lawlessness—a span of misconduct that may have reached a climax in Memphis April 4.

Four days later, on Oct. 11, 1949, the parking lot attendant recognized Ray emerging from a bank at 7th St. and Broadway.

He attracted the attention of nearby policemen, who arrested Ray, and matched him up with the bank book and Army papers.

Ray was given 90 days in the County Jail and placed on two years probation by Superior Judge W. Turney Fox, now retired.

Judge Fox's leniency was based on the report of Dep. County Probation Officer Herbert W. Audit and the plea of Dep. Public Defender Richard S. Buckley, who represented Ray, who was unemployed at the time and broke.

Audit today is in the probation department's Santa Monica office, while Buckley has risen to head of the public defender's office.

Neither recalled the case Friday, but Buckley, in appealing for probation when Ray appeared Dec. 30, 1949, before Judge Fox for sentencing, said:

"... I feel he not only is eligible for probation but that he is a fit subject for probation... this man is in a position to stand on ~~his~~

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Part 1, Page 1  
Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/20/68  
Edition: Preview  
Author: JERRY COHEN  
Editor:  
Title: MURKIN

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or  
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FBI—LOS ANGELES	

~~fact~~, and apparently has done so for a period of time . . .

"He apparently is thrifty, acquired some savings and also did fairly well in the Army. In view of these circumstances, I feel he is a good risk on probation . . ."

"I think you have a point there," Judge Fox told Buckley.

Then the judge turned to Ray and informed him that as a condition of his probation:

"I want you to stay out of drinking places and not indulge in the use of alcoholic liquor or frequent or go to places where it is the principal order of sale . . ."

Audit, the probation officer, had noted that Ray "spends much time on dates with girls" and admitted to "occasional excessive use of intoxicants."

His remarks, and those of the judge, have an ironic echo today, since women and liquor appear to have played major roles in the subsequent life of Ray, who was only 21 at the time.

Audit also observed that Ray appeared to ~~be of~~ normal intelligence, was a

Roman Catholic who did not attend church, attended movies two or three times a week and "likes to read magazines and common ordinary books."

Ray, who had been in Los Angeles only two days when he got into the trouble at the Forum Cafeteria, was the oldest boy in a family of three, Audit reported to Judge Fox.

The probation report also disclosed that:

He was reared by his parents in Alton and Quincy Ill., across the Mississippi River from St. Louis.

His father, Gordon, died in 1946, by which time young Ray had quit high school in Ewing, Mo., across the river from his home. He got only as far as the ninth grade. He was 16 at the time.

Ray joined the Army Feb. 19, 1946, got a general discharge—still as a private—on Dec. 23, 1948.

He spent most of that time in Germany, and during part of his service career there he was assigned to the Military Police.

When apprehended, he denied he ever had been in trouble with the law before. A check of FBI files could establish no previous arrest records.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ASSASSINATION

## Ray, Alias Galt

The FBI announced Friday that the man known as Eric Starvo Galt, charged earlier in the week in Memphis with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, is actually James Earl Ray, 40, who escaped from Missouri State Prison April 23, 1967.

Ray, alias Galt, was identified after a tedious matching of fingerprints obtained at the scene of the King assassination with the fingerprints of 53,000 persons in the FBI "wanted" files, an FBI spokesman said.

Records show that Ray was born March 10, 1928 in Alton, Ill., the son of a laborer of the same name.

He dropped out of high school and later enlisted in the Army. He was given a general discharge for ineptitude and lack of adaptability. He served a three-month sentence in the Army for drunkenness and breaking arrest.

Ray was serving a 20-year term for armed robbery when he escaped prison in Missouri in 1967. He had been sentenced in St. Louis in 1960.

His arrest record dates back to 1949, when he was convicted of burglary in Los Angeles. He was convicted of armed robbery counts in Chicago in 1952, and on charges of forging U.S. postal money orders in Missouri in 1955.

**Once in L.A. Jail**

He has served time in the Los Angeles County jail, the Joliet and Pontiac, Ill., state prisons, and in the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan.

The FBI said Ray has used the names of James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Connor, as well as the aliases Galt, John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer. (A man registered as Willard in the cheap rooming house from which the shot that killed Dr. King was fired April 4.)

Prison records show Ray is 5 feet, 10 inches tall, weighs from 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair. He has two scars, a small one in the center of his forehead and another in the palm of his right hand.

He has worked as a laborer and baker.



**FUGITIVE**—James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, hunted in assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

(P) Wirephoto

He has been a federal fugitive since July 20, 1967, when an FBI complaint was filed in Jefferson City, Mo., charging him with unlawfully fleeing from Missouri to escape confinement.

