

EP 157-186

PHOTOGRAPHS OF JAMES EARL RAY
DISPLAYED TO WITNESSES IN
UNSOLVED BANK ROBBERY CASE

AT EL PASO, TEXAS

On May 16, 1968, MARY LOU CAULLER and ROSE MARY SCHIFFINO, Tellers, El Paso Federal Savings and Loan Association, 517 North Kansas Street, were displayed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY by SA ROBERT R. FOLTZ. These two individuals advised that RAY was not identical with the unknown subject who robbed the El Paso Federal Savings and Loan Association in El Paso on September 1, 1967.

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Office, Juarez; JESUS CHACON PRIETO, Chief, State Judicial Police, Juarez; AMBROCIO GUTIERREZ, Inspector of Police, Juarez Police Department, Juarez; TEODORO PEREZ RIVAS, Jailer, Juarez; all contacted on April 19, 1968, by SA GORDON F. ELLISON.

Captain LLOYD PETERSON, El Paso Police Department, and Captain DON WHITLEY, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, both El Paso, Texas, contacted on April 23, 1968, by SA ROBERT C. NAGEL.

Acting Special Agent in Charge JACK SALTER, Customs Agency Service, El Paso, contacted on April 23, 1968, by SA FRANCIS J. PRASEK.

Chief Patrol Inspector HERMAN MOORE, El Paso Sector, United States Border Patrol, El Paso, contacted on April 23, 1968, by SA DOUGLAS A. DUNNAM.

GLYNN BYRD, Dispatcher, Texas Department of Public Safety, El Paso, contacted on April 23, 1968, by SA RICHARD H. PICKEN.

Mr. JOHN CASEBOLT, United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, Presidio, Texas, who was advised by mail on April 23, 1968.

Chief Patrol Inspector O. D. STEVENS, Marfa Sector, United States Border Patrol, Marfa, Texas, contacted by mail on April 23, 1968.

TOMMY OWENS, Midland Police Department, and Deputy Sheriff GUY FLETCHER, Midland County Sheriff's Office, both Midland, Texas, contacted on April 24, 1968, by SA JOHN J. GORMAN.

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Captain OLAN MILES, Odessa Police Department, and Captain DON REAVES, Ector County Sheriff's Office, both Odessa, Texas, contacted on April 24, 1968, by SA PAUL D. SJODAL.

Captain RAY BUTLER, Regional Office, Texas Department of Public Safety, Midland, Texas, contacted on April 24, 1968, by SA JOHN R. MAURER.

The above-listed individuals in the United States were recontacted by letter dated May 9, 1968, at which time they were again apprised of the interest of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in JAMES EARL RAY. In addition, the below-listed individuals were advised by letter dated May 9, 1968, of the interest of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in JAMES EARL RAY:

EDUARDO ARMANDO MIRAMONTES PEREZ, Chief of the Mexican Immigration Service, Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico; Licenciado RENE MEDINA RODRIGUEZ, Administrator of the Mexican Customs Service, Ojinaga; ISIDRO CORTEZ GARCIA, Chief of Police, Ojinaga; DIOGENES BUSTAMANTE, Municipal President, Ojinaga.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

5-29-68 154 JL

J. Edgar Hoover
 Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 869 529, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Navy	James Wilbourn Ashmore #339 27 80	5-1-45 NRSS Poplar Bluff Mo		
USP Terre Haute Ind	James Wilbourne Ashmore #5606	11-7-45	theft AWC	3 yrs 8-3-48 min exp (Navy)
US Naval Prison Portsmouth NH	James Wilbourn Ashmore #26884	3-20-46	theft brk arr	6 yrs
US Nav Dist Bks Portsmouth NH	James Wilburn Ashmore #26884	inquiry 6-13-47		
B of I Atlanta Ga	James W. Ashmore #145477	not given forg FP 6-5-50		TOT Houston Co Ga Auth
FD Cordele Ga	James Wilbourn Ashmore #--	6-6-50	inv ch/swindling	rel Sheriff Houston Co Ga 6-6-50
Houston Co Jail Perry Ga	James W. Ashmore #--	not given FP 6-6-50		
St Board of Corr Atlanta Ga #A95043	James W. Ashmore #-- Jefferson Pri Branch Louisville Ga	6-20-50	fraud	6-6 yrs escaped 10-13-50 recaptured 8-15-55 on chg of felony (3)

44-1987-Sub G-706

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 3 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle RB

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

5-29-68 154 JL

2

J. Edgar Hoover
 Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 869 529, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
USM St Louis, Mo	James Wilbur Ashmore #13351	12-27-51	trans false securities	pend 12-30-51 tran. to USM Memphis
USM Memphis Tenn	James Wilbourn Ashmore #216	12-31-51	fraud chks interst commerce	pend 1/17 1-7-52 5 yrs on each ct of 2 ct indictment sent to run conc on chg of ITSP 5 yrs
US Pen Terre Haute Ind	James Wilbur Ashmore #8906	1-23-52	trans false chks I/S	5 yrs CR 8-15-55
USP Atlanta Ga	James Wilber Ashmore #72202	1-23-52	transp forged chks int	5 yrs CR 8-15-55
PD Atlanta Ga	James Wilburn Ashmore #171439	8-15-55	under sentence	rel to Ga St Pr auth 8-17-55 5-5 yrs
St Board of Corr Atlanta Ga	James W. Ashmore #A-25043/26536	8-17-55	burg	5-5 yrs
SO Del Rio Texas	James Ashmore #915A	10-2-59	forg	
SO Orlando Fla	James Wilbur Ashmore #29679	4-6-60	forg & utt & PAF return from Del Rio Texas	4-26-60, 90 das Co Jail 6-15-60 PG to forg sent to 90 das Co Jail
Dept of Corr Huntsville Texas	James W. Ashmore #168378	8-17-62	forg (1) theft over \$50 (1) (2-2's con)	2 yrs disch
SO San Antonio Texas	James Wilson Ashmore #--	11-27-62	R B A Bench wrnt	

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1961-O-615915

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

5-29-68 154 JL

3

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 869 529 , is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SO. Tavares Fla	James Ashmore #8578	11-9-63	affray	

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1961-O-615915

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

5-29-68 154 JL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

1-BU

The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 869 529, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WHERE FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	<p>WANTED BY BUREAU: As James Wilbur Ashmore, W/as James Willburn Ashmore, Fug Index #29039, Bu File #26-142040, OO: Memphis, Tenn inf rec 12-19-51 NO LONGER WANTED per Bu memo dated 12-19-51</p>			
<p>THIS PAGE SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE FBI.</p>				

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

John Edgar Hoover
 Director

Routing Slip
0-7 (Rev. 9-25-67)

(Copy to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC,

- Albany
- Albuquerque
- Anchorage
- Atlanta
- Baltimore
- Birmingham
- Boston
- Buffalo
- Butte
- Charlotte
- Chicago
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Columbia
- Dallas
- Denver
- Detroit
- El Paso
- Honolulu
- Houston
- Indianapolis
- Jackson
- Jacksonville
- Kansas City
- Knoxville
- Las Vegas
- Little Rock
- Los Angeles
- Louisville
- Memphis
- Miami
- Milwaukee
- Minneapolis
- Mobile
- Newark
- New Haven
- New Orleans
- New York City

- Norfolk
- Oklahoma City
- Omaha
- Philadelphia
- Phoenix
- Pittsburgh
- Portland
- Richmond
- Sacramento
- St. Louis
- Salt Lake City
- San Antonio
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Juan
- Savannah
- Seattle
- Springfield

- Tampa
- Washington Field
- Quantico

TO LEGAT:

- Bern
- Bonn
- Buenos Aires
- Hong Kong
- London
- Manila
- Mexico, D.F.
- Ottawa
- Paris
- Rome
- Santo Domingo
- Tokyo

Date 5/31/68

RE:

MURKIN

For information Retention optional For appropriate action Surep, by _____

The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, conceal all sources, paraphrase contents.

Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks:

Enclosed is copy of Missouri State Penitentiary file.

