



PROFILES COMPARED—A prison photo of James Earl Ray is compared to an artist's drawing based on witnesses' description of the suspect.

(AP Wirephotos)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



SUSPECT IN 1960 PHOTO—James Earl Ray, sought in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, is shown at his trial in St. Louis.

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

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FBI — LOS ANGELES	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Identifies Galt as Escaped Convict

King Suspect Fled From Missouri Last April During a Robbery Term

BY ROBERT L. JACKSON and RONALD J. OSTROW
Times Staff Writers

WASHINGTON—Eric Starvo Galt, who is accused of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King, was identified by the FBI Friday as an escaped armed robber and car thief whose real name is James Earl Ray.

The FBI said it discovered the identity of Ray, 40, by tediously matching faint fingerprints found during the two-week-old investigation against those of more than 53,000 fugitives described in the bureau's files. The FBI did not say where the fingerprints were found.

Ray, who employed a variety of other aliases during an 18-year crime career, is the object of one of the greatest manhunts in history, involving FBI, state and local police across the country.

Ray escaped April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, where he had served seven years of a 20-year sentence for the \$120 robbery of a St. Louis supermarket and for stealing a car in 1959.

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

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& RONALD J. OSTROW
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First Seized in Los Angeles

His arrest record, the FBI said, goes back to 1949 when he was convicted of a Los Angeles burglary for which he served time in County Jail. He was convicted of a Chicago armed robbery in 1952 and sentenced to state prison. In 1955 he was convicted of forging postal money orders in Missouri and sentenced to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan.

After two unsuccessful attempts to escape from the Missouri prison, Ray made his break last year apparently by hiding in a bakery truck that was making deliveries of bread baked in the penitentiary to prison honor farms outside the walls. Ray's prison duties were in food service.

The first of his two previous attempts to escape from the penitentiary, in 1961, was thwarted when a ladder collapsed under him as he was attempting to scale a wall. In the second attempt, in March, 1966, he escaped from his cell but was found in a ventilating shaft inside the penitentiary.

Transferred to Hospital

The second escape attempt caused Ray to be transferred to the Missouri State Hospital at Fulton, where he underwent mental observation from Sept. 8 to Oct. 21, 1966, where he was confined to the maximum security ward for the criminally insane.

But Dr. Donald Peterson, hospital superintendent, said Ray should not be considered "an ex-mental patient." He explained that many inmates who try to escape are sent to Fulton for mental examination to determine if they view themselves as responsible for their actions.

"There was no evidence whatsoever of any mental disease or defect," Peterson told The Times. He said the prisoner had exhibited no strong racial prejudices or other psychological quirks.

Dr. Peterson said indications were that Ray suffered from "just no goodness." He said, "He was well behaved at the hospital and I understand that outside of escaping and attempting to escape, he gave them no trouble at the penitentiary.

At least we haven't been told otherwise."

Ray's hospital records indicated both his parents are dead, but listed a brother, Jerry Ray, of Post Office Box 22, Wheeling, Ill. In addition, a wanted poster issued by Missouri authorities when Ray escaped from prison last year also listed John Ray of 1918 Park Ave., St. Louis, as a brother.

No trace of either brother could be found by reporters Friday, and the FBI declined comment when asked about them.

Ray's former neighbors in St. Louis said Friday that FBI agents were carrying on an active search for Ray last October. That was six months after he escaped from prison and was listed as a fugitive.

But the FBI agents ran into a cold trail when they questioned residents of the rooming house area on the near south side of St. Louis where Ray had lived with his mother and grandmother at the time he was arrested for armed robbery in 1959.

Tall and Thin

Two long-time residents of the area told a Times reporter that they informed the FBI they had not seen Ray since his arrest eight years earlier and they said that the mother and grandmother apparently moved out of the neighborhood at about the time of his arrest.

Mrs. Sophie Martin and Mrs. June Turnbough added that the Rays had lived in their neighborhood for only about one year. They remembered Ray as a tall and thin man who usually was garbed in a shirt and slacks and who always used the back door, rather than the front.

Ray's mother, Mrs. Martin said, rented the entire three-story house of nine rooms in which the Rays lived and rented out most of the rooms. "The roomers drank and cursed," Mrs. Martin said. "That's the kind of roomer she catered to."

Address Questioned

Before the armed robbery for which Ray was sentenced to prison, he rented a room in another rooming house about five blocks away. Police arrested him and an accomplice there 20 minutes after the robbery.

Although prison records indicated that Ray had given the Park Ave. address for his brother, there was some question as to the accuracy of the address. It turned out to be a one-story junk shop with living quarters in the rear. The present occupant, who has lived there for a year, said he did not know Ray's brother or Ray and had no knowledge of whether the brother had ever lived there.

The FBI conspiracy charge filed Wednesday against "Galt" said he had conspired against Dr. King with an unnamed brother. Sources have since suggested that only one suspect is being sought.

The conspiracy warrant against "Galt" as well as a later Tennessee murder charge against him still apply against Ray, federal sources said.

Slain on Balcony

Dr. King was slain on the balcony of a motel in Memphis April 4. He was shot by a sniper from a rundown rooming house. The slayer escaped in a white Mustang, which was found abandoned in Atlanta April 11.

The FBI said all activities and travel previously attributed to Galt actually apply to Ray—with one

exception. The bureau had said the fugitive took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965, but this was an error since the suspect was in prison at the time.

Authorities said Ray did attend a Long Beach dancing school and a Los Angeles bartender's school during a three-month period starting last December, as previously reported by the FBI.

A 1960 prison photograph released Friday by the FBI and a "Galt" photo distributed Wednesday show a striking similarity, despite some noticeable differences.

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

Several Aliases Used

Galt was described as a "loner"; Ray as a "drifter."

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

A man who checked into the Memphis rooming house several hours before Dr. King was shot used the name John Willard.

The Chicago police record of Ray indicates he was arrested May 9, 1952, in the East Chicago Ave. district and charged with armed robbery. He was indicted by a Cook County grand jury, tried in Criminal Court and convicted June 4, 1952. He was sentenced to ~~from one~~ to two years at the Illinois Penitentiary at Joliet.

On July 7, 1952, he was

transferred to a state penal institution at Pontiac, Ill., from which he was discharged March 12, 1954, at the end of his term.

Ray's army record was tainted, too. After enlisting at East St. Louis, Ill., in 1946—at the age of 17—he was sentenced to three months hard labor for drunkenness and breaking arrest.

He was given a general discharge in December, 1948, due to "ineptness

and lack of adaptability for military service," the FBI said.

Born March 10, 1928, in Alton, Ill., a suburb of St. Louis, Ray "has claimed that he attended school through the 10th grade," the Bureau said.

Alton Police Chief William Petersen said Ray had a record there dating back to 1949 and going through 1959. He said Ray was charged with armed robbery there, but was not brought to trial because before the trial could be held he was convicted in St. Louis.

The robbery charge in Alton, he said, involved Ray and "an elderly gentleman" who stuck up a grocery store. Other charges in Alton involved traffic violations, vagrancy and burglary.

Petersen said that although Ray claims to have gone to the 10th grade in Alton, the superintendent of schools reports there is no record he attended school there. Ray told authorities in Los Angeles

he had attended school across the river from Alton in Ewing, Mo.

Petersen said he remembered Ray as "a dirty neck individual." He said he would call him a "hardened criminal."

A small scar on the center of Ray's forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand were reported Friday by the FBI for the first time.

Agents declined to answer all other questions about evidence, including results of ballistics tests on a rifle found at the murder scene or the source of fingerprints that led them to Ray.

(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 around 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 burglary 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,

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

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Editor: Donald Goodenow

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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."

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.

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



Ray told authorities he had

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)

New Galt Links in L.B. Told

By FRANK ANDERSON

A few more pieces of the jig-saw puzzle that is Eric Starvo Galt, the FBI's prime suspect in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., fell into place Thursday in Southern California.

An "Eric S. Galt" was confirmed as a former service customer of the Southern California Edison Co. of Los Angeles. But a public relations representative for the firm, Ray Osborne, told The Independent Press-Telegram that all records of such service had been turned over to the FBI.

OSBORNE could supply no details of when, where or how the Edison served Galt, but the fact that he was a client indicated he had been a house or apartment tenant in Long Beach or Los Angeles.

Prior to the information from the Edison Co., Galt's only confirmed address was a motel at 5533 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood. The manager of the International School of Bartending in Hollywood stated earlier that Galt had been graduated from his school but refused a job offer.

Meanwhile, in Long Beach, a stunning 21-year-old dance instructress who taught Galt the cha-cha and the go-go, expressed fears for her life.

Miss Kathy Norton, who works at the National Dance Studios and was one of the employees who identified Galt as a student there from December through mid-February of this year, said she had no fear of Galt himself but was apprehensive about the conspiracy in which he is alleged to have been involved.

"Remember the Kennedy assassination," she said. "There were a lot of people who saw that or were involved innocently, and now all of them are dead."

MISS NORTON danced only "three or four hours" with Galt, but her former colleague at the studio, Patty Harris, 20, a smoky brunette, tutored him almost 20 hours.

"He was a very nice person," she said, "and he was a good dancer, despite what they say."

Miss Harris, no longer employed by the studio, left her part-time job with National Dance Studios in mid-February. But she explained that quitting her job had nothing to do with Galt, who terminated his lessons there about the same time.

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

LONG BEACH
INDEPENDENT

LONG BEACH,
CALIF.

page A-4

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Editor: WILLIAM BROOM
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WORD SPREADS FAST***Fugitive's Dead-Ringer Has Valley Police in a Dither***By **MIKE CARMEL**

BALDWIN PARK — The arrest of a man who is a dead-ringer for James Earl Ray, alleged killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., resulted in near pandemonium for about three hours at the Baldwin Park police station Saturday.

Tipped off by an anonymous caller who said a man resembling Ray was getting a hair cut in a barber shop on Maine Street, police closed in on the suspect at Maine and Ramona Boulevard.

Unable to produce identification and almost indistinguishable from published pictures of Ray—the subject of a nationwide manhunt—the man was brought to the police station where agents off the FBI arrived in minutes.

Word of the sensational arrest flashed across the country within an hour, although strict radio silence on the arrest was maintained.

The police dispatcher reported calls from news media in New York, Chicago, Washington D.C. and Dallas.

A New York caller insisted Sheriffs for more weaponry.

Ray was being held on the seventh floor of the "Baldwin Park Police Bldg." The Baldwin Park police occupy basement offices in the city hall.

The Chicago newsman wanted more information on the "gun battle" which forced police to call in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office for more weaponry. After hours of questioning and fingerprint analysis by a statewide, court-recognized expert and an FBI fingerprint specialist, the man was freed—with a copy of his arrest report to help in case another sharp-eyed citizen makes an anonymous call.

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

4 San Gabriel
Valley Daily
Tribune

West Covina, Cal

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Editor: Richard Tracy

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King's Killer: A Muddled Mystery

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — FBI agents have been given a new identification for the man they seek in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but the new identification seems to have muddled even more the mystery of who fired the single shot that killed King here the night of April 4.

The FBI had issued a conspiracy warrant last Wednesday for Eric Starvo Galt. Two days later the agency said a comparison

of fingerprints found in the King investigation revealed that Galt in reality was James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old escapee from a Missouri prison.

A murder warrant issued here in Galt's name subsequently was amended to carry the name of Ray.

The second identity was only the latest in a series of puzzles which have surrounded the few known facts of the investigation.

