

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) -P-

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/23/68, RUBY CARPENTER, 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed at her home by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA MACK W. OLIVER. She furnished the following information.

In 1952, she was working in Quincy, Illinois at the Lincoln-Douglas Hotel. Also working at the hotel at that time was a JAMES GERALD RAY. She and RAY started going together and left Quincy, Illinois together and went to St. Louis, Missouri to live.

She stated at the time she left Quincy with RAY, he was married to LUCILLE RAY or LUCILLE RINE. RAY and his wife LUCILLE had seven children by their marriage to her knowledge. These included JAMES EARL RAY, JOHN RAY, also known as JACK RAY or JACK RINE, JERRY RAY, CAROL RAY, FRANKLIN D. RAY, SANDRA RAY, and [REDACTED]

She stated that before the RAY family moved to Quincy, Illinois from Ewing, Missouri, the father, JAMES GERALD RAY had obtained a job with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad and had moved from Ewing, Missouri to Galesburg, Illinois where he worked for a short time as a switchman. He obtained a Social Security card before starting to work for the railroad under the name of RAYNES and he used the name of RAYNES during the time that she lived with RAY in St. Louis. She advised that she and RAY lived together in St. Louis from 1952 until 1961 and on 8/1/61, she married JAMES GERALD RAY at Palmyra, Missouri, the marriage vows and services being performed by the Methodist minister in that town. They lived together starting on that date on farm, Rural Route 1, Clarence, Missouri and this continued until RAY left her in December of 1963. She then obtained a divorce from RAY in Palmyra, Missouri in 1964 and returned to Quincy, Illinois. She stated that after he left her, JAMES GERALD RAY moved to Center, Missouri where he has continued to reside on a farm.

③ - Springfield (44-561)

EHD/jac

(3) *jac*



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[Handwritten signatures and initials]

She advised that she has been in frequent contact with JAMES GERALD RAY since their separation in 1963 and that MELBA MARIE RYAN, the daughter of JAMES GERALD RAY also lives in Quincy and she occasionally is in contact with MELBA. She advised however that she has not been in contact with MELBA since Christmas, 1967 until 4/19/68 when MELBA called her to talk to her concerning JAMES EARL RAY and RAY being charged concerning the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING. She advised also on that date she had telephonically contacted JAMES GERALD RAY and at that time the father had stated that he hoped his son, JAMES EARL RAY was caught as soon as possible so that this thing would end. She advised that she is certain that JAMES GERALD RAY does not know of the whereabouts of his son JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that at the present time, JAMES GERALD RAY was using the name of GERRY RAYNES.

She advised that of the entire RAY family, she considers JACK RAY or JACK RINE to be closer to JAMES EARL RAY than any of the remainder of the family. She stated that the only time that JAMES EARL RAY ever lived with JAMES GERALD RAY and herself was sometime around 1959 when he worked as a baker in St. Louis. She stated that during this period of time, he also resided with his mother and grandmother, Mrs. MAHER at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri. She advised that during this period of time, she and JAMES GERALD RAY were living on 1727 South 11th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

She advised that JAMES EARL RAY is supposed to have learned the trade of a baker in prison and that he worked at one of the bakeries in St. Louis around 1959. She had no idea as to the name of the bakery or the exact location. She stated that he also had his own apartment while in St. Louis as well as living with both his mother and his father. She stated that she had not seen him since he went to prison around 1960 and has had no contact with JAMES EARL RAY since she and the subject's father moved to Clarence, Missouri on 8/1/61.

She advised that the subject's father JAMES GERALD RAY was an excellent car salesman and did quite well as a car salesman for a used car lot in St. Louis. Since 1961, however, he has worked on a farm, first, the one

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owned by her at Clarence, Missouri and afterwards on a farm at Center, Missouri.

She advised that he has never married and she does not know of any close girlfriends of JAMES EARL RAY. She advised that she did not know of the identity of any girlfriends.

RUBY CARPENTER stated that she is certain that JAMES EARL RAY does not know of her present whereabouts. She stated that she is presently employed babysitting and doing housework for various individuals in Quincy and that in the event she learns something concerning JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts, she will immediately notify the FBI.

The Harboring Statute was explained by SA DAVIS to RUBY CARPENTER.

SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) -P-

5/2/68

SA ELYON H. DAVIS

MURKIN

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She stated that before the RAY family moved to Quincy, Illinois from Ewing, Missouri, the father, JAMES GERALD RAY had obtained a job with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad and had moved from Ewing, Missouri to Galesburg, Illinois where he worked for a short time as a switchman. He obtained a Social Security card before starting to work for the railroad under the name of RAYNES and he used the name of RAYNES during the time that she lived with RAY in St. Louis. She advised that she and RAY lived together in St. Louis from 1952 until 1961 and on 8/1/61, she married JAMES GERALD RAY at Palmyra, Missouri, the marriage vows and services being performed by the Methodist minister in that town. They lived together starting on that date on farm, Rural Route 1, Clarence, Missouri and this continued until RAY left her in December of 1963. She then obtained a divorce from RAY in Palmyra, Missouri in 1964 and returned to Quincy, Illinois. She stated that after he left her, JAMES GERALD RAY moved to Center, Missouri where he has continued to reside on a farm.