DATE FILE STRIPPED 6/4/67

INITIALS mo

RE: BU AIRTEL DTD 11/3/66

G

44-1987-Sub-A-706A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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JUN 2 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester
Ronan

Enc. **1**
Bufile **44-38861**
Urfile **44-1987**

WARREN E. HEARNES
GOVERNOR



WALTER G. SARTORIUS, CHAIRMAN
BEN B. STEWART, MEMBER
E. B. ROBINSON, MEMBER
J. RAYMOND BILLS, SECRETARY

CIRCUIT AND CRIMINAL COURTS
MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY
INTERMEDIATE REFORMATORY
MEDIUM SECURITY PRISON
WOMEN'S PENITENTIARY

STATE OF MISSOURI
BOARD OF PROBATION AND PAROLE

December 20, 1966

Board of Probation and Parole
Box 267
Jefferson City, Missouri

Re: RAY, James Earl
#00416-J

R 12/21
Inmate file

Gentlemen:

This 38 year old white male was seen for psychiatric evaluation on December 13, 1966. He was admitted here in March of 1960, to serve a twenty year sentence for armed robbery. This is his first admission to this institution. In 1952, he served a year and one half in an Illinois Penal Institution for robbery and in 1955, he served two and one half years in Leavenworth for transporting stolen goods across the state line.

He is presently charged with an escape attempt in March of 1966 and has recently been returned after an evaluation at the Fulton State Hospital. He has requested an independent psychiatric evaluation following their evaluation. This examiner only recently received this request from the Cole County Circuit Court signed by Judge Riley requesting such an evaluation. However, the inmate expressed his desire to have someone conduct an independent "psychiatric evaluation who was not connected with the administration." We informed him that we would communicate his wishes to the court and possibly someone else might be found.

Ray is an interesting and rather complicated individual. He reports that within the last year, he has had considerable difficulties from a physical point of view, involving a number of somatic complaints such as pain in the "solar plexus," tachycardia and "intracranial tension." When we commented that these were rather large words, he reported that he had been reading up in the medical literature. He then stated that he thought at times that he had cancer or heart trouble but that he no longer feels this way. On certain days, he has rather severe head pains but this is only intermittent. He is now on librium and works intermittently on a construction job.

Ray was born in Alton, Illinois, where his father worked for the railroad. Both parents are now deceased. He has two younger sisters. He reached

~~44-760-557~~
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FBI - KANSAS CITY
PRM

44-1987-Subs-G-706A

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SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

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(2)

the second year in high school, worked eighteen months at the International Shoe Company, entered the service in 1945 and remained there for three years. His highest rank was that of PFC. He has never been married although he has lived for brief periods of time with women. This man's basic problem revolves around what appears to be an increasingly severe obsessive compulsive trend. He states that at the age of ten, he awoke one night and thought he had lost his eye sight. He became quite fearful. These various fears confront him from time to time and in a typical obsessive compulsive way, he feels that he must do certain things in order to undo what he feels is going to occur and might result in harm to him. For instance, he describes a feeling of fear which can be alleviated if he takes his glass of water which he is drinking and sets it on the table and moving it back and forth several times. He also describes at length some rather marked obsessive compulsive features but is reluctant to go into them in detail. Indeed, he just started to discuss this with the people at Fulton prior to his being sent here. He appears worried and his brow is creased. It is evident that this man does have an underlying obsessive compulsive personality. He is of the opinion that his escape attempt was the result of undue anxiety and tension with the need to actually do something. He is fearful that this might lead into more serious difficulties.

At the present time, there is no evidence of delusions, hallucinations or paranoid ideas. There is evidence of a rather deep underlying obsessive compulsive personality trend which he has really never discussed at any length with anyone. This is not psychotic in nature but severely neurotic. Within the last year or so, there is evidence that he has become overly concerned about his physical health and some of his obsessive compulsive concerns have moved in this direction. We would not deny the fact that there may be some physical difficulties although he reports that this was the primary focus of his work-up at the state hospital as well as here and that very little has been found.

At the present time, it is doubtful that he is in a position to be considered for parole. His psychiatric condition must be evaluated by an independent psychiatrist and according to the court, he has the right to have this done. Where they will find this independent psychiatrist is somewhat difficult to determine in this area although they might order him to the University and have it done there. It is felt that he is in need of psychiatric help and that should any serious parole consideration be given, some type of psychiatric help should be considered, that is help, which he can receive on the outside during his parole period. He is becoming increasingly concerned about himself. We question whether or not he is beginning to be a bit depressed although he denies this. We hesitate to go into this to any greater degree at the present time until the court decides what action it will take in regards to assigning an independent psychiatrist for evaluation.

Sincerely yours,

Henry V. Guhleman, Jr., M. D.
Psychiatric Consultant

H.V.G:h

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF PRISONS

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANS.

SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Inmate Name RAY, James Earl Reg. No. 157288 Date October 9, 1956

II: ANNUAL REVIEW

Ray is a twenty-eight year old white, single offender, serving three years and nine months of Post Office Forgery, Money Orders. At initial classification, Ray was assigned to work in the Fire Department. However, approximately a month later on September 15, 1955, he was reported for not being dependable and lack of interest in his job, for which he was given thirty days restriction. He has forfeited no good time and has no detainers. He has earned no extra good time. His conditional release date is May 20, 1958.

Ray has worked in the Fire Department, Paint Shop, and Bakery since his admission classification in July, 1955. He has been on his present assignment in the Bakery since March 1, 1956, and is regarded as an outstanding worker as a bench hand assigned to night duty.

During the past year he has completed Spanish, Composition, Typing, and Culinary Sanitation. He is presently enrolled in Applied English and Elementary Vocabulary.

He states that he corresponds fully with an Aunt, Mrs. Lucille Ryan, 701 1/2 Washington St., Quincy, Illinois. He has not received any visits.

Ray is a Catholic by preference who does not attend services, nor does not desire religious instructions. He is indifferent toward his religious obligations.

Ray was interviewed prior to the preparation of this report and indicated at that time that he was satisfied with his present assignment. He stated that his Supervisor was putting in a request to place him on meritorious service. His release plans were discussed with him, but he stated a person could not make plans nineteen months ahead. However, he did state that when he had completed his conditional release, he planned to go to Denver, Colorado, as he felt that that climate would be better for his health. There appears to be practically no family contacts in this case other than with this one Aunt. He apparently lacks foresight, or is afraid of the future, as he absolutely refuses to look forward. He claims that he can do his time better if he doesn't think. He further claims that he doesn't have any trouble at this time, has all the economic security that one needs, and apparently is enjoying his present situation.

Review of his medical and psychiatric file discloses that he has not been seriously ill since the last report; he has shown no evidence of mental illness, and has required no significant attention from the medical department.

RESIDENCE: Quincy, Illinois

ESPO: Springfield, Illinois CD:ca0 October 9, 1956

COMMITTEE ACTION: Continue Present Program.

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: M. J. ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-CUSTODY

Date: MAY 3, 1967

From: *D. G. Steele*
CAPTIAN DANTON STEELE

Subject: INVESTIGATION ESCAPE OF JAMES EARL RAY #00416

Working upon the premise that Inmate James Earl Ray #00416 made good his escape from the institution, Sunday, April 23, 1967, by concealing himself in the Renz Farm bread box and riding out the Sally Port on the Renz Farm truck, I have interviewed all concerned with the Renz Farm bread run and have formed the opinion that Inmate Ray did effect his escape via the Renz Farm bread run and the means of his escape has remained a mystery for ten days because of gross dereliction of duty involving three and possible five prison personnel.