Witnesses who said they saw

the alleged assassin flee the flop-house from which the fatal bullet was fired said he appeared to be between 26 and 32 years of age. The FBI's Wednesday announcement said Galt had given his birth date as July 20, 1931—which would make him 36. Friday the FBI said Ray was 40.

The FBI also said Galt was 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.

But during the time Galt allegedly took dancing lessons in New Orleans, Ray was serving part of a 20-year term for armed robbery in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City.

At the time Galt was attending a bartending school in California, a duplicate Alabama driver's license was mailed to

him at a rooming house in Birmingham.

The woman who runs the flop-house here said the man to whom she rented a room just three hours before King was slain had a Southern drawl. The FBI said Galt liked country and Western music and drank beer and vodka.

In Jefferson City, an inmate of the Missouri prison, who said he "ran around" with Ray, said Ray—listed as a native of Illi-

nois—did not have a Southern accent. "Jim didn't drink, except a little prison home brew," said the convict, who asked not to be identified. "He never talked about himself very much and never expressed any liking for music, dancing and he was too tight to gamble."

Galt seemingly was a free spender. Aside from the dancing lessons, which cost him about \$500 in California alone, he paid \$2000 cash for a white Mustang that is now impounded in Atlan-

ta, and attended the bartending school.

"He was tight as a tick," the Missouri convict said of Ray. "Boy, if you owed him money, even a few cents, he'd bug you to death."

The penitentiary inmate said he did not think Ray was the kind of man who would kill for profit. And the warden, Harold Swenson, who remembers Ray, added, "It's odd, but I won't believe he did it (killed King) until it is proven."

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A-1 Herald-Examiner
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Ray's Career in Crime Began at an Early Age

Suspect in Slaying of Dr. King Recalled
as Thief of Schoolmates' Lunch Money

BY VINCENT J. BURKE

Times Staff Writer

ST. LOUIS—James Earl Ray, 40, convicted robber, petty hoodlum and suspected slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King, started on the road to crime in the eighth grade.

At the age of 14 or 15, Ray was caught stealing a box of nickels and pennies contributed by his schoolmates toward the cost of the hot lunch that was served at the Ewing, Mo., public school.

Carlyle Washburn, 38, one of Ray's classmates at the school, told of the incident in a telephone interview Monday.

Washburn, now postmaster at Ewing, said he would never forget it because Ray, after he was caught, tried to implicate him as an accomplice.

Kept in Box

"We would give a nickel or seven cents or some small amount and we would be served a hot lunch at noon," Washburn said. "The money was kept in a box. I didn't even know that the money had been taken until I was accosted and told that Ray had said I had put him up to it, or helped him."

Ray was caught almost immediately and Washburn was proved innocent. "I don't remember whether Ray actually got out of the school with the

money but I remember that both the money and the box were seized."

Ray and his parents and their family lived in Ewing at the time under the assumed name of Raynes. After they left Ewing in 1943 or 1944, some members of the family continued to use the name Raynes, but others used Ray.

Ray's father has a police record in Quincy, Ill., where he was known as Earl Ray, alias James Ryan.

Matter of Record

The disparity in the names became a matter of public record Oct. 1, 1963, when Franklin Dennis Raynes, one of Ray's younger brothers, was killed in a traffic accident in Quincy at the age of 19.

Ray's body was identified by two sisters, Susan Jane Ryan and Melba Ray. Melba subsequently began using the name Ryan.

The automobile in which Franklin was killed had been licensed to one of his older brothers, Jerry Ray of St. Louis.

The fugitive, James Earl Ray, was then serving a 20-year prison sentence in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City. He escaped a year ago. His mother died in 1961. It is not known whether his father is still living.

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I-23 LA Times

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DISAPPEARED AT SAME TIME**FBI Seeking Mystery Blonde
Seen Here With King Suspect****BY DAVE LARSEN**

Times Staff Writer

The FBI is interested in the whereabouts of a blonde who seems to have disappeared from the Los Angeles area at about the same time as James Earl Ray, it was learned Monday.

The blue-eyed woman, about 27 years old, was seen at times in the company of Ray, also known as Eric Starvo Galt, the prime suspect in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King.

They were last seen together one night in mid-March at the Sultan Room, a cocktail lounge in the St. Francis Hotel, 5533 Hollywood Blvd., where Ray lived.

FBI agents have been asking questions about the mystery woman, giving rise to speculation that she may have departed with Ray when he left Los Angeles.

There were no major develop-

ments nationally in the case Monday.

However, an interview here with Charles Stein regarding his trip with Ray to New Orleans in mid-December brought out the information that the suspect was carrying a second set of license plates.

Stein was not sure whether the plates lying on the deck beneath the rear window were from ~~another~~

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

I-1 LA Times

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note left
covered by J.M. at

state (he said the plates on the car were from Alabama) or whether they were simply outdated plates from the same state.

Stein, who says he is a songwriter, was offered a free ride to the Louisiana city by Ray after he agreed to sign a petition in the drive by former Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace to qualify on the primary ballot.

At a stop in Texas during the two-day drive, Stein noticed that one of the tires on the 1966 white Mustang was wearing thin. The songwriter said Ray purchased a used tire for \$4 as a replacement.

Stein said this struck him as strange at the time because up until then Ray had been loose with his money.

"I'll tell you what I think," the songwriter said. "I think he knew then and there that he wouldn't be keeping the car."

Stein said he went to New Orleans to bring back to Los Angeles the children of his sister, a widow. The children are aged seven and eight.

Once there, he said, he

tried to talk Ray into remaining three days. Ray stayed at a motel. Stein, who is divorced, visited another sister with whom the children were staying.

Anxious to Leave

"But the next day Galt (Ray) wanted to leave," Stein said. The suspect told Stein he had finished seeing "some people" and was anxious to return to Los Angeles but agreed reluctantly to remain one more day.

Stein said he knew the suspect only by the name Eric Starvo Galt. The FBI has listed other aliases. Yet another one was disclosed Monday at the Rabbits Foot Club, 5623 Hollywood Blvd., where the always well-dressed suspect could be found nightly at the bar.

The club offers a deal known as the "key club," by which a patron can get double shots of whiskey for the price of a single shot between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. and 10 and 11 p.m.

Bartender Bo De Monte said the suspect applied for the deal, but, instead of signing his own name, asked the bartender to sign the register for him and put down: "Doug Collins."

PLOT PROBE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Galt Alias: Did Others Use It?

Combined Wire Services

Widely varying descriptions given by witnesses to newsmen and to the FBI have prompted speculation that Eric Starvo Galt was a "cover" name used by several men in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said Friday that Galt really was James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old escaped convict whose identity was traced through "a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints."

RAY, THE FBI said, escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary on April 23, 1967, after serving seven years of a 20-year sentence for armed robbery and car theft in St. Louis.

The FBI released 1960 prison photographs of Ray that bear a close resemblance to pictures of Galt taken in 1968.

However, the FBI's description of Galt does not match that given by earlier witnesses in the case.

Prior to Friday's bulletin on Ray, the descriptions from witnesses who had known Galt in the past six months had included:

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

—A 30-year-old, quiet-spoken man who talked about the weather at a Birmingham rooming house last fall.

—A 36-year-old "a

dancer" who bought a rifle in Birmingham and who took dancing lessons in New Orleans at the time when James Earl Ray was imprisoned in Missouri.

THE WITNESSES who saw Galt at a Memphis rooming house the day King was slain said that he was 5 feet 11 inches or 6 feet tall, slender, weighing 165 pounds, with sandy hair. The oldest estimate of his age was 32 years, the youngest 26. He was said to have a long pointed nose and a Southern accent.

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, with brown hair and a slightly Southern accent. He was described as being about 30 years old.

The first FBI description of Galt, which came principally from a gun dealer in Birmingham where Galt bought a rifle and a gun dealer in Memphis where he bought a pair of binoculars, was not precise.

The FBI 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.

THIS description said that his birth date was July 20, 1931, a date that the FBI apparently got from an application that Galt made for an Alabama driver's license. The FBI said that Galt's voice has a "rural" tone.

James Earl Ray was described as being 40 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 163 to 174 pounds with blue eyes and brown hair. The FBI said he had a scar in the center of his forehead and on the palm of his right hand.

Ray has an arrest record dating at least to 1949 when he served time in Los Angeles on a burglary charge. This followed his discharge from the Army. He served as an enlisted man from February 1946 to December 1948 when he received a general discharge for ineptness and lack of adaptability.

HIS ARMY RECORD showed a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest, the FBI said.

The bureau's dossier on Ray indicates he has been a drifter since he left school in the 10th grade at Alton, Ill.

He has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

In 1952, according to the FBI, he was convicted in Chicago for armed robbery and served two years in Joliet and Pontiac, Ill. state prisons. In 1955, he was convicted of forging U.S. postal money orders in Missouri and was confined to Leavenworth penitentiary until 1958.

Ray was sent to the Missouri State Penitentiary on March 17, 1960 and spent some time in September 1966 in the maximum security ward at the state hospital in Fulton, Mo.

THE FBI SAID Ray has listed his birth date as March 10, 1928, and his birthplace as Illinois. The city clerk at Alton, Ill., Paul A. Price, said a James Earl Ray was born there on March 10, 1928,

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

LONG BEACH
INDEPENDENT
PRESS-TELEGRAM

LONG BEACH, CALIF.

page A-1

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Edition: SATURDAY HOME
Author: —
Editor: WILLIAM BROOK
Title: EDITOR

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/ APR 23 1968	
FBI — LOS ANGELES	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Assassin Suspect On List

By SAM FOGG
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.

Ray, who masqueraded as Eric Starvo Galt at the time King was slain in Memphis, was placed on the list even though there are 10 fugitives already on it. This has happened but once before in the history of the 10 most wanted.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover decided to add Ray as an 11th most wanted to insure the widest possible dissemination of the 40-year-old criminal's picture and description to the police and the public.

In addition, a special alert was set up in the Mexican border area in the event Ray tries to flee the country. Mexican police officials also were said to be looking for Ray on an unofficial basis.

Special arrangements were made to show Ray's picture on the ABC "The FBI," Sunday evening.

The only other criminal ever given emergency listing on the 10 most wanted roster was Richard Lawrence Marquette, who sought for the butcher knife murder of a Portland, Ore., housewife in June, 1961. The day after Marquette was listed as an 11th most wanted, he was arrested in California.

Even before Ray was identified as the mysterious Galt, there was an assured \$100,000 in rewards for anyone providing information leading to the capture and conviction of King's slayer. The Memphis city council has voted to underwrite that amount.

Ray, identified through a painstaking check of FBI fingerprint files, had been sought by police as an escaped convict for nearly a year. He broke out of Missouri State Prison by hiding in a bread truck on April 23, 1967.

The wanted man had been serving a 20-year sentence for armed robbery for a while was confined in the maximum security ward of the state hospital at Fulton.

A high school dropout who was kicked out of the Army, Ray has also served sentences in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., Illinois state prisons at Joliet and Pontiac, and in Los Angeles County jail. The FBI warned that he should be considered armed and extremely dangerous.

Known to his fellow prison inmates as a "loner," Ray was born at Alton, Ill. He dropped out of school in Ewing, Mo., in the ninth grade and his criminal record dates back to 1949.

Ray has a number of distinguishing features. His left ear protrudes noticeably and he has a habit of nervously pulling on his ear lobes. There is a small scar on the center of his forehead and another scar on his right palm.