In addition to the first degree murder charge in Memphis, Ray is charged by the FBI with fleeing across state lines unlawfully to escape arrest, and with conspiracy to deprive Dr. King of his civil rights.

The FBI released pictures of Ray, alias Galt, when the conspiracy charge was filed. The picture was readily identified by a number of bartenders, bar patrons, dance instructors and waitresses in the Los Angeles and Long Beach areas.

The wanted man apparently lived in Southern California from mid-December 1967, to early March 1968. He paid \$700 in cash for a 50-lesson dance course in Long Beach and a bartending school course in Los Angeles. He graduated from bartending school March 2.

The FBI alerted law officers everywhere in the United States to watch for him and appealed to the public for help in apprehending the fugitive.

**Left Many Clues**

Dr. King's sniper assassin left a broad trail of clues when he fled from the rooming house, after the shooting. A pump-type rifle and a

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Sec. G p.4 Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4-21-68

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Author:

Editor: Nick B. Williams

Title:

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Classification:

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

bag of clothes and personal belongings were ~~left on~~ the sidewalk outside the building.

The white Mustang believed used as the getaway car was found several days after the murder in Atlanta. The car was registered to "Galt" in Alabama. Ray was also identified by two taxi drivers as having been in Atlanta the day after the Memphis slaying.

Ray apparently spent some time building up his "Galt" identity. He used that name in California, and in Birmingham, Ala., where he lived for six weeks in September and October, 1967.

Acquaintances in Los Angeles said Ray, or "Galt," was secretive about his past but showed strong anti-Negro prejudices and once was

involved in a shouting argument in a bar about civil rights. He also was a militant supporter of George Wallace, former Alabama governor, the super-segregationist who is seeking a third-party nomination for the presidency.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Tennessee Issued No Alert to 3 States for Car in King Case

Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia Not Notified, They Say;  
Where Wanted Man Got Spending Money Is Also Puzzle

BY ED MEAGHER and NICHOLAS C. CHRISS

Times Staff Writers

BIRMINGHAM — The man who killed Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis April 4 apparently had little difficulty making his escape through Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia because no alert was issued for his car.

A check of the highway patrols in the three states showed that none received an alert from the Tennessee Highway Patrol for the car, a white Mustang, even though two alerts for the car had been issued in Tennessee.

The FBI has said that a white Mustang found in Atlanta was registered to Eric Starvo Galt, later identified as an escaped convict, James Earl Ray. In addition to a state first-degree murder warrant issued in Memphis, Ray is wanted on federal charges of conspiracy to deny Dr. King his civil rights and of flight to escape conspiracy.

One puzzling question is that of where the wanted man got his money.

## Hasn't Worked Since Escape

Ray, so far as it can be determined, has not worked since he escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary on April 23, 1967. He had begun a 20-year sentence there for armed robbery on March 17, 1960.

But in the 51 weeks since his escape it is probable he spent a minimum \$6,000—all in cash. This would include \$2,000 he paid for a Mustang in Birmingham, minimal living expenses of \$42.50 a week, dancing lessons, plus the cost of a hunting rifle and scope and miscellaneous expenses, including gas and oil for the car, which was driven 19,000 miles during the period, according to the FBI.

From August until December last year Ray, under the name of Galt, rented a safety deposit box in a Birmingham bank and he may have kept his money there.

On the question of the assassin's escape, Memphis city police and the

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Sec. A, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, Calif.

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Editor: Nick B. Williams  
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# 3 States Not Alerted for Car in King Case

Continued from First Page

Sheriff's Department issued an alert for a white Mustang seen and heard leaving the assassination scene by several witnesses at about 6:11 p.m., nine minutes after Dr. King was slain. The Tennessee Highway Patrol issued an alert at about 6:30 p.m.

## Received No Alert

But officials in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia all confirmed they received no alert from Tennessee and the state police spokesmen said they knew of no roadblocks erected.

In Mississippi and Alabama, for example, state police said their main concern that night was the possibility of racial eruptions sparked by Dr. King's death.

Maj. Barney Ragsdale, head of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, said he was amazed that no alert had been issued for the white Mustang. "We usually would get information like that," he added.

Another point which has been mentioned is that despite the dozens of police cars speeding about Memphis during Dr. King's presence in the city before his assassination, no police officer ever inspected the roofs or insides of a row of sleazy buildings overlooking Dr. King's motel.