The Renz Farm truck, driven by Guard Officer Alfred Burkhardt came through the Sally Port at approximately 8:00 A.M. to pick up the Renz Farm bread, made the pick up and came back through the Sally Port at approximately 8:16 A.M. When the truck arrived at Renz Farm and was unloaded it was discovered by Mr. Bernard Peschang, civilian cook, that the bread was torn and crushed to the extent that only a few loaves were usable and the rest had to be fed to the chickens. To my knowledge, up until the time of this report, there has been no notification from any Renz Farm source of the condition of the bread delivery of that date to any officer or official of the penitentiary. Mr. Peschang did state to me that after he heard of Inmate Ray's disappearance he did make the remark that "Ray probably came out in the bread box". When asked why he did not report this to someone, Mr. Peschang said he did report it to Officer Burkhardt and to someone in the office. (He could not remember who.) He also said he told Mr. Jim Stone, Civilian Cook, when he came to work the next day.

Mr. Jim Stone, civilian cook at Renz Farm, said he saw the bread the next day and it looked like it "had been shoveled into the box". He said it was not fit for use and was fed to the chickens.

Sergeant John Setser was the officer in charge of Renz Farm, Sunday, April 23, 1967, and he stated that he could not recall Mr. Peschang notifying him of the condition of the bread upon arrival at Renz Farm. (This seems a rather weak statement.)

Guard Officer Ezra Shelden states that he definitely remember checking the Renz Farm bread box and although he did not handle the bread it was neatly stacked almost to the top of the box. (The box holds 60 loaves, Renz Farm ordered 40 loaves, the box should have been two-third full.)

CONCLUSIONS:

Inmate Ray evidently made good his escape via the Renz Farm bread truck. He must have used a false bottom for the bread to be stacked as neatly as Officer Shelden said it was. No one at Renz Farm admits seeing the false bottom. Why should the inmate dispose of the false bottom when the bread was mangled beyond use?

Department of Corrections
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: M. J. ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-CUSTODY

Date: MAY 3, 1967

From: *D&S*
CAPTAIN DANTON STEELE

Subject: PAGE -2-

Civilian cook Bernard Peschang and whoever else in an official capacity that was aware of the bread delivery are guilty of gross negligence and dereliction of duty and should be appropriately disciplined.

Refer to my report of April 24, 1967, subject inmate James Earl Ray. If inmate Ray did escape via the Renz Farm bread run, then there is a discrepancy in Guard Officer Johnnie Petree's statement that he let him out of the kitchen when the mainline turned out for recreation yard and never saw him again. Guard Officer Petree was on duty at the Kitchen Gate all this time.

SUGGESTION

Officer Alfred Burkhardt is on his regular day off this date and I was unable to contact him. I suggest that he be interviewed in the atmosphere of the Warden's office and acquainted with what we already know. Maybe he can clear this thing up. Someone seems to have been doing some covering up.

cc: Warden
Mr. Kern
Capt. Steele
File

From the desk of: Burkhardt
05 May 16
Harold R. Swenson - Warden
Also given to kitchen - says he
made it out early in morning
Betty Powell, friend of Burkhardt,
not in on it but Benour all
about it
Plain in bread delivery to
Renz Farm
Burkhardt - Review
I will put report
Henry Swenson - 04870
Betty Powell - 13174
George Swenson - 05516

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: M. J. ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-CUSTODY

Date: MAY 4, 1967

From: *D. Steele*
CAPTAIN DANTON STEELE

Subject: SUPPLEMENT TO ESCAPE INVESTIGATION REPORT OF MAY 3, 1967

Captain Leroy Casey and myself interviewed Guard Officer Alfred Burkhardt this date and obtained his account of the Renz Farm bread run on Sunday, April 23, 1967.

Officer Burkhardt stated that when he reached the Kitchen dock that morning he unloaded his empty bread box and went to the bread room in the main kitchen via the elevator. He checked the Renz Farm box and noted that his bread was loaded, accompanied the inmate who wheeled the box to the loading dock, and watched the box removed from the cart and loaded on the truck by the kitchen inmate and the inside truck driver inmate. Officer Burkhardt stated that he did not observe the inmates straining under any extra load. He then proceeded to the Sally Port and was present when Guard Officer Ezra Sheldon examined the bread box. Officer Burkhardt noted at this time that the bread was still neatly stacked near the top of the box as it was when he left the bread room.

He then proceeded to the Renz Farm, stopping on the way at Mr. Carl Mill's residence to deliver Mr. Mill's bread which was in a separate box. Officer Burkhardt stated that he went to the rear of the truck and inmate Lloyd R. Reno #10970, who rode the cab of the truck with him, got in the back of the truck and handed him Mr. Mill's bread, which he delivered. He did not at this time notice anything amiss in the truck.

When he reached the Administration building he backed up to the Front Door, went to the rear of the truck and watched the Renz Farm kitchen inmates unload the bread. He stated that at this time one of the inmates commented that the bread was sure in a mess. He said that he never looked at the bread or gave it a thought as to why the bread would be messed up but that he did ask the inmate if he thought they would have to go after another load. The inmate assured him that they could use the bread and he dropped the matter.

Officer Burkhardt emphatically states that he never saw the bread after it reached the Renz Farm. Mr. Bernard Peschang never reported the condition of the bread to him, and that he had never heard of the condition of the bread from anyone else. He was asked why it didn't seem strange to him that, after seeing the bread neatly stacked in the Sally Port, it should be in a mess upon arriving at his destination. He said he just never thought anything about it any further than checking as to whether or not he would have to return for more bread.

Captain Leroy Casey, in the course of his investigation of Inmate James Earl Ray's escape, talked to Officer Burkhardt on the telephone Monday, April 24, 1967. Officer Burkhardt, at that time, told Captain Casey that he arrived at the Renz Farm with all the bread he had left the walls with. Later Captain Casey talked with Officer Burkhardt in person and was told by the officer that he actually had not seen the bread after it reached the farm but assumed it was all there because they didn't run out of bread and there were no complaints.

RECEIVED

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
April 23rd, 1967

Complaint #138,550

FILE No. _____

WARDEN'S OFFICE
STATE PENITENTIARY
SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY

Method of Communication
(Designate With Check Mark)

- Radiogram
- Telegram
- Telephone
- Teletype (LETS)
- Letter
- Post Card
- Verbal Instructions

Person from Warden (Missouri Penitentiary)
 Place from Jefferson City, Mo.
 Where Assigned Third District
 Date Assigned 4-23-67 Returned 4-23-67

Police Department
Rules

Requests for arrests, records, photographs, investigations, locations persons, broadcast service, etc., receive attention, must come direct from a chief of police, sheriff or other peace officer.

Arrest warrants must accompany arrest requests wherever possible.

Apply to Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., for information re standing of individuals or firms.

Complaints re business transactions conducted by mail go to postal authorities.

Birth and death certificates apply to Bureau of Vital Statistics.

We do not make recommendations or people wanting doctors, lawyers, or bondsmen. We don't collect debts or bills, or furnish copies of reports.

Investigated above and report as follows:

Relative to the here-to attached communication (LAW ENFORCEMENT TELETYPE SYSTEM) from the warden, Missouri State Penitentiary - Jefferson City, Mo. ordering the arrest of the following:

RAY, JAMES EARL - @ JAMES O'CONNOR - White; Male, 32, D.O.B. [redacted] Ill., 5'11", 165, Blue eyes, Black hair, address unknown

for missing and possibly escaping from the Missouri State Penitentiary - Jefferson City, Mo. where he was presently serving a sentence for "ROBBERY 1ST" from St. Louis, Mo.

About 9:30 P.M. this date, Detectives Charles Billings, DSN 163 and Francis Auer, DSN 3659 assigned to the Third District Detective Bureau conducted an investigation at the following last known addresses of (RAY).

Officer's checked 1918 Park Avenue, which was given as the address of his brother JOHN RAY, however upon investigation found to be the France's Used Furniture Store, same being all locked up and no one around.

Officer's checked 2015 Park Avenue, which was given as an address by (RAY) on previous arrests, however upon investigation the officers talked to one: REBEN CRAFT who states that he has lived at that address for the past year and does not know anyone by the name of (RAY).