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

News-Chronicle
Thousand Oaks, Calif.

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Edition:

Author: SAM FOGG UPI

Editor:

Title: MURKIN

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Crisis Of Distrust Touches Everything

A FEW HOURS after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark arrived at the Memphis scene of the slaying. His immediate assurance was that the FBI was "getting very close to identifying" the killer and that "all evidence we have is that this is the work of a single person." A few hours later, Mr. Clark said, "We are very close to making an arrest."

It may be that it was important to reassure the Negroes of the nation that the death of Dr. King was not the work of a white conspiracy and that an arrest, providing retribution, would be quickly forthcoming. Mr. Clark and other officials apparently thought these reassurances were so important to the nation's peace that they were willing to advance them at the cost of honesty.

The FBI was not, obviously, "very close" to identifying the killer at that time nor was it very close to making an arrest. While there was at that time no evidence of a conspiracy in the murder, neither could there have been any substantial evidence that the assassination was the work of a single person.

Now, two weeks later, there is a growing speculation among Memphis police officers that Dr. King's slayer was a professional killer — a hired gun — who left an elaborate trail of phony clues to confuse his pursuers. A warrant charging conspiracy and murder has been issued against one Eric Starvo Galt. According to news reports, Galt has been hunted by the FBI for more than a week although his name was not disclosed by the Bureau until Wednesday.

The FBI is secretive by nature and recent court decisions relating to the publication of prejudicial crime news has made it even more so. But the failure to release the name of a suspect wanted in a notorious murder is an extreme kind of secrecy. It denies law enforcement the important assistance of the public in apprehending a fugitive on the lam.

There are times, of course, when the FBI will find it advisable to refuse comment on prominent criminal cases. But there seldom can be justification for the agency purposefully to mislead the public either by unsupported implications or deliberate lies.

Dishonest statements tend to freeze their makers into positions of supporting those statements against evidence which points to a contrary conclusion. The Kennedy assassination should have provided enough examples of that.

Taken together, dishonesty and unnecessary secrecy really shake the confidence of the people in their government, already having caused a widespread distrust. Are we headed for a time when the public will automatically distrust official statements in the rationale that officialdom wouldn't bother to break secrecy except to mislead?

* * *

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

C-12 Ventura County
Star-Free Press

Date: 4/19/68

Edition: Only

Author: Unknown

Editor: Julius Gius

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mexico Grabs Possible Suspect

POSSIBLE SUSPECT CHECKED

From Herald-Examiner Wire Services

MEXICO CITY — Police in northwest Mexico say they are questioning a U.S. citizen who they say resembles James Earl Ray, wanted on a charge of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Negro civil rights leader.

Lt. Robert Fletcher of the judicial police investigation office in Caborca said the man carried a U.S. passport issued to Daniel David Kennedy.

In Washington, D.C., more than 12 hours after Kennedy was handcuffed, the FBI said that "there has been no arrest in the hunt for Ray." In Baltimore, Kennedy's mother called the arrest "impossible." She said, "He's just a skinny old thing" and only a "blind man" would say her son resembled James Earl Ray.

Fletcher said Kennedy denied any connection with King's assassination and said he was from Baltimore.

In Baltimore, Mrs. Pearl E. Kennedy said an FBI agent told her Mexican authorities were holding her son.

"It was impossible for him to do it," said Mrs. Kennedy. "He wouldn't even kill a fly, let alone kill a human being."

Mrs. Kennedy said her 41-year-old son left Baltimore March 24 to go to Mexico—"he wanted to take off, that's all"—and that he telephoned her from there on Sunday.

"He was so happy when he talked to me," said Mrs. Kennedy. "He said people were so friendly to him there, because

everything was so peaceful and quiet."

Agents of the Sonora state police were en route to Caborca to return the man to Hermosillo, the state capital, Fletcher said. He added that FBI agents were on their way to Hermosillo from Arizona, but in Phoenix, John Mull, in charge of the FBI in Arizona, said he had heard nothing from Mexican authorities, and none of his agents were en route to Hermosillo.

Fletcher said he picked the man up about 6 p.m. Wednesday in a cafe in Caborca, which is about 80 miles southwest of Nogales, Ariz. The officer said he took the man in because of his similarity to published photographs of Ray.

Fletcher said the man crossed the border at Nogales on April 17, and told him he had walked to Caborca.

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

A-1 Herald-Examiner
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/ APR 26 1968	
FBI — LOS ANGELES	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Galt - Ray Hunt in Odd Turn In Florida

The FBI in Tallahassee, Fla., has issued a perplexing pickup order to Florida law enforcement agencies asking them to be on the lookout for Eric Starvo Galt, wanted for "civil rights conspiracy."

The flier said Galt—object of an intense manhunt in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—had used the aliases of Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard but it did not mention the name James Earl Ray. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has said Ray and Galt are one and the same man.

On April 11 the FBI sent out a similar order in Florida, but it was cancelled within minutes and the FBI later indicated that it had been issued by mistake.

In Los Angeles, the FBI was reported trying to find a blonde woman who was dating James Earl Ray before Ray disappeared from Southern California.

The FBI office declined to comment on the report.

However, the woman was known to have been with Ray in a Hollywood bar one evening during the second week in March—one of the last times Ray was seen in the area before King's assassination.

FBI agents have been making inquiries about her in Los Angeles, giving rise to conjecture she might have traveled with Ray when he left.

Meanwhile, Charles Stein, a free lance song writer, disclosed more details of an automobile trip he made in December from Los Angeles to New Orleans

with Ray—whom he knew as Eric Starvo Galt.

Stein, who went to New Orleans to pick up his sister's two children, rode with Ray but they returned to Los Angeles separately.

Stein said Ray carried an extra set of license plates in the auto on the deck under the rear window. The song writer said he never investigated to see what kind of plates they were.

The white 1966 Mustang Ray was driving had Alabama license plates at the time of the trip, Stein said.

Stein reported that Ray appeared to spend money freely during the journey. However, when one of the tires on the Mustang wore thin, Ray bought a used tire for only \$4 as a replacement.

"I think he knew then and there he wouldn't be keeping the car," Stein conjectured.

The latest FBI order in Florida said: "Wanted by the FBI for civil rights conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt, alias Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard.

"White male DOB (date of birth) 7-20-31, 5-8 to 5-11 inches tall, 160-175 pounds, blue or hazel eyes and brown hair. Occupation: has claimed em-

ployment as a seaman. He has a noticeably protruding left ear. He is reportedly a lone wolf and allegedly attended a dance instruction school and has reportedly completed a course in bartending.

"Caution: Galt is sought in connection with murder, wherein the victim was shot. Consider him armed and dangerous."

"I just sent out the message as I received it," the officer said.

The FBI would not comment on why the order was issued in Florida, or why it failed to mention Ray.

Hoover said last week that an exhaustive check of fingerprints proved that Galt and Ray were the same man.

Last week the FBI issued a warrant for Galt's arrest on charges of conspiring to violate King's civil rights.

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

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

RAY HELD WILLING TO SEEK 'BOUNTY' ON KING

DALTON, Ga. (P)—A convicted murderer who was in prison with James Earl Ray, now hunted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, said Tuesday he heard Ray say he would be willing to try to collect \$1 million for killing the civil rights leader.

Raymond Curtis, 40, the same age as Ray, is in Whitfield County Jail awaiting action on appeal of a murder conviction. Curtis said he and Ray were prisoners at Missouri State Penitentiary when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas.

"Another boy said, 'Well, there's a million-dollar bounty to get King.' King was running his mouth pretty good then. Ray said, 'If there is a million-dollar bounty on King, I believe I can collect it,'" Curtis said in a jail cell interview.

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

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FBI—LOS ANGELES	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Warden Says Ray Saw Brother Before Escape

Reports There Was No Evidence of Help in Prison Break; Other Visitors Named

BY JACK NELSON
Times Staff Writer

ATLANTA—James Earl Ray, the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, was visited in the Missouri State Penitentiary by his brother, John, a day before escaping the prison last year, Warden Harold Swenson said Tuesday.

In a telephone interview from the prison at Jefferson city, Swenson said prison records showed it was the eighth time in five years that John Ray had visited his brother, who was serving a 20-year term for robbery.

The warden added that there was no evidence that John Ray helped his brother escape.

Newsmen have been unable to find John Ray and the FBI refuses to say anything about him or whether they are looking for him.

FBI Filed Complaint

An FBI complaint filed April 17 accused Eric Starvo Galt, whom the FBI has since identified as James Earl Ray, of conspiring with "an individual whom he alleged to be his brother" to violate the civil rights of Dr. King. The complaint did not name the individual.

Memphis authorities also have accused James Ray, in the name of Galt, of murder.

Warden Swenson said prison records also show that Jerry Ray, another of

the suspect's brothers, visited him five times. Two known relatives of the suspect have said he has one other living brother, Max, a teenager.

Meanwhile, the FBI continued a nationwide search for the suspect, who is believed to have abandoned a white Mustang in Atlanta 12 to 14 hours after the April 4 assassination of Dr. King in Memphis. There is no report of his having been seen since early April 5, when several witnesses here reported seeing a man park the Mustang and walk off.

Missouri prison records from 1960 listed John and Jerry Ray as residing with their grandmother, Mrs. Mary Maher, at 1913 Hickory St., St. Louis, but a check by a Times reporter showed they had not lived there for several years.

The Times also learned that John Ray's school records in Ewing, Mo., show he was born on Feb. 14, 1933. An uncle, William E. Maher of Alton, Ill., said he thought John was a migrant farm worker.

Dates of Visits

John, who apparently also went by the nickname Jack, has a middle name which Maher said he thought was William. However, Swenson said that on an application card for his prison visitor's pass John signed his name "and the middle name looks like Larry."

Swenson said John visited his brother at the prison once in 1962, three times in 1963, three times in 1966, and once in 1967—on April 22, the day before the escape. He said he did not know the significance of the last visit, "but we saw no evidence that John

had anything to do with the escape." Ray, who worked as a baker in the prison, is believed to have escaped by hiding in a bread truck.

Swenson said Jerry Ray visited his brother twice in 1963 and three times in 1965. Jerry is believed to be in his mid-20s. Newsmen also have been unable to find him. The brothers never visited Ray at the same time.

William Maher has said that James Earl Ray who was born March 10, 1928, is the oldest of nine children and that as far as he knows six of Ray's brothers and sisters still are living. He listed them in order of birth as James, Marjorie (who was fatally burned at an early age), John, Melba, Carol, Jerald, Franklin D. (killed in a 1963 St. Louis automobile accident), Susan and Max.

Maher said the three youngest children were taken away from their mother at an early age and placed in orphanages or foster homes.

Was a Loner

Swenson confirmed reports of other witnesses that James Ray was a loner, but said that for a convict "he behaved and got along with other people very well."

"I saw the guy a lot," he said, "because he spent a lot of time in the recreation area, walking around. He didn't seem to associate with anyone in particular."

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

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FBI—LOS ANGELES	

Ray entered the prison ~~March 19~~, 1960. Swenson said that during Ray's more than seven years there he was caught breaking rules only four times—twice trying to escape, once trying to smuggle "ordinary food items" to a hospital patient, and once refusing to work.

"He liked James Bond detective fiction and paperback love stories, according to other prisoners who knew him," Swenson said.

Swenson said Ray "kept in shape by lifting weights, but he did not do it competitively."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'CASH MAN', BLONDE CLUES IN

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

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Los Angeles, Calif.