## Concerned Where

One civil rights leader in Memphis said experience had shown him that local police were usually more concerned about what violence might spring from Dr. King and his followers than they were about what might happen to Dr. King.

But questionable investigative procedures were not confined to Tennessee.

Witnesses at the Capitol Homes public housing development in Atlanta said a white Mustang arrived there the morning after the assassination and that a man was seen near the car between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. The vehicle was observed for a week by the curious but cautious residents before one woman called the FBI.

When she did, she referred her to local police and expressed little interest.

"I was so mad. I should have asked for the FBI supervisor," said Mrs. John H. Riley. "I know they get a lot of crank calls. But I tried to tell them this was the car everyone had been reading about in the papers."

According to at least one eyewitness and to Memphis police director Frank C. Holloman, a police officer was not more than two or three minutes behind the assassin when he dropped his rifle on the sidewalk, popped into the car and fled.

## His escape route,

through city streets filled with police, may have taken him down Lamar or Poplar Sts. and quite probably onto Highway 78 or 72, according to a state highway patrol spokesman. Either one would have gotten him out of Tennessee within an hour, across the uppermost portion of Mississippi, through Alabama and into northern Georgia.

If the assassin did nothing more than listen to his car radio, he would have known that his pursuers had not extended the chase across the state borders. And if he had a citizen's band radio in the car, he possibly knew from what he heard after leaving Tennessee that no one was looking for him.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Color Photo of  
Ray Set for TV**

WASHINGTON (UPI)—  
A color photograph of  
James Earl Ray, accused  
of conspiring to assassi-  
nate Dr. Martin Luther  
King, will be shown on na-  
tionwide television tonight  
in the hope it will help  
lead to his capture, a  
spokesman said.

The photograph of Ray,  
also known as Eric Starvo  
Galt, was flown to Los An-  
geles from FBI headquar-  
ters here, to be shown at  
the end of tonight's seg-  
ment of ABC's series, "~~the~~  
FBI."

(Indicate page, name of  
newspaper, city and state.)

Sec. A p. 10 Los  
Angeles Times, Los  
Angeles, Calif.

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Angelen

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... as consoling. Let from our  
coo-cooing doves has come a strange chorus. Hanoi is now interested in talking peace, they claim, because the enemy is clearly winning.

Have you ever heard such inverse, tortured, cockeyed thinking in your life? You can't even call it thinking since there isn't a grain of logic in it. It would be laughable if it were not so tragic.

The tragedy, of course, is the big new propaganda bonanza such talk has given to Hanoi. At the very time the Communists have been taking a shellacking they unexpectedly find their weakness turned to strength by Americans. Not even Ho Chi Minh would have been naive enough to assert his recent troop retreats were to show good will in pending peace maneuvers.

Did he do it at Dien Bien Phu? Did he do it when he was winning for the first day or so at the Tet offensive?

You bet your life he didn't. I don't know any military logic that calls for making peace while you are winning.

★ ★ ★

An immediate result of the new tack taken by our defeatists was to stall off agreement on where preliminary peace "contacts" might be held. Negotiations were proceeding smoothly when our home-front critics began accusing President Johnson of renegeing on his promise to meet the enemy "any place, any time."

This cry, coming on top of the unwonted strength

specifically offered to meet "at Geneva or any other suitable place."

The enemy accepted this—at first. In formal diplomatic meetings in Laos, the North Vietnamese envoy rejected Geneva and offered the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh as an alternative. The U.S. came back with Jakarta, Rangoon or New Delhi.

Suddenly North Vietnam, breaking the rules of protocol, had broadcast over the Soviet news agency that it favored Warsaw, echoing our doves' cry that President Johnson was renegeing. And there the matter remained late in the week when the U.S. came up with 10 more site proposals.

Why this nation should be expected to meet in Cambodia or Warsaw defies common sense. We do not even have a legation in Cambodia, where communications are on a tom-tom level. And no western official can talk or make a phone call or hold a conversation in a Soviet satellite country without his phone being tapped and his words being taped.