Officer's checked 1913 Hickory, which was given as the address of his mother LUCILLE RYAN, however upon investigation the officers talked to one: LORA BROOKS who states that she has lived at that address for the past year and does not know anyone by the name of (RAY) or (RYAN). Officers also checked 1915 Hickory, talking to one: DOROTHY CREAMER who states that she has lived at that address for the past six years and does not know anyone by the name of (RAY), (O'CONNOR) or (RYAN) nor of anyone by that name every living

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - CITY OF ST. LOUIS
CONTINUATION REPORT

FILE NO. - FOR RECORDS SECTION

PAGE NO. Two

COMPLAINT NO. 138,550

in the 1900 block of Hickory.

(RAY) has LB #81071, in this departments record files.

An arrest order was placed on teletype, per message #307B of this date, for JAMES EARL RAY - @ JAMES O'CONNOR for "MISSING AND POSSIBLY ESCAPING FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY - JEFFERSON CITY, MO. ".

Det. Charles Billings 163
Det. Charles Billings, DSN 163

Det. Francis Auer 3659
Det. Francis Auer, DSN 3659

Respectfully,

Sgt. Frank Kavanagh
(Det. Lt.) Sgt. Frank Kavanagh,
DSN 1096 Watch Commander

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, USE ANOTHER CONTINUATION REPORT

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: PRISON SEARCH
To: H. R. SWENSON, WARDEN
FROM: B.J. Poiry, Major

Date APRIL 27, 1967

The following civil and custodial employees helped in the search inside the prison on April 26, 1967 starting at 7:30 P.M. and ending at 10:00 P.M., the search being conducted under the direction of Mr. M.J. Elliott, Associate Warden Custody and Major B.J. Poiry, Senior Custodial Officer.

<i>M.J. Elliott - Assoc. Warden Custody</i> Capt. L. Casey	Guard J. Kirsch	Guard D. Storie
" D. Steele <i>Mr. C. White, unit</i>	" H. Daniels	" J. Sidebottom
Lt. G. Golden <i>Wm. Wood</i>	" R. Hendrix	" L. Curty
" J. Stewart	" J. Smith	" C. Wheeler
" W. Hedrick	" G. Anagost	" L. Slone
" H. Atkinson	" C. Jennings	" G. Rogers
Sgt. W. Smith	" A. Locten	" J. Coale
" J. Hayes	" A. Luecke	" W. Allen
" N. Hendlay	" H. Walther	" D. Tilton
" R. Legg	" B. Kenney	" B. Bruce
" G. McDowell	" J. Phillips	" L. Gove
" C. McDaniel	" C. Armstrong	Mr. W. Waggoner
" R. Weeden	" P. Hedges	Mr. R. Hogg
" U. Lock	" C. Evans	Mr. B. Acree
" C. Garnett	" J. Reed	Mr. R. Bates
" K. Bemberger	" B. Isaak	Mr. P. Pealer
" R. Borghardt	" C. Hopkins	Mr. A. Dake (New Guard)
Guard A. Kreig	" L. Flaughner	Mr. K. Dake " "
" E. Sheldon	" G. Bond	
" A. Schanzmeyer	" E.L. Scott	Mr. Carl White, A.W.T.

Your help, loyalty and interest is grately appreciated.

B.J. Poiry
B.J. Poiry, Major
Senior Guard Captain

cc: Mr. Elliott, AWC
Capt. L. Casey
Capt. D. Steele
File

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: RAY, James, #00416-J
To: B.J. POIRY, MAJOR

Date April 24, 1967

PAGE III *DW*

CONCLUSIONS:

Guard Officer Johnnie Petree was negligent of his duty in not trying to locate Inmate Ray when he did not report for work at 11:00 A.M. and in not reporting the absence of Inmate Ray to Control Center and to Officer Harold Schaffer who relieved him at 12:00 P.M.

Guard Officer Harold Schaffer was negligent to a lesser extent in not knowing to whom he spoke to over the telephone on a matter as important as a missing inmate, also for not reporting to Control Center, especially since Inmate Ray is well known as being escape prone.

The daily call sheet for the kitchen is made out by Kitchen office inmates and signed by the guard officer on duty. Whether this procedure is directed by civilian cooks is not clear. The call sheet is delivered in the evening (for the next day) by the inmate-first-cook. This call sheet should be directed by and signed by the civilian cook in charge and countersigned by the guard officer. Inmates should be required to honor the call sheet unless cancelled by the civilian cook.

All off duty kitchen and dock workers are allowed to eat their meals in the kitchen. This creates too much traffic and confusion. The Kitchen Gate Officer would be able to better control the traffic if only duty workers were allowed in the kitchen.

The large number of outside people both inmate and civilian allowed inside the walls on weekends is definitely a security risk, especially when the regularly assigned Round Gate and Front Door officers are not on duty. Definite procedures should be set up.

cc: Warden Swenson
Mr. Elliott, A.M.C.
file

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: RAY, James, #00416-J

Date April 24, 1967

To: B.J. POIRY, MAJOR

PAGE II. *DE*

Guard Sergeant David Ekstan, J & K Hall Sgt.

Guard Sergeant Ekstan stated that he was in the Hall from 12:05 P.M. until the end of his duty tour and received several calls from the kitchen inquiring about other inmates but did not receive the call about Inmate Ray. He said however that the call could have been made while he was busy elsewhere in the hall. Inmate James Esson #73789, Hall Clerk stated that he did not take any call concerning Inmate Ray.

Sergeant Ekstan said that he did see Inmate Ray during the day but could not remember for sure if it was after Mainline A.M. or Mainline noon. He said Inmate Ray came to the hall and went to his cell, then later left the hall, presumably for the yard.

Guard Officer Ezra Sheldon, Truck Tunnel

Guard Officer Sheldon stated that the Garbage Truck made two trips through the Truck Tunnel 9:15 A.M. - 9:45 A.M. and 1:45 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. The Trash Truck made one trip 1:45 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

He stated that he thoroughly searched both trucks, all trips, using the probing rod and did not feel he could have missed an inmate if he had been aboard. He relieved Sergeant Ekstan, J & K Hall for lunch but did not receive a telephone inquiry about Inmate Ray.

Guard Officer Raymond Morgan, Trash Truck

Guard Officer Morgan stated that it was raining while he was inside picking up trash but that he stayed outside the truck and observed the loading of the trash and he was certain that no one boarded the truck while it was being loaded. He said he did have two big cardboard boxes on the truck but that he watched Officer Sheldon probe the boxes and his load in the Truck Tunnel and he doesn't believe anyone was in the truck. He said when he got to the dump the cage was still latched and he dumped his load and watched it burn.

Guard Officer Lufe Gove, Round Gate

There is an inmate rumor that Inmate Ray walked out the Front Door with some civilian visitors just before 3:30 P.M. Guard Officer Lufe Gove stated that the civilians did come through the Round Gate about 3:15 P.M. but that he checked their passes before allowing them to go through the Round Gate and there were no inmates with them. Officer Gove is the type of officer that is very strict in enforcing Round Gate regulations.

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: RAY, James, #00416-J

Date April 24, 1967

To: B.J. POIRY, MAJOR
SENIOR GUARD CAPTAIN

FROM: *D. Steele*
DANTON G. STEELE, CAPT.
ACTING SENIOR GUARD CAPT.

At approximately 3:25 P.M. Sunday April 23, 1967 Lieutenant William R. Turner, Control Center Desk Officer, was advised that there had been an escape from the institution. He was advised that if security was not alerted there would be another. Subsequent checking and 5:00 P.M. formal count revealed that Inmate James E. Ray #00416, assigned to the Main Kitchen 11:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M. Shift, had not reported for work at 11:00 A.M. and was missing from the 5:00 P.M. count. A search of the grounds and inspection of the walls from both inside and out was conducted without any results. It was assumed and still is as of this date that Inmate Ray is either concealed somewhere in the institution or made good his escape without leaving any visible signs of the mechanics.

This date I interviewed most of the officers involved to try to pin-point the breakdown in security. My findings are inconclusive but do point directly to the old "bug-a-boo" of too much inmate control.