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44-154-63

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

KING CASE

Phone Calls From Ray to New Orleans Traced

By LOUIS LOMAX
Special to The Herald-Examiner

Search for the person or persons involved in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has closed in on the mysterious Hollywood blonde, who knew James Earl Ray better than anyone else, and the equally mysterious New Orleans "cash man," with whom Ray maintained constant telephone contact.

These facts can be reported as a result of this reporter's investigation on Wednesday.

James Earl Ray, the alleged killer of Dr. King, spent considerable time as a resident of the St. Francis Hotel along Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles. Each evening at about 6 p.m. he entered a public phone booth in the hotel where he made long-distance prepaid phone calls.

The number of this booth is known and an intensive investigation is underway to discover who Ray was calling.

According to people who knew Ray, he had a "doodling" habit, and the walls of the phone booth involved reveal that someone had written "Death Before Dishonor."

The writing on the phone booth wall is surrounded by drawings of swastikas and the Maltese Cross. Yet another doodle on the wall contains a derogatory reference to Mexicans, Negroes and Dr. Martin Luther King.

It is believed that Ray, then known as Eric Starvo Galt, made the doodles. This fact will be verified only when the FBI's handwriting experts match the hand printing on the phone booth walls with that on the back of a television set known to have belonged to Ray.

The mysterious blonde friend

has been traced to Cincinnati, O., and then to Milwaukee, Wis. It is certain Ray purchased her ticket for her to visit her parents in the Midwest.

It is also certain that she left her parents' home at about the time Martin Luther King was killed and moved into a Milwaukee motel with a man who said he was her husband.

On April 22, the woman, so far only identified as Jerri, wrote a letter to a Los Angeles friend. The letter indicated she had moved into the Milwaukee motel a few days after Dr. King was slain and that she planned to return to Los Angeles in two weeks.

The Hollywood blonde is not a suspect in the case. Investigators only hope that she can give them additional details about Ray's contacts and activities.

This reporter is now following Ray's trail from Los Angeles to New Orleans last December.

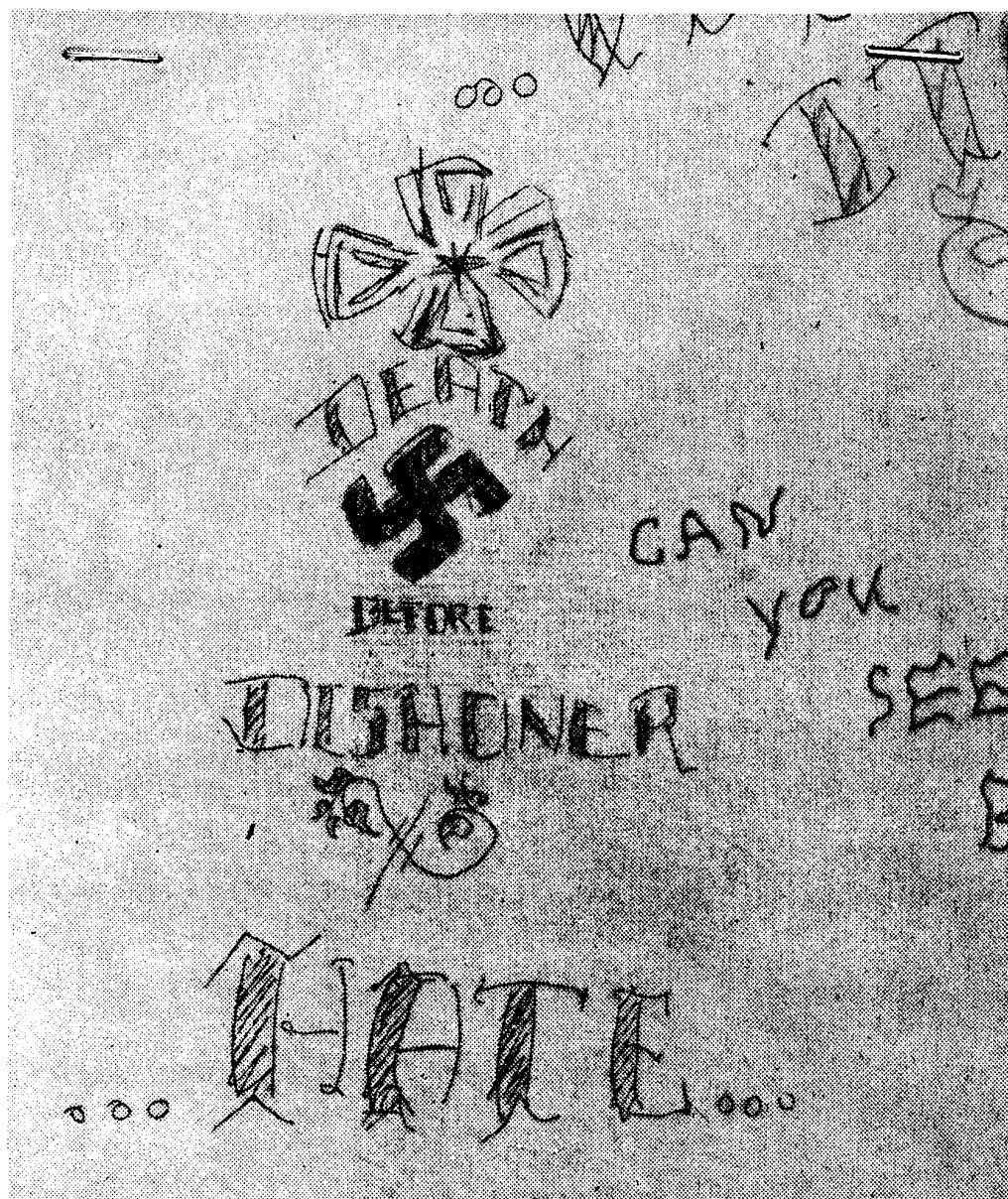
During that trip, Ray made contact with a New Orleans person who is believed to be a New Orleans industrialist and builder. Ray made several telephone attempts to reach his contact. The first three efforts resulted in no answer.

The evidence suggests that on the fourth call, Ray made a 9 p.m. date to call his contact the following evening. This critical phone call was made from a booth near Houston, Tex., on the night of Dec. 16, 1967.

Late afternoon Wednesday, another startling development occurred. The blond young woman known as Jerri suddenly vanished from her Milwaukee hotel room. She was registered at the Royal Motel, 435 Michigan St., in Room 208 under the last name of Dennis. Shortly after a long-distance phone call from this reporter, Miss Dennis and the man alleged to be her husband, suddenly checked out of the motel.

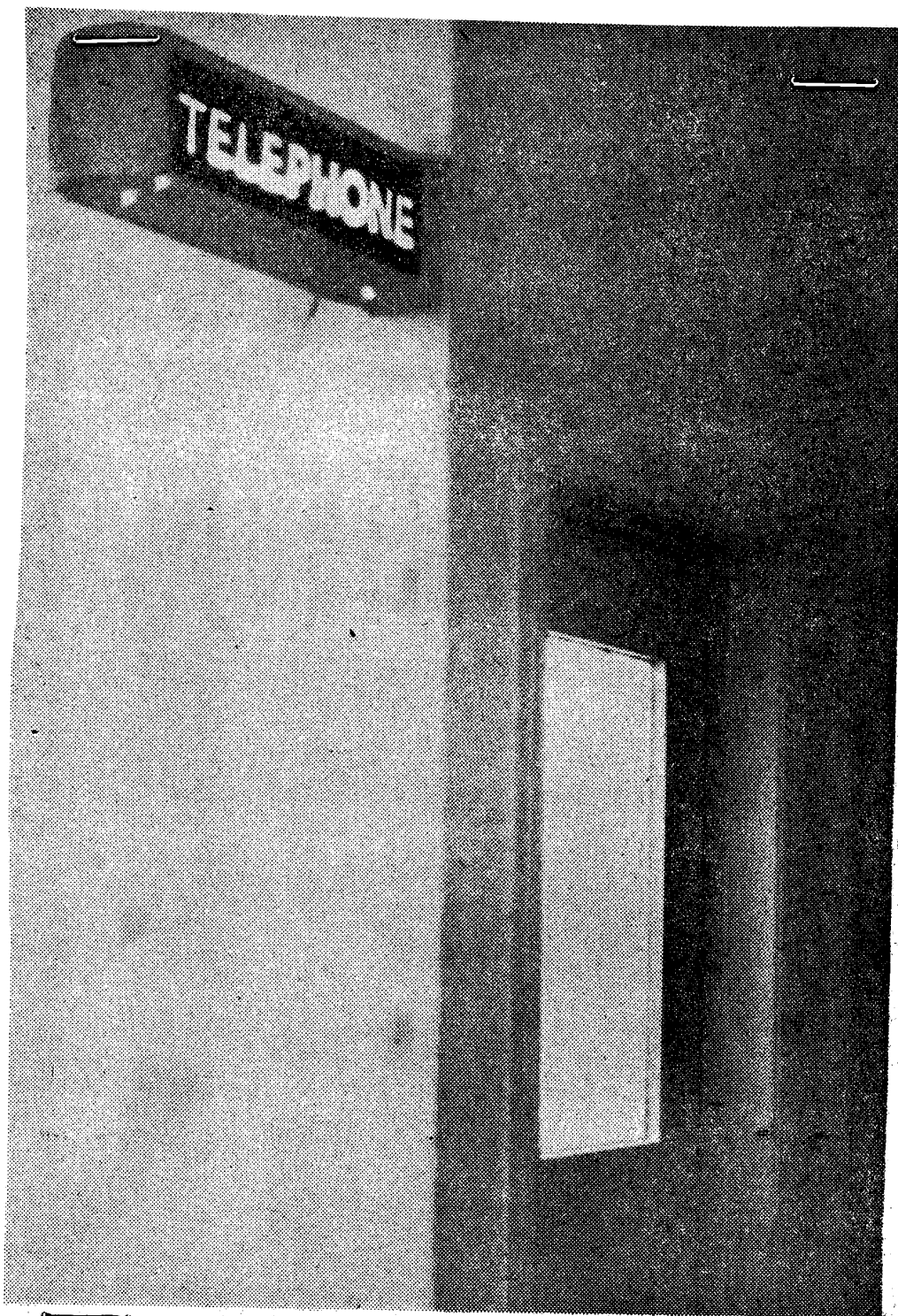
According to a hotel relief clerk, the description of Miss Dennis' "husband" is similar to that of James Earl Ray. This disclosure adds understanding to an FBI press release that they were searching for Ray near the Canadian border.

Even so, the search for the bankrollers of Ray concentrates on New Orleans and it is believed that the phone call made from Houston on Dec. 16 may well provide a clue.



—Herald-Examiner Photo

WERE THESE DOODLES MADE BY KING'S ASSASSIN?
Writing on wall of phone booth reportedly used by prime suspect Earl Ray



—Herald-Examiner Photo

PHONE BOOTH IN HOTEL HERE SAID USED BY SUSPECT
The plot to "kill King" may have unfolded at St. Francis Hotel

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

NO HARD FEELINGS**Ray Look-Alike Set Free by Mexicans**

HERMOSILLO, Mex. (AP) —An American arrested by Mexican officials because they thought he resembled pictures of the man wanted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King was released Thursday after questioning.

Daniel David Kennedy, 41, of Baltimore had nothing but praise for Mexicans upon his release.