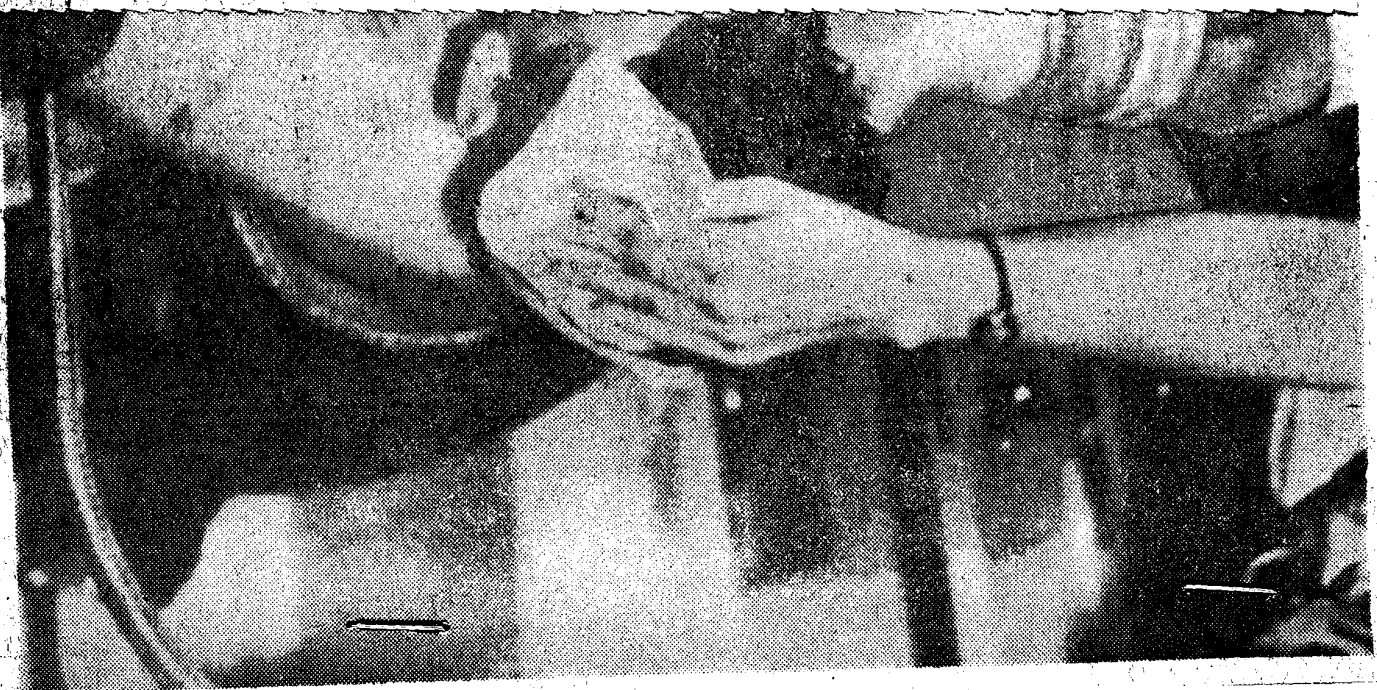
Actually the tactical dueling over a site should have and would have been settled quickly except that our defeatists showed the enemy how to take advantage of the game. Heaven knows there are plenty of "suitable" neutral sites available. Maybe U Thant will be able to do some good for a change and come up with an acceptable compromise.

★ ★ ★

Whatever happens, you can be sure that our home front peaceniks will keep on trying to find issues embarrassing to the U.S. They are doing it in all

Call  
Kamner

(re.)



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F.D-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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### Entered Innocent Plea

He attracted the attention of nearby policemen, who arrested Ray, and matched him up with the bank book and Army papers.

Ray was charged with second-degree burglary, pleaded not guilty, but was convicted Dec. 12 in a nonjury trial.

Ray was given 90 days in the County Jail and placed on two years probation by Superior Judge W. Turney Fox, now retired.

Judge Fox's leniency was based on ~~the report~~ of Dep. County Probation Officer Herbert W. Audit and the plea of Dep. Public Defender Richard S. Buckley, who represented Ray, then unemployed and nearly broke.

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Please Turn to Page 7, Col. 1

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Part 1, Page 1  
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Date: 4/20/68  
Edition: Morning  
Author: JERRY COHEN  
Editor:  
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His remarks, and those of the judge, have an ironic echo today, since women and liquor appear to have played major roles in the subsequent life of Ray, who was only 21 at the time.

Audit also observed that Ray appeared to be of normal intelligence, was a Roman Catholic who did not attend church, saw two or three movies a week and "likes to read magazines and common ordinary books."

Ray denied he was bent on burglary when he en-

tered the cafeteria office that October evening nearly two decades ago.

He contended he had attended a downtown movie, then climbed a fire escape to the Forum's third floor office for a reason he was unable to explain. The best he could come up with was:

"I guess I had some beers or something."

But the cafeteria's assistant manager said he had found Ray crouched behind a safe when he entered the office and spotted a typewriter sitting outside on the fire escape.