Guard Officer Johnnie Petree, Kitchen Gate

Officer Petree stated that Inmate Ray came to the Kitchen to eat breakfast sometime between 6:30 A.M. and 7:30 A.M. After eating, Inmate Ray sliced some bread (one of his duties for the day) and left the kitchen presumably for the recreation yard. Officer Petree was on duty at the Kitchen Gate 4:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and stated he let Inmate Ray out of the Kitchen as Mainline was going to the yard and that was the last time he saw him.

Officer Petree stated that Inmate Ray was missing when the 11:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M. workers reported for work at 11:00 A.M. but that he thought he was on the yard and did not try to locate him nor report his absence from duty. He also did not report the absence to his relief officer Harold Schaffer.

Guard Officer Harold Schaffer, Kitchen Gate

Officer Schaffer stated that he did not miss Inmate Ray until around 12:30 P.M. He then called K Hall and asked if Inmate Ray was in his cell. The officer does not know who answered the phone but he was told that Inmate Ray was not in the Hall and was probably on the yard. He did not call Control Center because he found out Inmate Ray was in the kitchen during the morning and had his work done. It is customary to allow the kitchen workers to go to the recreation yard after their work is done.

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. M. J. Elliot
Associate Warden - Custody

From: Sgt. A. M. Cross
Control Center Desk Evening Watch

Date: April 23, 1967

Subject: INMATE RAY, JAMES E. #W-00416
MISSING AT THE FIVE (5:00) P.M. COUNT

On the above date the above named inmate was missing at the 5:00 P.M. Count. He was not at his assigned job, nor was he in his cell house.

A thorough search was made of the Penitentiary, and is still in progress as this I.O.C. is being written. It is not now known whether inmate RAY #W-00416 has successfully gotten outside the Penitentiary.

The following named Officials were inside helping conduct the search: Mr. Ward G. Kern, Warden Swenson, Mr. Elliot, Mr. Waggoner and Mr. Carl White, who was the Duty Officer. Major Poiry and the Officers and Sgts. from the Day Watch stayed over to also help conduct the search.

At 7:00 P.M. another Head Count was taken and inmate RAY #W-00416 was still missing.

All activities for the evening of April 23, 1967 were cancelled due to the extensive search for inmate RAY.

Another I.O.C. will follow as to the results of the search for inmate RAY #W-00416.

All local Law Officials have been alerted of the possible escape.

cc: Mr. Wilkinson
Mr. Kern Warden Swenson
Mr. White Mr. Waggoner
Major Poiry

—CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET—

DATE	NAME	NO. & INST.	PAGE
	RAY, James E. (LAST NAME FIRST)	W-00416	1
4/11/60	to Cleaning Plant; Reclassification in March, 1962.		
4/12/60	B-24		
4/12/60	Cleaning plant; #2717 CC		
7/28/60	K-178		
3/13/61	K-118		
11/22/61	Attempting to escape walls; To Admn. Seg. for 6 months.		
11/22/61	E-3rd. floor, Seg. #2996 Disc. Comm.		
11/22/61	E-2244		
1/31/62	The Board has set your case for a hearing in November, 1963.		
5/24/62	to State; no plans for reclassification.		
5/25/62	State #3125 CC		
5/25/62	B-16		
6/7/62	to Vegetable Room; reclassification June, 1963.		
6/8/62	Veg. Room #3135 CC		
6/8/62	E-66		
7/23/62	Refusng to work: Yard and show priv. denied 1 month; Transfer to Bakery.		
7/23/62	K-15		
7/23/62	Bakery #3167 Disc. Comm.		
8/10/62	K-161		
8/15/62	K-168		
3/8/63	K-172		
9-6-63	Delivered to U.S. District Court, Jefferson City, Missouri.		
10-1-63	Denied parole by the Board.		

11/2/64 Wants info re: prison. OK when information is furnished. *[Signature]*
 12/2/64 Wants info re: prison. *[Signature]*

—CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET—

DATE	NAME	RAY, James Earl	NO. & INST.	W-00416-1	PAGE	1
		(LAST NAME FIRST)				
6-3-65						Reassigned to Bakery; reclassification in June, 1967.
*6-17-65						Trying to smuggle contraband into hospital. 3 days in P.S.; 6 days loss.
8-30-65						Parole Notice: The Board has set case for a hearing in November, 1965.
10-21-65						to K-Hall as Cleaner; reclassification in June, 1967.
10-22-65						K-Cleaner; #3982-Class. Comm.
10-22-65						K-2
11-5-65						Parole Notice: Scheduled for review in November, 1966.
12-16-65						K-10
3-7-66						Wants outside assignment. Not at this time. Jm.
3-4-66						J-42
3-14-66						Max. Security; #4076-Class. Comm.
3-14-66						CB-6
4-12-66						To be delivered before the Magistrate Court, Cole County, Jefferson City, Missouri on April 14, 1966 to be arraigned on escape charge.
6-11-66						BB-9
7-14-66						S- ADVISED WILL REMAIN IN MAX. SEC. PENDING OUTCOME OF TRIAL - P.D.K.
8-23-66						To be delivered before Cole County Circuit Court on Sept. 6, 1966.
9-8-66						By order of Circuit Court of Cole County this inmate has been taken to the State Hospital No. 1, Fulton, Missouri on an Out-Count.
10-21-66 11-16-66						Went from Fulton to Inside Construction; reclassification in June, 1967.
11-17-66						Inside Const.; #4247-Class. Comm.
11-17-66						C-17
12-28-66						Parole Notice: Scheduled for review in November, 1967.

—CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET—

DATE NAME Ray, James Earl NO. & INST. W-00116 PAGE
(LAST NAME FIRST)

1-12-67 To be delivered before the Circuit Court, Cole County, Jefferson City,
Missouri on January 16, 1967 for Prosequendum.

1-12-67 Food Service; # 4285-418K

1-18-67 K-135-

2-17-67 To be delivered before the Circuit Court, Cole County, Jefferson City,
Missouri on February 20, 1967.

* 3-16-67 To be taken before the Supreme Court on April, 26, 1967 for a hearing.

4-23-67 Escaped

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

W/32/s

TRANSCRIPT OF SERIAL RECORD

00416
 Register Number 00416 Name James Earl Ray
 Age 32 Height 5 ft. 11 ins. Weight 163 Length of Foot 12 Inches
 Hair Dr Brn Eyes Blue Complexion Medium Nativity Ill.
 Trade Baker Religion Catholic Education 10th
Under Same Name 45 Mos. 1955
 Former Imprisonment Leaventhworth Fed P, Kansas, Trns stolen Property across state
Line,
 Emergency Address MOTHER: Lucille Ryan, 1913 Hickory St, St Louis, Mo.

PRESENT SENTENCE

Operating a Motor Vehicle w/o the Permission of the Owner;
 Offense ~~XXX~~ TC Robbery 1st Deg. b/m of D & DW: (2 chgs.)
 (20, 7, 5, Conc.)
 County St. Louis City Sentence 20 Yrs. Feb. 19, 1960 Term of Court February 1960
 Received 3-17-1960 Jail Time 27 days
 Expiration Date _____ Full Time 3-16-1980 3/4 Time 3-16-1975

Alias _____

True Name _____ Race White

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth Alton, Ill.