According to police in Hermosillo, an FBI agent identified only as Mr. Smith said Kennedy did not look like James Earl Ray, the fugitive wanted on charges of slaying Dr. King.

Detained 24 Hours

Kennedy had been detained 24 hours after police in Caborca arrested him.

"I guess anyone else would be mad, but I can't be angry with these people," Kennedy said. "They thought I looked like James Ray and they were only doing their duty."

Kennedy arrived in Mexico March 27 and was hiking to Baja California

when he was arrested about 80 miles south of the border.

"I just wanted to get out by myself and think," he said. "I just hope Americans don't think Mexico is a bad place to go after this. I've never met people like the ones who have given me their homes these past few weeks."

Had Various Jobs

Kennedy, a World War II veteran, said he had done various jobs throughout the country since he received his medical discharge from the Army.

"I was a tax investigator, a steel worker and even played in a band, but I was sick of seeing the way my fellow Americans lived," he said.

"When I decided to come down here a lot of people, including my mother, thought I was crazy. They said Mexico was a dangerous place to go."

never known sincere people."

As for his future, Kennedy is not sure.

"This could have spoiled everything, but I won't let it. Believe it or not, but I'm working on a mathematical problem and I have to be in the desert to solve it," he said. "I'll just carry out my plans, I guess."

Taken to Breakfast

After police finished questioning Kennedy they took him to a restaurant for breakfast and then drove him back to Caborca.

"I've got a lot of friends in Caborca," he said. "I want them to know I'm not the man who killed Martin Luther King. I don't know what kind of a man that would be."

"I'm just sorry the police had to waste their time on me instead of continuing their search for the real killer."

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

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

New Clues in King Death Case

Ray's Path Traced to New Orleans

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

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—Los Angeles, Calif.

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Edition: Night Final
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Editor:
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Character:
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/ APR 29 1968	
FBI — LOS ANGELES	

The FBI has seized telephone records of a prominent New Orleans industrialist, Louis Lomax reported. It is not known yet if the seizure is in connection with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The industrialist involved has been mentioned frequently by persons close to the investigation, Lomax said.

By LOUIS LOMAX

Special to The Herald-Examiner

Additional evidence and conversations with persons who knew James Earl Ray, the alleged slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King, establish that Ray met with an important industrialist on the afternoon of Dec. 17 either inside or near the International Trade Mart in the city of New Orleans.

The meeting occurred between 2:30 and 4 p.m.

That the meeting took place was established by reconstructing the time table followed by Ray and Charles Stein, the traveling companion who made the trip with Ray beginning Dec. 15.

This reporter is now retraveling that route with Stein.

Stein met Ray in a Hollywood bar and indicated he (Stein) wanted to go to New Orleans to pick up his two cousins; both small children. Ray replied he was making the round trip to "meet some important people" and that he would give Stein a free ride if Stein would agree to sign the petition to place former Alabama Gov. George Wallace on the California presidential ballot.

Stein agreed and the trip was begun about noon Dec. 15.

Traveling in the now-famous white Mustang, Ray and Stein took turns driving and arrived at New Orleans at about noon on Dec. 17.

Ray checked into the Provincial Hotel and before departing, he told Stein that he was going to meet with a New Orleans man who was and presumably still is—"an engineer or contractor."

At approximately 3:30 p.m. the same day, "Tommy" a close friend of Ray's, was in the

International Trade Mart. That evening Ray visited Tommy and told him he had seen him in the Mart that afternoon.

When Tommy asked why Ray did not approach him at the Mart, Ray replied, "I was involved in a meeting."

That the meeting did indeed occur is given further credence by the fact that late on the night

EXCLUSIVE

of the 17th Ray visited Stein and said his business had been completed and that he was ready to return to Los Angeles. Stein, a native of New Orleans, who wanted to spend additional time with relatives, insisted that they rest up "a couple of days" before undertaking the return drive.

The pair and the two children left New Orleans Dec. 19.

The key to whom Ray met in New Orleans seems to lie in two long distance phone calls Ray made during the trip. After the first phone call, Ray indicated to Stein that his New Orleans party was not in but would be available "at 9 p.m."

driving about an hour, Ray left the freeway to make his 9 p.m. call.

Ray talked for some 15 minutes while Stein drank coffee and ate candy.

Stein and this reporter are now in the Houston area from which the call was made. A search of the area aided by Stein's retention, has narrowed the search for the phone booth involved to a stretch of highway between San Antonio and Houston.

There was yet another development yesterday. It has already been established that Ray returned to New Orleans at the end of March and delivered a package to the mother of a Los Angeles friend. It now appears that while in New Orleans on the last trip, a scant five days before Dr. Martin Luther King's slaying, Ray may have spent some time with a New Orleans girl whom he is known to have admired.

If true, the girl (her name is known to this reporter) may provide information as to Ray's movements and activities just prior to the assassination of Dr. King.

Meanwhile an intensive record search is being conducted in

Los Angeles to trace calls Ray made from a phone booth in the St. Francis Hotel as disclosed yesterday. Another manhunt is now on for the young woman, Dyrell Dennis, who was close to Ray and then vanished from a Milwaukee Hotel Wednesday after being located by this reporter.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Was Ray in Alabama in February?

If So, It Conflicts With Prior Reports

By LOUIS E. LOMAX
Special to The Herald-Examiner

HOUSTON—A search of the 1966 white Mustang driven and owned by James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt and the alleged slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., unearthed green stamps that were issued as a result of a purchase at Birmingham, Ala., in mid-February of 1968.

The FBI discovered the stamps on April 11, the day they located Ray's car in Atlanta, Ga.

The stamps immediately were traced to a Birmingham gas station owner, who not only confirmed that the stamps were issued at his

station, but identified pictures of Ray as the man involved in the transaction.

The gas station owner said he remembers the transaction clearly because the white Mustang had "clutch problems" and was repaired at his place of business.

FBI reports consistently place Ray in Los Angeles until the end of March as a student in dancing and bartending schools. The FBI report alleges that Ray left Los Angeles March 27.

The green stamps transaction, which occurred in Alabama at a time when the FBI says Ray was in Los Angeles, boldly challenges that agency's reports on the movements and whereabouts of Ray.

It is but one of a series of disparities revealed during this reporter's four-day retracing of the automobile trip from Los Angeles to New Orleans which Ray undertook Dec. 15, 1967.

The trip was taken with

Charles Stein, the Los Angeles song writer who shared the original trip with Ray as a companion and guide.

The green stamps evidence indicates that Ray could not possibly have been in Los Angeles at the time the FBI says he was or that a second person assuming the name Ray employed—Eric Starvo Galt—was operative in Birmingham.

This reporter disclosed last Tuesday that on Valentine's Day Ray, then known as Galt, swapped his console television set for a portable TV owned by one of his Hollywood girl friends. At that time, Ray told the girl he was leaving town.

This sequence of events could easily place Ray in Alabama at the time of the gas station transaction.

It is known that Ray was in Los Angeles during early March that he left around March 27. It is increasingly clear, then, that Ray made three trips around between Los Angeles and New Orleans: one on Dec. 15; the sec-

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

A-1 Los Angeles, Calif.
Herald-Examiner

Date: 4/28/68
Edition: Sunday Final
Author: Louis E. Lomax
Editor: Donald Goodenow
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

44-1574-B-66

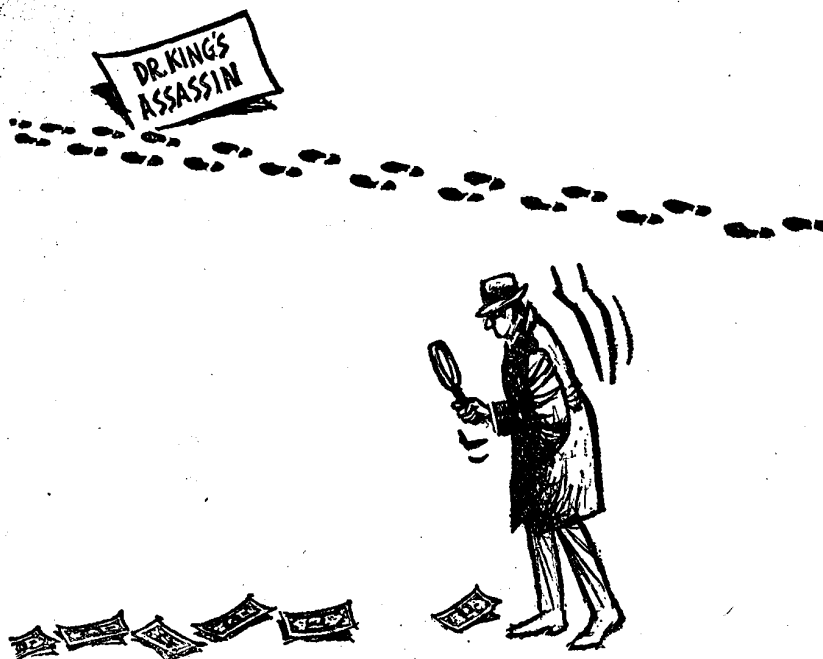
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
/ APR 29 1968	
FBI—LOS ANGELES	

and on or about Feb. 14, and the third during the last days of March. It is this last trip that terminated in the death of Dr. King.

In retracing, along with Charles Stein, Ray's Dec. 15 trip to New Orleans, all evidence indicates that Ray was in constant and repetitive contact with a person believed to be an important New Orleans industrialist. Investigation in Los Angeles at the starting point of the trip has disclosed that Ray used a telephone booth in the St. Francis Hotel to make his contact with the New Orleans party.

Here in Houston the search now is on for the nearby telephone booth from which Ray is known to have telephoned his New Orleans contact.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



INTERLANDI © 1968, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Find the Source

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

II-5 LA Times

Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/29/68
 Edition: Home
 Author:
 Editor:
 Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

LA

☐ Being Investigated

44-1574-B-67

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1 APR 29 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Routing Slip
FD-4 (Rev. 11-14-66)

Date 4/25/68

To:

☐ Director

FILE

Att.:

☒ SAC LOS ANGELES

Title MURKIN

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ IC

☐ CC

RE:

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

☐ Rotor #:

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign _____ Reassign _____

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline _____

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Discontinue

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ For information

☐ Handle

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Open Case

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials _____

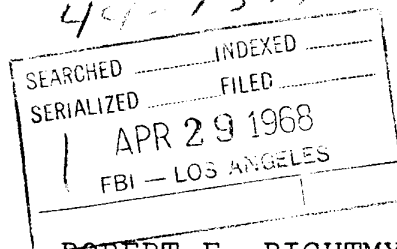
to _____

☐ Submit new charge out

☐ Submit report by _____

☐ Type

Re attached.



SAC ROBERT E. RIGHTMYER

____ See reverse side

Office New Orleans

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

MEXICO QUESTIONS U.S. CITIZEN IN KING SLAYING

Indicate page, name of
paper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

'Resembles' James Ray, Police Say

Police in northwest Mexico say they are questioning a U.S. citizen who they say resembles James Earl Ray, wanted on a charge of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In Baltimore, however, the arrested man's mother said, "There is just no connection. He doesn't even look like him."

Lt. Roberto Fletcher of the Judicial Police Investigation Office in Caborca, Mexico, said the man carried a U.S. passport issued to Daniel David Kennedy. Fletcher said the man denied any connection with King's assassination

and said he was from Baltimore.

Meanwhile, the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington said it is checking numerous "rumor stories" on the King assassination, including one involving New Orleans.

LOUIS LOMAX, a newsman for the North American Newspaper Alliance, continued to follow Ray's trail between Los Angeles and New Orleans and reported that "it becomes increasingly certain" that a Dec. 16, 1967, phone call Ray made from Houston to New Orleans "will provide the clue" to who paid for the assassination.

In Baltimore, Mrs. Pearl E. Kennedy said an FBI agent told her Mexican authorities were holding her son, Daniel David, because a Mexican police officer said he resembled the man accused of killing the Negro civil rights leader.

"It was impossible for him to do it," said Mrs. Kennedy. "He wouldn't even hurt a fly, let alone kill a human being."

Mrs. Kennedy said her 41-

year-old son left Baltimore March 24 to go to Mexico. "he wanted to take off, that's all"—and that he telephoned her from there on Sunday.

"HE WAS SO HAPPY when he talked to me," said Mrs. Kennedy. "He said people were so friendly to him there, because everything was so peaceful and quiet."

Fletcher said earlier that the man he was holding made a telephone call to Baltimore this week asking that money be sent to him in Caborca.

Agents of the Sonora state police were en route to Ca-

borca to return the man to Hermosillo, the state capital, Fletcher said. He added that FBI agents were on their way to Hermosillo from Arizona but in Phoenix, John Mull, in charge of the FBI in Arizona, said he had heard nothing from Mexican authorities and none of his agents was en route to Hermosillo.

Date: 4-25-68

Edition: RED COMET

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC
STARVO GALT, JAMES
EARL RAY

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

FLETCHER SAID he picked the man up about 6 p. m. yesterday in a cafe in Caborca, about 80 miles southwest of Nogales, Ariz. The officer said he took the man in because of his similarity to published photographs of Ray.

Fletcher said the man crossed the border at Nogales on April 7 and told him he had walked to Caborca.

Police in Ciudad Victoria detained another man briefly 10 days ago because he fitted the general description of Ray. There have been reports from several other Mexican cities of persons spotting men resembling Ray.

The FBI announced April 17 that it was seeking a man identified as Eric Starvo Galt in connection with King's slaying in Memphis April 4.

TWO DAYS LATER, the bureau said a "systematic and exhaustive search" through its fingerprint files revealed that Galt and Ray, a 40-year-old drifter and prison escapee, are the same man.

Ray fled the Missouri Penitentiary April 23, 1967, while serving the seventh year of a 20-year sentence for robbery and auto theft in St. Louis.

The FBI said Eric Starvo Galt was one of a string of aliases used by Ray in frequent brushes with the law beginning when he was 21 years old, several years after he dropped out of high school in the 10th grade.

RAY WAS described as 5 feet, 10, inches tall, 163 to 174 pounds, with brown hair, blue eyes and small scars on his forehead and right palm. He was said to have a habit of tugging on an ear when nervous. His left ear protrudes slightly further than his right ear.

The FBI said acquaintances of Ray called him a loner, who likes beer and vodka, favors country and Western music and speaks with a rural twang.

In Washington, the FBI said it has been swamped with "rumor stories" in the King-slaying and is checking them out. The agency had been asked about the revela-

tion yesterday that Ray was registered at the Provincial Motel, 1027 Chartres, from Dec. 17 through 19 last year.

LOMAX REPORTED that Ray met a man Lomax identified only as "a major New Orleans industrialist" at the motel on Dec. 17.

In a new dispatch today from Yuma, Ariz., Lomax reported that the search for the person or persons involved in the assassination has closed in on a mysterious Hollywood blonde who knew Ray better than anyone else and the equally mysterious New Orleans industrialist with whom Ray maintained constant telephone contact.

Although the FBI investigation seems to be stymied, Lomax yesterday wrote, "These facts can be reported as a result of this reporter's efforts".

"JAMES EARL RAY spent considerable time as a resident of the St. Francis hotel along Hollywood Blvd. in Los Angeles. Each evening at approximately 6 o'clock he entered a public telephone booth in the hotel lobby and made long-distance, pre-paid calls.

"The number of this booth is known and an intensive investigation is under way to discover whom Ray was calling.

"According to people who knew Ray, he had a doodling habit and the walls of the phone booth involved reveal that someone had written 'death before dishonor.' This is a slogan often used by Southerners who resent having lost the Civil War."

The writing on the phone booth wall is surrounded by drawings of swastikas and the Maltese Cross. Yet another doodling on the wall reads "Down with Mexicans, Niggers and Martin Luther Coon."

It is believed that Ray, then known as Galt, made the doodlings.

But this could be certified only when the FBI fingerprint experts match the writing on the wall with that on the back

of a TV set known to have belonged to Ray.

THE MYSTERIOUS blonde

friend of Ray has been traced first to Cincinnati and then to Milwaukee. It is certain that Ray purchased her ticket to visit her parents in the Midwest.

It is also certain that she left her parents three weeks ago and moved into a Milwaukee hotel under an assumed name and with a man who said he was her husband. The woman in question is not married.

On April 22, the woman, so far identified only as Jerri, wrote a Los Angeles friend a letter. The letter indicated that Jerri had moved into the motel a few days after King was assassinated and that she planned to return to Los Angeles in two weeks.

The woman is not a suspect in the case. Investigators hope she can give additional details about Ray's activities and contacts.

Lomax is now following Ray's trail from Los Angeles to New Orleans, where Lomax said Ray made contact with a man "who is probably an industrialist and a builder" shortly before last Christmas. Lomax' story continued:

"DURING THE trip Ray made several telephonic efforts to reach his New Orleans contact. The first three efforts resulted in a 'no answer.' On the fourth try, Ray got an answer but the evidence suggests that the party

he wished to contact was not there.

"It is further evident that Ray, during the fourth phone call, made a date to call his contact at 9 o'clock the following evening. This particular call was made from a phone booth near Yuma. At approximately 9 p. m. Dec. 16, Ray contacted his New Orleans ally, from a phone booth in Houston.

"LATE YESTERDAY afternoon, another startling development occurred. The woman known as Jerri, along with her 'husband,' suddenly vanished from the Royal Hotel, 435 Michigan st., Milwaukee.

"Shortly after a long distance call from this reporter, the woman and the man alleged to be her husband suddenly checked out of the motel," Lomax wrote.

"According to the relief clerk who works only on Wednesday, the description of the woman's husband is similar to that of James Earle Ray. This disclosure adds understanding to the FBI press release that they were searching for Ray near the Canadian border which is not too far from Wisconsin.

"Even so, the search for the bankrollers of Ray concentrates on New Orleans and it becomes increasingly certain that Ray's phone call from the phone booth in Houston will provide the clue."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Killer's Route Retraced in Memphis; Escape Found Easy

BY VINCENT J. BURKE
and NICHOLAS C. CHRIS

Times Staff Writers

MEMPHIS — The man who assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King probably escaped from Memphis without the help of any conspirators.

The escape could have been astonishingly easy.

Whether or not the assassin was a paid killer, what he did in Memphis on April 4 he probably did alone.

A study by Times reporters of the scene of the crime and the possible escape routes, and a recapitulation of the events immediately after the assassination reached these findings and judgments:

—The assassin needed no help to make his escape. No evidence has been made public that he had help in Memphis and the Federal Bureau of Investigation is not saying whether any such evidence has been found.

—An easy escape route was available. If the killer used it, he could have been in Mississippi 15 minutes after he pulled the trigger. Once he crossed the state line, the chances he would be captured decreased because Memphis police did not alert authorities in Mississippi or Arkansas to be on the lookout for him.

In support of the decision not to issue such an alert, Memphis police say that in the early stages of the investigation they didn't have enough of a description of the fugitive to warrant asking neighboring states to take such action. They contend that a tri-state alert might have

resulted in traffic hazards, public inconvenience or even in the accidental shooting of innocent persons.

Car Is Chief Clue

Early descriptions of the fugitive contained no characteristics to distinguish him from most other men of average size and build, except that he was driving a white Mustang, a car that is common in this region.

Responsibility for the decision rested with Frank C. Holloman, Memphis police and fire director. Holloman, a former high-ranking FBI official, has told associates that he would make the same decision if he had to do it over again.

The FBI, which took over the case, acted much in the same manner. A week went by before the bureau issued a "locate and notify" order naming "Eric Starvo Galt" as owner of a white Mustang. Galt later was identified as James Earl Ray, 40, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Despite an intensive nationwide search by the FBI—now in its fourth week—and rewards totaling \$100,000 for information leading to Ray's capture, he remains at large. Ray, under the name of Galt, has been charged with murder by Memphis authorities and by the federal government with conspiracy to violate Dr. King's civil rights.

On the evening Dr. King was killed, police were patrolling the block around the motel on Mulberry St. The shot came

from across Mulberry St., from a bathroom window in the rear of a rooming house that faces on Main St., the next street over.

Even if they had seen the killer fire the shot, it would have been difficult for the police to reach him quickly. A concrete wall, about nine feet high, barred the way to the rear of the rooming house. They would have had to run a circular course—one-half block to the right or left, one block uphill to Main and then one-half block to the rooming house door.

By that time, the assassin would have been gone. It took little more than 30 seconds for him to flee down the front stairs of the rooming house to his car, parked at the curb.

About 12 or 13 hours later, a man was seen getting out of a white Mustang in a parking lot in an Atlanta public housing development about 400 miles from Memphis. Authorities were not aware that the car was there until seven days later. It

was registered in Galt's name.

The killer's quickest and easiest escape route from Memphis and the assassination site could have placed him on a high-speed highway within three minutes after the shot. He could have been in Mississippi within 15 minutes. Some authorities believe he used that route. Two Times reporters

checked the driving time to Mississippi by following this route. They drove away from the scene of the slaying in a white Mustang at 6:02 p.m., about the same time the slayer left.

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

B-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/28/68
Edition: Sunday Final
Author: Vincent J. Burke
and Nicholas C.
Chriss
Editor: Nick B. Williams

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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APR 29 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

He could have left Interstate 55 at Batesville, 45 miles south of Memphis, and headed east on Highway 78 through Oxford and Tupelo. He might have continued on 78 through Birmingham to Atlanta or turned north to Highway 72 which runs through Huntsville, Ala.

The assassin might have continued on Interstate 55 until it ends at Grenada, then proceeded south to Winona, Miss., and turned east on Highway 82 which also would have taken him to Atlanta via Birmingham.

FBI Not Talking

There are many back roads that the assassin could have used and even the three main routes, 72, 78 and 82, go primarily through unlighted rural—often remote—countryside. The roads are generally good, the population and traffic sparse at night and police patrolling infrequent at best.

FBI agents undoubtedly have questioned operators of service stations and restaurants along every route the assassin might have used. If they have found anyone who remembers seeing the escape car, the FBI is not saying.

In service stations and restaurants in Mississippi, reporters who asked about the white Mustang received mostly a shrug of the shoulders, sometimes a hostile silence or the comment—"There are a lot of white Mustangs around these parts."

The following account of the escape assumes that the slayer used the fastest, quickest route to Mississippi. Hypothetical movements of the killer are in parentheses. Known facts are not.

6:01 p.m. Dr. King is shot at the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry St.

6:02 — Killer, having emerged from the rooming house, drops his rifle and a small suitcase in the nearby doorway of the Canipe Amusement Co., gets into his car and drives north.