Build Medium Marks, Scars, Tatoos Clear City _____ State _____

Martial Status Single Probation _____

Escapes _____ AWOL _____ Draft Board Number _____

Military Service ARMY Service Serial Number 16163129

Type Military Discharge General Social Security Number Unknown

Remarks:

DATE NAME RAY, James E. NO. & INST. W-00416 PAGE 1

(LAST NAME FIRST)

4-11-60	To Cleaning Plant; reclassification in March, 1962.
4-12-60	B-24
4-12-60	Cleaning Plant; #2717-CC
7-28-60	K-178
3-13-61	K-118
11-22-61	Attempting to escape walls; To Admn. Segr. for 6 months.
11-22-61	E=3rd floor, Segr. #3996-Disc. Comm.
11-22-61	E-224
1-31-62	The Board has set your case for a hearing in November, 1963.
5-24-62	To State; no plans for reclassification.
5-25-62	State; #3125-CC
5-25-62	B-16
6-7-62	To Vegetable Room; reclassification June, 1963.
6-8-62	Veg. Room; #3135=CC
6-8-62	E-66
7-23-62	Refusing to work; Yard and show privileges denied 1 month.
	Transfer to Bakery.
7-23-62	K-15
7-23-62	Bakery; #3167-Disc. Comm.
8-10-62	K-161
8-15-62	K-168
3-8-63	K-172
9-6-63	Delivered to U.S. District Court, Jefferson City, Missouri.
10-1-63	Denied parole by the Board.
11-2-64	Wants job change. O.K. when replacement is found. SJL.
12-22-64	Wants Moberly; Placed in file. WN.
6-3-65	Reassigned to Bakery; reclassification in June, 1967.
X 6-17-65	Trying to smuggle contraband into hospital. 3 days in P.S.; 6 days loss.
8-30-65	Parole Notice: The Board has set case for a hearing in November, 1965.
10-8-65	

PRE-PAROLE PROGRESS REPORT

SJL:nh

Social Data: The subject states he is in fairly good health.

Institutional Adjustment: He was received March 17, 1960. He is assigned to the Bakery where he has received good to excellent ratings on his work and training reports. He received only one conduct violation in the last 3 years. In 1961 he did attempt to escape.

Family Relations: His brother, Jerry, corresponds regularly and visits occasionally. He sometimes hears from his brother, John.

POST RELEASE PLANS

He prefers to live with his brother, Jerry Ray, Box 22, Wheeling Illinois. Another home possibility would be with his brother, John Ray, in St. Louis, Missouri. He would accept almost any type of employment. He claims three years experience in bakeries

—CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET—

DATE _____ NAME RAY, James E. NO. & INST. W-00416 PAGE 2
(LAST NAME FIRST)

and kitchens.

SUMMARY

This is a 37 year old single white man from St. Louis, serving 20, and 5 years concurrently for operating a motor vehicle without the permission of the owner, and robbery first degree by means of a dangerous and deadly weapon (2 charges). He has now completed about 5 1/2 years of his sentence on this third incarceration. Institutionally he has done well enough to merit consideration for parole. He denies use of narcotics and claims to be a light drinker. His record of arrests dates over a 16 year period. He seems to be pretty well established in this type of anti-social behavior. He will probably continue to make a fair institutional adjustment. Prognosis for making a successful adjustment in society is considered marginal at best. He may be able to serve a short parole without too much difficulty.

Carl White

Associate Warden-Treatment

3/17/60

Name	Address	Relationship
1 Mary Maher	1913 Hickory St. Louis, Mo.	Grandmother
2 John Ray,	1913 Hickory, St. Louis, Mo.	Brother
3 Jerry Ray,	1913 Hickory, St. Louis, Mo.	Brother
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Name
(20) RAY, James Earl

W-00416-

1/60

W-00416

Box 82, Wheeling, Illinois

Inmate RAY, James Earl

(20)

Registration No

of Visitor James E. Ray

Address 1913 Hickory St.,
St. Louis, Missouri

Relation Brother

2-1-65

Signature of Visitor

Jerry W. Ray

1/1/63 5/10/65 7/1/65
9/13/63 7/20/65

Name of Visitor

Relation

Address

Signature

7/60
Registration No.

W- 00416

Inmate RAY, James Earl

(20)

Name of Visitor Mary Maher

Address 1913 Hickory,
St. Louis, Mo.

Relation Grandmother

Signature of Visitor

Name of Visitor ^(Corrected) John Ray (R) 1/9/62 Relation Brother R 9-14-61

Address ~~1913 Hickory, St. Louis, Mo.~~ ^{1918 Park Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.}

Signature

John Ray

^{1/9/62} (R) Pass 6/8/66 1918 Park Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. Harold R. Swanson, Warden
From: *H. J. Polky*
H. J. Polky, Major
Senior Guard Captain

Date: July 10, 1967

Subject: ESCAPE: RAY, JAMES EARL # W-00416

Per orders of Mr. Harold R. Swanson, Warden, the above named inmate is to be dropped from the I.S.P. count as an escapee.

Inmate RAY, James Earl #W-00416 was discovered absent prior to the 5:00 P.M. Count on April 23, 1967. After a thorough search inmate RAY, James Earl #W-00416 could not be found.

RECORD AS FOLLOWS: RAY, JAMES EARL # W-00416. Received from St. Louis City on March 17, 1960 to serve a term of twenty (20) years for the crime of Robbery 1st, b/m DD# and operating a M.V. w/o permission of the owner. He had been assigned to the Bakery unit of the Food Service Dept.

cc: Mr. Elliott, A.W.C.
Record Office
Classification
Control Center
File

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. Harold R. Swanson, Warden

Date: July 10, 1967

From: *H. J. Polry*
H. J. Polry, Major
Senior Guard Captain

Subject: ESCAPE: RAY, JAMES EARL # W-00116

Per orders of Mr. Harold R. Swanson, Warden, the above named inmate is to be dropped from the M.S.P. count as an escapee.

Inmate RAY, James Earl #W-00116 was discovered absent prior to the 5:00 P.M. Count on April 23, 1967. After a thorough search inmate RAY, James Earl #W-00116 could not be found.

RECORDED AS FOLLOWS: RAY, JAMES EARL # W-00116. Received from St. Louis City on March 17, 1960 to serve a term of Twenty (20) years for the crimes of Robbery 1st, b/m DDW and operating a M.V. w/o permission of the owner. He had been assigned to the Bakery unit of the Food Service Dept.

cc: Mr. Elliott, A.W.C.
Record Office
Classification(2)
Control Center
File

Department of Corrections
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. Harold R. Swenson, Warden
From: B. J. Poiry, Major
Senior Guard Captain
Subject: ESCAPEE: RAY, JAMES EARL # W-00416

Date: July-10, 1967

Per orders of Mr. Harold R. Swenson, Warden, the above named inmate is to be dropped from the M.S.P. count, as an escapee. *as it is assumed that he escaped.*

Inmate RAY, James Earl #W-00416 was discovered absent prior to the 5:00 P.M. Count on April 23, 1967. After a thorough search inmate RAY, James Earl #W-00416 could not be found.

RECORD AS FOLLOWS: RAY, JAMES EARL # W-00416. Received from St. Louis City on March 17, 1960 to serve a term of Twenty (20) years for the crimes of Robbery 1st, b/m DDW and operating a M.V. w/o permission of the owner. He had been assigned to the Bakery unit of the Food Service Dept.

cc: Mr. Elliott, A.W.C.
Record Office
Classification
Control Center
File

7-10-67
noted
JPS



Missouri State Penitentiary

HAROLD R. SWENSON, WARDEN
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101

August 16, 1967

Harold R. Swenson, Warden
Prisoners

RE: ESCAPE OF INMATE
RAY, JAMES EARL #A-00416

Dear Sir:

On April 23, 1967 the above named inmate was missing at the 5:00 P.M. count. He was not at his assigned job, nor was he in his cell house.

A thorough search was made of the Penitentiary without finding the inmate or any visible signs of the mechanics of escape. It is thought that inmate Ray made good his escape by concealing himself in the Kern Farm bread box and riding out the Sally Port on the Kern Farm truck.

At 7:00 P.M. another head count was taken and inmate Ray was still missing.

All law officials were alerted of the possible escape.

RECORD AS FOLLOWS: James Earl Ray #A-00416, received from St. Louis City, March 17, 1960 for the crime of Operating a Motor Vehicle w/o the Permission of the Owner, and Robbery 1st Degree b/m of DD & W (2 chgs.), sentence of 20 years.

He was assigned to the Bakery unit of the Food Service Department.

H. J. Elliott, Associate Warden-Custody

cc: Director
Mr. Kern
Highway Patrol
Record Office
Classification
Parole Office
File



Missouri State Penitentiary

HAROLD R. SWENSON, WARDEN
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101

August 16, 1967

Harold R. Swenson, Warden
Francisco

RE: ESCAPE OF INMATE
RAY, JAMES EARL #W-00416

Dear Sir:

On April 23, 1967 the above named inmate was missing at the 5:00 P.M. count. He was not at his assigned job, nor was he in his cell house.