6:03 — Killer turns left off Main St. He now is heading west toward the

Mississippi River, which is only a few blocks away. He wants to get onto Riverside Drive, a limited-access highway which runs along the river. There are two ways he can do this. He can turn right at the next street, Front St., drive to Beale St. and then turn left to Riverside. Or, he can double back almost immediately, turning left

on Front St., driving to Georgia Ave., where he would turn right and then use the Georgia Ave. entry onto Riverside. The first route is faster. The second is longer and slower, but has the advantage of taking him through a deserted warehouse area. Subsequent time-checks on the killer's location assumes that he went via Beale St., reaching the Mississippi

line in about 15 minutes. Using the second route, it probably would have taken him 18 minutes to get to the state line.)

6:03 — A sheriff's department deputy finds the discarded rifle.

6:04 — Fire department dispatcher, responsible for alerting the ambulance service, sends this call:

"Shooting at 406 Mulberry. Police are on scene. 401 was the ambulance nearest the Lorraine Motel.

(6:05 — Killer by now is driving south on Riverside Drive. The Mississippi River is to his right. A high bluff is to the left. Ahead of him he sees the Memphis-Arkansas bridge spanning the Mississippi. If he wants to, he can be in Arkansas in less than five minutes.)

(6:06 — Assassin's car speeds by the Interstate Turnoff to the Arkansas bridge. He is now on Interstate route 55.)

6:09 — The fire department dispatcher pulls a master switch turning all traffic lights red on Main St. and several others. This made it easier for police cars and for the ambulance carrying Dr. King to speed through the downtown area.

Speed Accelerated

6:11 — Police radio reports for the first time that a white Mustang had been seen leaving the area of the shooting. The driver is described as a "young white male suspect, well-dressed, believed in a late model white Mustang, north on Main from the scene of the shooting."

(6:12 — The assassin, who already has driven about eight miles, accelerates his speed. The speed limit now is 75 m.p.h., the flow of sparse traffic is 80 m.p.h. or higher on the concrete divided highway.)

6:15 — The dying Dr. King, his spinal cord severed by the assassin's bullet, is wheeled into the emergency room of St. Joseph's Hospital. His head is wrapped in a towel. His eyes are closed. An oxygen mask is over his face.

(6:16 — The assassin's car, now some distance south of Memphis, speeds over the state line into Mississippi. The legal speed limit drops to 70. But there is almost no traffic on the limited access road. Almost everyone exceeds the speed limit and some cars reach 100 m.p.h.)

6:26 — The sheriff's department dispatcher broadcasts: "Subject now believed north on Thomas from Parkway, dark hair, dark suit." This location, if true, would have put the fugitive in north Memphis headed toward Kentucky.

6:30 — The Tennessee Highway Patrol in Memphis radios all its units in the area that a late model Mustang is being sought. After the broadcast the highway patrol guarded all state routes from the city.

(6:30 — The assassin, driving at high speed, is at least 20 miles deep in Mississippi on Interstate 55.)

6:35-6:48 — Memphis police become the victims of a heartless practical joke, as pranksters complicate the pursuit of the killer. Intermittently for 13 minutes, they succeed in getting broadcast on the police radio false reports detailing a wild chase and an exchange of gunfire between a white Mustang and a blue Pontiac in the southeast section of Memphis.

The false reports originated from a citizen's band transmitter and were received by a young white man in a parked car in Memphis. He notified a police officer who happened to be nearby. The officer relayed to the central dispatcher a report of several routes. "the chase."

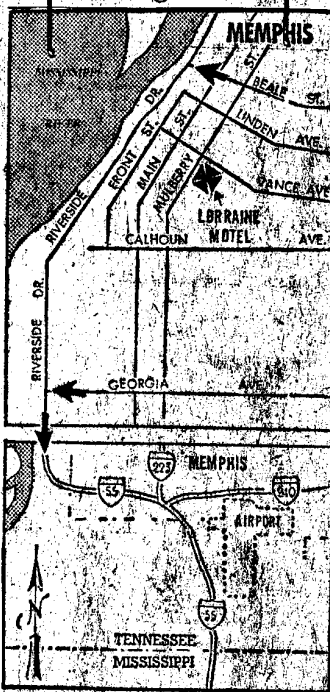
At one point during the bogus broadcast the driver of the white Mustang was described as "responsible for the shooting."

At another point the police broadcast "the blue Pontiac is firing on the white Mustang... correction... the white Mustang is firing at the blue Pontiac."

Memphis police say they know who made the broadcast but have not arrested anyone.

6:54 — Listeners to the police radio heard this question: "Is it OK for Dr. King's brother to go to the hospital?"

7:05 — King is dead.



ESCAPE ROUTES — Two maps show how assassin may have fled Memphis. Times map by Harlan Kirby

Speeding on Interstate 55 through the rural northern Mississippi countryside, the assassin could have driven to Atlanta by

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Began At Childhood**Ray Pictured As A Rebel**

NEW YORK (AP) — James Earl Ray, suspected assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., began his rebellion against authority during a poverty stricken childhood in the Midwest and was always known as a troublemaker, an article in the current issue of Life magazine has disclosed.

Ray alias Eric Starvo Galt continued his troublemaking career in the Army, then turned to a life of small-time, usually unsuccessful crime, the article said. Life quoted one of Ray's brothers as saying that if he killed King, it was probably for money.

The article said Ray was absent from school 25 to 30 per cent of the time when a child. Virgil Oscar Graves, who was principal of the Ewing, Mo., school Ray attended, was quoted as saying, "He was a rebel. He rebelled against authority and his approach to most of his teachers was very bad... But he was a sensitive boy. I remember one day he came up to my desk wearing patched overalls and asked whether I thought the other kids would pay attention to his appearance."

Ray, the article said, was the eldest of nine children of George and Lucille Maher Ray. Ray's father died in 1951, probably of alcoholism, Life said, and his mother in 1961. One of his sisters and one brother are dead; two other brothers also have been in jail.

One of these two, Gerald, was quoted as saying Ray knew that if he were recaptured he faced a stiffer prison sentence, even without a murder accusation.

"A deal with a lot of money would have looked pretty good to a man in that circumstance,"

the brother said. "He sure didn't have any love for colored people, but I know he wouldn't have put himself in a spot like this unless there was something in it for him."

The article said Ray's military career was spent mostly in Germany and that in 1948 he received a general discharge that cited his "ineptness and lack of adaptability to military service."

In 1949, the article said, Ray went to Los Angeles and began a series of "almost clownish crimes." Ray was caught almost every time he tried a robbery,

the magazine said, and did not succeed until 1959 when he and a partner stole \$800 from a grocery store in St. Louis.

Shortly after that success, the article said, Ray tried another holdup which turned out to be typical of his failures. During his escape, the article said, "Ray forgot to shut his car door and fell out as he swerved the car sharply around a corner."

In prison, having been sentenced late in 1959 to 20 years in the Missouri State Penitentiary, Ray "distinguished himself only by a series of solitary escape attempts which earned him the nickname, 'The Mole.'"

Finally, a year ago, he succeeded in escaping by hiding in a truck from the prison bakery.

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

A-3 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/29/68
Edition: Night Final
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: LA

☐ Being Investigated

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/ APR 30 1968	
FBI—LOS ANGELES	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'THE SEARCH FOR RAY: —' KEY PHONE CLUE FOUND

By LOUIS LOMAX

Special to The Herald-Examiner

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—The gas station phone booth from which James Earl Ray, the alleged slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., talked long distance with his New Orleans contact on the night of Dec. 16, 1967, has been located.

The call involved one of the two telephone contacts Ray made that night with the New Orleans man believed to be the "cashman" behind Ray, then known as Eric Starvo Galt.

Charles Stein, the Hollywood songwriter who made the Dec. 15 trip with Ray, and this reporter located the gas station involved at about 1 a.m. Saturday. Identification of the phone booth climaxed a 24-hour search along freeways and service roads in the area. Telephone company officials in Texas are attempting to locate records that will show precisely who Ray was calling.

From conversations between Ray and Stein as they drove from Los Angeles to New Or-

leans, it has been established that Ray said his contact was a New Orleans industrialist.

Publication of the exact location of the phone booth is being withheld until telephone company officials can locate the record.

Before leaving Los Angeles, Stein provided this reporter with a detailed description of the gas stations where the phone calls were made. The first call was at approximately 8 p.m. Dec. 16 at a gas station Stein described as being in a relatively small town. The highway, Route 90, ran through the town and Stein recalled that Ray drove directly into the station which is on the right side of the road. Ray, according to Stein, told the attendant he did not wish to buy gas, and raced to the phone booth to the left of the station.

Stein also recalled that the

station had a long roof which jutted out from the main building to the area of the gas pumps. He said the jutting roof area was flooded with continuous lights.

The first 24 hours of the search proved futile due to the manner in which Stein's memory and mind worked. He never wears a watch and has great difficulty in remembering exactly when events occur. He knew, for example, that he left Los Angeles on Friday, Dec. 15, and arrived at New Orleans on Sunday, Dec. 17, but he could not recall the approximate time of departure or arrival.

Cross-checks with Stein's family in Los Angeles established that he and Ray departed at about noon on Dec. 15. A further check with Stein's brother in New Orleans disclosed he and

EXCLUSIVE!

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

A-1 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/29/68
Edition: Night Final
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

LA

☐ Being Investigated

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SERIALIZED FILED

1 APR 30 1968
FBI—LOS ANGELES

Ray arrived at the home shortly after noon on Sunday.

After plotting the trip as it would be carried out by the two men taking turns at the wheel, we determined approximately where they would have been on the evening of Dec. 16, the night the two critical calls took place. This timetable pinpointed the Houston area. Only after a search of that area failed to locate the gas station involved did Stein begin to completely relive the trip. He remembered that after the last phone call he, Stein, took over the driving and immediately traversed a road under construction.

After three hours of driving and covering more than 125 miles, we found the stretch of highway involved. The location of the "bumpy road" suggested that our original calculations were off by some 500 miles. Then Stein's memory produced these facts:

- The two men ate breakfast at Las Cruces, N.M., early on the morning of Dec. 16.

- They drove into El Paso, 30 miles away, where Ray bought a new tire for the white Mustang.

- The tire was not affixed to the car in El Paso. Instead Ray drove toward San Antonio and skidded off the iced road. Stein took the wheel at that point and drove to the next small town where they had the new tire affixed, reasoning that his skid was caused by a slick tire.

A check with the weather bureau confirmed the snow storm and the icy roads. Given the breakfast in Las Cruces and the weather factor it became clear that the phone calls were made somewhere between El Paso and San Antonio rather than

between San Antonio and Houston—as first thought.

Stein, struggling to recall details of the five-month-old trip, remembered Ray was short on gas as he drove through a small town. As they passed the last gas station in the town, Ray remarked that the station was across the road which had a divider and that he would get gas at the next station which he felt would be a few miles down the highway. Ray drove about three miles without coming upon a gas station. He panicked and decided to turn around and return to the gas station in the small town.

Stein found the town in question. The road divider is there and we bought our gas at the same Phillips 66 station where Ray bought his.

From these fixed points it was a matter of time before Stein, who was driving my rented car at the time, slammed on the brakes and then pulled into a gas station.

"This," he shouted, "is it! Thank you, Jesus!"

The station had the jugged roof. The lights are continuous. And as I sat in the car, as Stein had done with Ray, and watched Stein race around the left side of the station to the hidden phone booth, I too became convinced that this was indeed the place.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI EVIDENCE AGAINST SUSPECT**Map of King Home, Church Linked to Ray****BY JACK NELSON**

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—A map of Atlanta with the areas of Dr. Martin Luther King's residence and church circled has been linked to accused assassin James Earl Ray by the FBI, it was learned Tuesday.

The Times learned that the map is part of the FBI's evidence in its civil rights conspiracy case against Ray.

The map tends to support a theory by some investigators that Ray stalked Dr. King for some time before he allegedly shot him April 4 as the civil rights leader stood on a balcony outside his Memphis motel room.

The areas circled included the Ebenezer Baptist Church on Auburn Ave. in a Negro business area on the eastern edge of downtown Atlanta, and the area of Dr. King's residence several miles southwest of downtown Atlanta. Dr. King and his

father, the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., served as copastors of the church.

Ray has been the object of a nationwide manhunt since April 17 when the FBI charged him—in a complaint listing him under the alias of Eric Starvo Galt—with conspiring to violate Dr. King's civil rights. Memphis authorities quickly followed with a murder charge.

Two days after filing the complaint, the FBI announced that fingerprints uncovered in its investigation revealed that Galt actually was Ray, a 40-year-old escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

How the FBI obtained the Atlanta map with its markings is not known. It apparently was either left by Ray as he fled the murder scene or was found in a car he abandoned in Atlanta.

The FBI alleges Ray bought a rifle with a telescopic sight in Birmingham March 29. And Jefferson County (Birmingham) Sheriff Mel Bailey has said the killing probably was planned in Birmingham.

Bailey said there was evidence that Ray was in Birmingham at the same time as Dr. King last October and November. "He could have laid in wait on many occasions, waiting for a shot at King," Bailey said.

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

I-1 LA Times

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Federal investigators, however, apparently favor the theory that Ray, who was known to be strangely impulsive, did not plan the killing over a long period of time.

Although the FBI complaint accused the suspect of conspiring in the assassination with "an individual whom he alleged to be his brother," it was learned that the FBI's investigation has turned up little or no evidence that the crime involved more than one person.

The FBI's allegation of a conspiracy apparently rests solely on a statement by a clerk at a Birmingham sporting goods store that Ray, in purchasing the rifle, mentioned that he and his brother planned to use it.

The .30-06 rifle was traced to the store by the FBI after having been dropped by the assassin as he fled a Memphis boarding house from which he had fired the fatal shot.

The FBI apparently has lost all trace of Ray since

between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. April 5—12 to 14 hours after the killing—when a man believed to be him was seen abandoning a white Mustang in a public housing project in Atlanta.

The car, which matched the description of one which fled the murder scene, was registered in the name of Eric Starvo Galt. Ray began using that alias some time after escaping from prison April 23, 1967, according to authorities.

The source of his funds remains a puzzle, however. Could he have been a more successful robber and burglar than his record indicates? Did he live off stolen funds after his escape, or did he have cash stashed away from a crime committed before

his last imprisonment?

One thing the painstaking FBI investigation has turned up about Ray is that he is more of a racist than was first believed.

Although some prison sources said Ray showed no manifestations of racism, it is now known that he brooded over race problems and had a deep hatred or fear of Negroes.

He once rejected a transfer to a prison farm—a

coveted move for most convicts—because of the high percentage of Negroes there.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Carmichael may have given away plot behind shooting

By RALPH de TOLEDANO

More and more, Capitol Hill is inclining to the view held by the FBI that the assassin of Martin Luther King was hired and guided by pro-Peking Communist elements in the United States and Cuba. If this is proved, it will lend credence to the theory that Castroites also had a hand in the assassination of President Kennedy.



Increasingly, the careful planning that went into the Martin Luther King assassination is being cited in any debate over the assertion that a wild-eyed crackpot fired the murder weapon. Fanatical political murderers are quickly caught. Or they give themselves up in order to take "credit" for their acts. The hired gun is difficult to track down, particularly if his "employers" realize that capture can "blow" the purposes of the plot.

If the pro-Peking theory of the King assassination is true, the sole purpose of the slaying was to incite violence and create what Lenin ritualistically described as a "revolutionary situation" in the cities. The effect of such a disclosure would be highly adverse to the extremist and violent wing of the "black power" movement.

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The most vocal spokesman of violence as a means of political action is Stokely Carmichael. However, one Negro leader described him as having a "following of about 50 Negroes and 5,000 white reporters," and there is much truth in that overstatement.

Nonetheless, Carmichael's words and acts acquire a significance beyond the present potential of the subversives he now leads. During the Washington riots, Carmichael roamed the streets exhorting Negroes to burn and loot, waving a pistol in violation of law,

and ignoring the curfew that confined the rest of the citizenry.

In a telephone call to Communist Cuba on the day after the King killing, Carmichael may have given away the motivation for what on the face of it might seem a senseless act. With Dr. King out of the way, he almost gloated, "the leader of a movement which urged the United States Negro population not to burn the cities nor engage in acts of violence" had been eliminated. Now, "no other black leader exists to tell his brothers not to burn cities. This means that" for Negroes "it will be necessary to enter wholeheartedly into total revolution."

In the same message, he spelled it out even more clearly. "With the death of Martin Luther King," he said, "we can seriously start down the road toward revolution in order to attain the downfall of this system governing the United States." Elsewhere he had said, "We will set the country afire and — like Nero — we will sit and watch it burn," bringing about the destruction of "an imperialist" America.

In other words, despite the violence which often followed Martin Luther King's non-violence preachments, he remained as an obstacle to the leadership of the extremists who

called for immediate ~~and~~
ceaseless violence. The King as-
sassination cut the ground from
under those Negro leaders who
recognize that arson and
looting achieve only token re-
sults — the panicky passage of
an open-housing law by a con-
fused Congress was one such
— rather than building toward
a sound multi-racial America.

The militant extremists, of
course, are not really interest-
ed in solving the problems of
America's Negroes. The more
misery there is in the so-called
ghettos, the better chance there
is for embroiling the entire na-
tion in internal warfare. If, as
Carmichael seems to want, ev-
ery Negro lays down his life
in the cause of nihilistic terror,
the entire free world will be
compromised — which is what
Peking also most passionately
desires.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Impounds Ray's Phone Call Records

By LOUIS LOMAX

Special to The Herald-Examiner

The FBI has seized telephone records here vital to the hunt for the slayer or slayers of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Thursday of last week, the Herald-Examiner disclosed that James Earl Ray, then known as Eric Starvo Galt, frequented a phone booth in the St. Francis Hotel along Hollywood Boulevard. The article by this reporter disclosed that Ray made long distance calls from this phone booth around six o'clock each evening.

Before the article was printed arrangements had been made with officials of Pacific Telephone Company to obtain records that would show the destination of the calls placed by Ray.

On the day the story appeared in The Herald-Examiner, the FBI visited the Pacific Telephone Company and impounded the records.

FBI officials also visited Charles Stein and other members of his family Monday who have been instrumental in this reporter's efforts to track down New Orleans contacts of Ray. Stein and members of his family report the FBI officials demanded to know what places Stein and this reporter visited

during our trip to Texas last week.

Stein and this reporter left Los Angeles last Thursday to retrace the Los Angeles to New Orleans trip Stein took with Ray last December 15th. The essential purpose of Ray's trip, so it is believed, was to make contact with the "cash man" in New Orleans who is suspected of having bankrolled the slaying of Dr. King.

This reporter and Stein retraced the trip to locate phone booths from which Ray made calls to his New Orleans contact.

One of these booths was located in the early morning hours Saturday.

Texas phone company officials now are attempting to locate records that will reveal the number and name of the person Ray was calling.

The Los Angeles phone records confiscated by the FBI may show the name and number of the same New Orleans contact Ray was phoning from phone booths along the Texas highway.

FBI officials here in Los Angeles refused to comment about their seizure of the phone records. They also refused this reporter's request to see the records.

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A World-Wide Manhunt

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australian police are making a nationwide search for James Earl Ray, wanted in the United States on a charge of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Police officials said the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation cabled that it had information indicating Ray, also known as Eric Starvo Galt, might have fled to Australia. Australian police have also begun an intensive examination of all entry documents filed at points of entry since King's assassination, but officers say nothing positive has turned up yet.

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The FBI has asked the Australian government to make a routine check of whether James Earl Ray, sought in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, applied for a visa to go to that country. An Australian embassy spokesman said in Washington that "Australian authorities have no evidence at all that the person concerned is in Australia." It was thought that the FBI had or would make similar requests of other nations in which Ray might seek refuge.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Brother Believes Ray Framed, Maybe Slain

Jerry Says He Doubts James Assassinated Dr. King but He Might Have Been Fall Guy

BY RICHARD T. COOPER

Times Staff Writer

CHICAGO — Gerald (Jerry) Ray believes his brother, James Earl Ray, sought in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, was connected in some way with an elaborate plot, but that James may have been the fall guy, not the killer.

James may have been killed himself and framed by those who actually murdered Dr. King, Jerry Ray said Friday in an interview with The Times.

"If he did it, which I doubt, there had to be a lot of money in it," and probably assurances of a safe hiding place, Jerry Ray speculated.

He urged his brother, if still alive, not to surrender. Anything would be better than facing trial for the murder and serving the 18 years in prison James still faces in Missouri, Jerry said.

Claims FBI Clearance

Jerry, who left the Chicago area and his job for St. Louis Friday afternoon, said he and his other brother, John, both have been cleared by the FBI.

John Ray, whose whereabouts have been unknown, has been located by the FBI and has been found to have no connection with the slaying, according to Jerry, who said FBI agents told him of John's clearance. The agents did not tell him where John had been found, Jerry Ray said.

He said he has had no contact with John since January when John was working as a bartender in New York City and called him on the telephone.

Jerry said his last contact with James was a letter James wrote him about a week before escaping from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City April 23, 1967.

"He won't contact anybody in the family, I'm positive of that," Jerry said, because James will know the FBI is watching all his relatives.

Often in Jail

Between the ages of 14 and 20, Jerry, now 32, was out of jail only one year, but he has not been in trouble since. For the last four years, he has worked as a maintenance man at a public country club near Chicago. He is regarded as a quiet, pleasant man by his employers and by the few people who know him in the town near the club.

The club's owners had not known of Jerry's police record, but when the news broke, instead of firing him—as Ray says most employers would—they attempted to shield him from publicity and helped him in other ways.

Jerry said he was not working with the FBI, but acknowledged he has been in frequent contact with the bureau since agents took him to their Chicago office for questioning the night of April 19, when Eric Starvo Galt was identified by the FBI as James

Earl Ray. Two days earlier, Galt had been charged with conspiracy in the assassination.

Although he continues to express doubt that James was the assassin, Jerry says there is "some tieup someplace" between his brother and the murder. The large amounts of money James allegedly spent just before the killing could not have come from earlier crimes, his brother said.

Money a Mystery

James' crimes before he went to the Missouri prison were not large enough to yield such a quantity of money, and the FBI has found no evidence that he committed any robberies after escaping, Jerry said. He asserted that the FBI also "leans toward" the plot theory.

He pins his hope that James is still alive on the fact that his body has not been found. If he had been killed and framed, Jerry reasons, the murderers would want the body discovered "to draw the heat off of them."

If the persons involved in the plot checked James' record, his brother said, they would have found that he could be trusted because he has never testified for the police against his "rap partners" in other crimes.

James was sentenced to 20 years in Missouri because he refused to give information to the police, Jerry Ray said, and he himself once took a five-year sentence rather than talk. "That runs in the family, that stuff," he said.

This leads him to hope

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