A thorough search was made of the Penitentiary without finding the inmate or any visible signs of the mechanics of escape. It is thought that inmate Ray made good his escape by concealing himself in the Ross Farm bread box and riding out the Sally Port on the Ross Farm truck.

At 7:00 P.M. another head count was taken and inmate Ray was still missing.

All law officials were alerted of the possible escape.

RECORD AS FOLLOWS: James Earl Ray #W-00416, received from St. Louis City, March 17, 1960 for the crime of Operating a Motor Vehicle w/o the Permission of the Owner, and Robbery 1st Degree b/m of \$25.00 (2 chgs.), sentence of 20 years.

He was assigned to the Bakery unit of the Food Service Department.

H. J. Elliott, Associate Warden-Custody

cc: Director
Mr. Kern
Highway Patrol
Record Office
Classification
Parole Office
File

November 30, 1967

Mr. Clarence M. Kelley
Chief of Police
Police Department
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Att: Gerald L. Lovell

Re: James Earl Ray
MSP Reg. No. 00416

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Find enclosed a final copy of the escape notice on the above named escapee. The prints on the original escape notice were not Ray's. Somehow these notices were printed with another inmate's prints instead of Ray's. This was corrected later, but apparently you failed to receive the corrected copy.

We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE WARDEN

H. F. Lauf
Records Office

Enclosure

POLICE DEPARTMENT
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106



CLARENCE M. KELLEY
Chief of Police

RECEIVED

NOV 30 1967

November 29, 1967

RECORD OFFICE
MO. STATE PENITENTIARY

Harry F. Lauf
Identification & Records
Missouri Department of Corrections
P.O. Box 900
Jefferson City, Missouri - 65101

Dear Sir:

Our files indicate that James Earl RAY, W/M, DOB:
MDC#00416, FBI#306 443 A, is wanted for escape from the Mo. Dept.
of Corr., on 4-23-67.

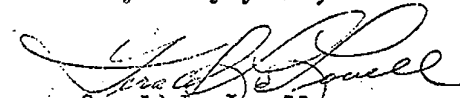
Along with the escape notice we also received fingerprints.
We have prints on a subject by the same name & description and
FBI number, but the prints are not identical.

We would appreciate receiving a copy of prints on the above
subject and also please advise if still wanted.

Subjects whereabouts are unknown to us and is not in custody.

Thanking you for your attention in this matter and assuring
you of continued cooperation in matters of mutual interest, I
remain

Very truly yours,


Gerald L. Lovell
Identification Unit

GLL:tm

August 16, 1967

Mr. Byron L. Kinder
Prosecuting Attorney
Cole County Court House
Jefferson City, Missouri

Re: James Earl Ray
Reg. #00416

Dear Sir:

The above inmate escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary on April 23, 1967.

Attached hereto are reports concerning his escape together with Certified Transcript of Serial Record.

It is the request of this office that the above inmate be prosecuted for having escaped custody when apprehended.

Very truly yours,

H. R. Swenson, Warden

Enclosures

M. J. ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-CUSTODY

CARL WHITE, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-TREATMENT

LEO M. BAKER, D. O.
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



Missouri State Penitentiary

HAROLD R. SWENSON, WARDEN
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101

August 17, 1967

Harold R. Swenson, Warden
Premises

RE: ESCAPE OF INMATE
RAY, JAMES EARL. #1-00416

Dear Sir:

On April 23, 1967 the above named inmate was missing at the 3:00 P.M. count. He was not at his assigned job, nor was he in his cell house.

A thorough search was made of the Penitentiary without finding the inmate or any visible signs of the mechanics of escape. It is thought that inmate Ray made good his escape by concealing himself in the Kern Farm brand box and riding out the Sally Port on the Kern Farm truck.

At 7:00 P.M. another head count was taken and inmate Ray is still missing.

All inn officials were alerted of the possible escape.

RECORD AS FOLLOWS: James Earl Ray #1-00416, received from St. Louis City, March 17, 1960 for the crime of Operating a Motor Vehicle w/o the Permission of the Owner, and Robbery 1st Degree b/w of M&W (2 chgs.), sentence of 20 years.

He was assigned to the Bakery unit of the Food Service Department.

M. J. Elliott, Associate Warden-Custody

cc: Director
Mr. Kern
Highway Patrol
Record Office
Classification
Parole Office
File

M. J. ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-CUSTODY



LEO M. BAKER, D. O.
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

CARL WHITE, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-TREATMENT

Missouri State Penitentiary

HAROLD R. SWENSON, WARDEN
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101

August 17, 1967

Harold R. Swenson, Warden
Premises

RE: ESCAPE OF INMATE
RAY, JAMES EARL, #A-00416

Dear Sir:

On April 23, 1967 the above named inmate was missing at the 5:00 P.M. count. He was not at his assigned job, nor was he in his cell house.

A thorough search was made of the Penitentiary without finding the inmate or any visible signs of the mechanics of escape. It is thought that Inmate Ray made good his escape by concealing himself in the Bens Farm bread box and riding out the Sally Port on the Bens Farm truck.

At 7:00 P.M. another head count was taken and inmate Ray still missing.

All law officials were alerted of the possible escape.

INMATE AS FOLLOWS: James Earl Ray #A-00416, received from St. Louis City, March 17, 1960 for the crime of operating a Motor Vehicle w/o the Permission of the Owner, and Robbery 1st Degree b/m of M&M (2 chgs.), sentence of 10 years.

He was assigned to the Bakery unit of the Food Service Department.

M. J. Elliott, Associate Warden-Custody

cc: Director
Mr. Kern
Highway Patrol
Record Office
Classification
Parole Office
File

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. E. J. Elliot
Asst. Dir. - Custody
From: *A. A. Cross*
A. A. Cross
Control Center Desk - Evening Watch

Date: April 23, 1967

Subject: INMATE RAY, JAMES EARL #W-00416
MISSING AT THE FIVE (5:00) P.M. COUNT

On the above date the above named inmate was missing at the 5:00 P.M. Count. He was not at his assigned job, nor was he in his cell house.

A thorough search was made of the Penitentiary, and is still in progress as this I.O.C. is being written. It is not now known whether inmate RAY #W-00416 has successfully gotten outside the Penitentiary.

The following named Officials were inside helping conduct the search: Mr. Ward S. Kern, Warden Swenson, Mr. Elliot, Mr. Waggoner and Mr. Carl White, who was the Duty Officer. Major Reiry and the Officers and Sgts. from the Day Watch stayed over to also help conduct the search.

At 7:00 P.M. another Head Count was taken and inmate RAY #W-00416 was still missing.

All activities for the evening of April 23, 1967 were cancelled due to the extensive search for inmate RAY.

Another I.O.C. will follow as to the results of the search for inmate RAY #W-00416.

All local Law Officials have been alerted of the possible escape.

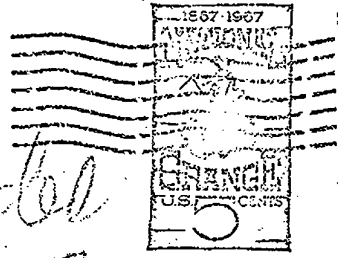
cc: Mr. Wilkinson
Mr. Kern Warden Swenson
Mr. White Mr. Waggoner
Major Reiry

Miz Lauf - Person Office

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

Jerry Ray
Box 27
Wheeling, W. Va.

ZIP CODE



Handwritten: V. recorded
Mr James E. Ray # 00416 For
Box 900 K-135
Jefferson City, Missouri
65102

June 8, 1967

Mr. E. Russell Millin
United States Attorney
Western District
United States Court House Building
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Re: James Earl Ray
MSP-Reg. No. 60416
F.B.I. No. 305 443 A

Dear Mr. Millin:

The indicated subject was missing, from inside the walls of the main Penitentiary on April 23, 1967 and since that date information has been discovered giving us reasons to believe that he has escaped. We also have reasons to believe Ray has fled the state, to avoid prosecution, as all efforts to locate him have failed.

This inmate is described as a white male, age 39, DOB [redacted] height 5'11", dark brown hair, blue eyes, weight 163, medium complexion and medium build. He was received here March 17, 1960, from the St. Louis City Circuit Court, to serve 20 years for Robbery First Degree by means of a Dangerous & Deadly Weapon (2 chgs.); Operating a Motor Vehicle without permission of the Owner (20,7,5 Concurrent).

We should appreciate it if your office would cause a Federal warrant to be issued against this individual. If he is apprehended, outside of the state of Missouri, the Department of Corrections will extradite him and pay the expenses thereof.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE WARDEN

H. F. Lauf
Identification & Records

cc: Local FBI
al

F¹² ~~SECRET~~ Wed evening.

Dear Sir:

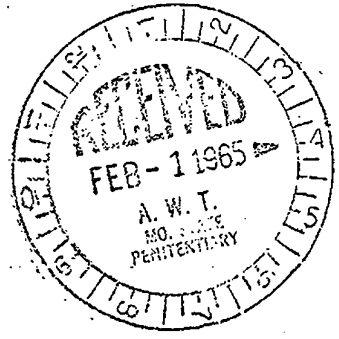
I am writing for a Visiting pass in order I can
visit my brother whenever I get the chance
your office sent me one about three years ago but
I lost my wallet and everything that was in it
about one month ago. so it would be most
thankful if you would send me another.

my brother name is James Earl Ray 00416
my name is Jerry William Ray

All close for now and hope to hear from you soon

Respectfully yours
Jerry W. Ray
Box 82
Wheeler, W.V.

2-1-65
Vins
2(R) JWR
W



REPLACEMENT PASS ISSUED 2-1-65 VCQ

MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY

(Inside Mail Only)

James E. Ray Number 004167 Date JUNE 2
B - Cell 24 Assignment cleaning plant
ECT mail

Dear Sir:
My brother mailed the enclosed
inquiry to me I believe it was
supposed to go to official for
approval. How many of units, paralytic

Fold, seal and address on reverse side.

VISITING AND CORRESPONDENCE INQUIRY

Your name has been submitted by RAY, James E., Reg. No. 00416
an inmate of the Missouri State Penitentiary for consideration of () visiting or () correspon-
dence privileges. Please complete the following questionnaire and return to the Classification
Office, Box 900, Jefferson City, Missouri, not later than August 1, 1956. All spaces must be
completed and verified by local law enforcement officer.

Name Jerry Ray Relationship to inmate Brother

Address 1913 Hickory Town St. Louis State Mo.

Age 24 Sex Male Marital Status: () Married () Single () Divorced

How long have you known the inmate 24 years In what way did you meet the
inmate? When I first opened my eyes

Have you ever been arrested? No If yes, what charge? _____

In what County and State _____

Your occupation Painter Are you now employed Not Regularly

Employer's name and address _____

I, the undersigned, declare that the above answers are true and understand that any misrepre-
sentation in answering the questions will automatically result in the removal of my name from
the inmate's visiting list or correspondence list, if such is approved.

Signed: _____

If married, signature of husband's approval is necessary. Signed: _____

This statement of facts and signature to be witnessed by a local law enforcement officer as verification:

I, Frank C. [Signature], [Signature] am
Name Title

acquainted with the above signer and to the best of my knowledge believe the answers as given to be true.

The contents of this form will be submitted for approval and if such approval is granted, you will receive by return mail notice that correspondence has been approved and correspondence regulations, and/or visiting pass and a list of visiting regulations. Failure to receive such approval by return mail will be indication to you that you will not be privileged to visit or write to the inmate above.

E. V. NASH
Warden
Missouri State Penitentiary

[Handwritten notes and signatures]

Sept 12, 1961

Dear Mrs. Wash.

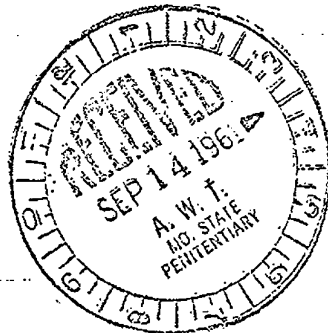
I am writing for a visiting pass in order to visit my brother in November & received one from you last year when I was living at 1913 Hickory St. in St. Louis but ever last it is a hate to bother you over my mistakes & I know you have a lot of things to do so I hope will forgive my bothering you any consideration will be appreciated. His name & number is as follows:

James Ray # 00416-J.
K-118

OK

R. Case
Mailed
SEP 14 1961

as ever
Jerry Ray
Box 182
Prospect Heights, Ill



RECEIVED

SEP 13 1961

WARDENS OFFICE
MO. STATE PENITENTIARY

Department of Corrections
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: Ray - MSP 00416-9
To: Records

Date Nov. 20, 1961

In view of this inmates attempted escape over the walls of the institution the evening of November 19, 1961 the following will affect his service on his present sentence:

All merit time earned prior to November 19, 1961 is denied, he will be held in solitary for a period of six (6) months, and, eighteen months from November 19, 1961 may be eligible to start earning merit time.

E. J. Mash

E. J. Mash, Warden

cc: Mr. Steinkhauser, AIC

Classification ←

File

Department of Corrections
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

RECEIVED

Subject: Attempted Escape of Ray, W-00416-J

Date: AUG 19, 1961

To: Mr. W. P. Steinhauser
Associate Warden - Custody

WARDEN'S OFFICE
MO. STATE PENITENTIARY

Subject Ray, W-00416-J, who works in the Cleaning Plant, was missed on the 7:00 p.m. K-Hall count. On checking it was learned that Ray, 00416 was in the lobby of J & K Hall at 5:20 p.m., and left with men eating on Greasy Line.

I called #6 tower, Sr. Guard Embra Scott, and asked him if he had seen anyone around the Cleaning Plant. He stated that he had not seen anyone. At about 7:15 p.m. Scott reported to Control Center that he could see someone in the Cleaning Plant.

Sr. Guard Norbert Garzend and I went to the Cleaning Plant and found Ray, 00416, inside. Inmate had mud and blood on his clothing and blood on his face and head. There was several pieces of 1/2 inch pipe sticking under the Cleaning Plant fence Gate, a coil of wire, 1 pr pliers and an A-frame made from 2 X 4 lumber. Inside the building there were several pieces of boards as well as pipe, a carpenter's hand saw and other tools.

On questioning inmate Ray, 00416, he stated that he had attempted to go over the wall between #6 Tower and #7 Tower, in the area between the Tag Plant and the Tailor Shop. We went to this area and found a step-ladder about 8 feet long and 4 pieces of 1/2 inch pipe about 10 feet long as well as several shorter pieces and 2 pipe wrenches. There was also 2 pieces of 2 X 6 lumber about 8 feet long that were fastened together and had steps fastened on it with screws.

Inmate stated further that he had the pipe fastened together and had it hooked on the wall and was at least half way up the wall when the pipe broke and he fell, either landing on his head or was hit with a piece of the pipe. Anyhow he was knocked unconscious for a while. After he was able to get back on his feet he used the pipe wrenches to take the pipe apart and had taken part of the stuff he had used back to the Cleaning Plant.

The pipe was obtained by taking down the pipe racks used as Clothes Racks in the Cleaning Plant.

Ray, 00416, freely admitted that he had intended to go over the wall and believed that he would have made it had the pipe not broken.

Ray was taken to the Hospital for first-aid and later placed in O-Hall. A search of the Cleaning Plant and the inmate's cell was made. Items picked up were brought to Control Center.

When questioning Ray, 00416, he said that he had tried it at the darkest place on the wall. In talking to Sr. Guard Fred Stock on #7 Tower and Sr. Guard Embra Scott they stated that in this area it was so dark that they could not see anyone in this area unless they had a light.

From my own inspection of this area it is very dark and by all means there should be lights put on the corner of the Tag Plant or the Tailor Shop to light this area.

B. D. Lockwood

Lt. B. D. Lockwood
3 - 11 Shift