③ Springfield (44-561)

EHD/jac

(3) *jac*

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She advised that of the entire RAY family, she considers JACK RAY or JACK RINE to be closer to JAMES EARL RAY than any of the remainder of the family. She stated that the only time that JAMES EARL RAY ever lived with JAMES GERALD RAY and herself was sometime around 1959 when he worked as a baker in St. Louis. She stated that during this period of time, he also resided with his mother and grandmother, Mrs. MAHER at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri. She advised that during this period of time, she and JAMES GERALD RAY were living on 1727 South 11th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

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5/2/68

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SAC, MEMPHIS

5/3/68

SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (P)

MURKIN
CR.

OO: MEMPHIS

Re Memphis letter to Springfield dated 4/23/68.

JERRY KINKADE, Principal, Eldorado High School, Eldorado, Illinois, on 4/29/68, made a search of past academic records available at the school. It was determined that in 1943 JAMES DEE RAY also known as Jimmy Ray graduated from the school. He is the son of J. A. RAY of Wasson, Illinois, and was born on 9/10/25 in Saline County and entered the school 9/1/39 and graduated 5/30/43 with a rank of 105 out of 119. RAY'S year book photograph was examined as to identification with the subject in captioned case. The photo did not appear to be identical.

EMILIA JEAN FOX, nee Choisser, Eldorado Illinois, who is presently secretary to the principal at Eldorado High School stated that JAMES DEE RAY was a school mate of hers. She examined a photo of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that she is certain that the two are not identical. She further advised that she has seen JAMES DEE RAY within the past four years and that there is no question that his looks have not changed to the degree that he might resemble JAMES EARL RAY.

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WR:skt
(4) *skt*

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SAC, MEMPHIS

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WR:skt
(4) *skt*

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5-2-68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS - P -

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4-20-68, WALTER TERRY RIFE was re-interviewed at the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN.

RIFE furnished the following information:

RIFE advised that he had had no contact with JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, since he last saw RAY in the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1957.

RIFE advised that the best he could remember concerning RAY that RAY had had close associates or relatives at one time in the Alton, Illinois, area. He stated that he felt that RAY had at one time hung out around taverns owned by TERRY TWEET in the Alton area.

RIFE advised that he knew that RAY had at one time close contact with some fence in Peoria, Illinois, to whom RAY sold stolen items. By this he stated that he meant that RAY was a thief and would steal anything during the period of time he knew RAY from the late 1940s until 1955 and this included household items, groups of burglaries of business establishments and such like and that RAY would get rid of hot items through a fence in Peoria. RIFE advised that he had no idea as to the identity of this fence.

RIFE stated that he (RIFE) had lived in the Peoria, Illinois, area until 1967 when RIFE moved to the home of his brother LONNIE RIFE at Baylis, Illinois. RIFE then in 2-68 had taken over the operation of the restaurant at the Virginia Hotel and had been operating this restaurant since that time.

RIFE again reiterated that any of the individuals who lived or worked at the Virginia Hotel could verify the fact that he had been at the Virginia Hotel for the period 3-27-68 through 4-4-68. He stated also that since he and his wife operated the restaurant together and since his wife

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EHD:ras

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had had a baby in 2-68, it had been necessary for him to work long hours and to also be at home on a regular basis to take care of the RIFE's three other children.

He again stated that members of the Quincy Police Force could verify that RIFE had been in Quincy on a daily basis inasmuch as the police checked the Virginia Hotel every night.

RIFE advised that he would be available for interviews by the FBI at any time and that in the event that he was not working or at his home 214 Lynn Street, Quincy, Illinois, SAMUEL EDNA HARPER, a Clerk at the Virginia Hotel, would know of his exact whereabouts, and RIFE could be reached in a short period of time.

RIFE advised that he could not remember anyone in the Quincy area who was close to the subject and could not think of anyone who might have any information concerning RAY.

RIFE advised that he did not feel that MELBA MARIE RYAN, the sister of the subject, has had any contact with RAY and he certainly is aware of the fact that MELBA MARIE RYAN has had serious mental problems and that any information that she would furnish could not be relied on.

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SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4-20-68, MELBA MARIE RYAN was interviewed at the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Ill.

MELBA MARIE RYAN furnished the following information to SA ELYON H. DAVIS and ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN:

MELBA MARIE RYAN advised that she is the sister of JAMES EARL RAY and identified a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, mated to Missouri Department of Corrections on 3-17-60, as her brother. She advised that she had only seen her brother JAMES EARL RAY three or four times during her life time and that she has spent a considerable amount of her life in mental hospitals. She stated that she has been in the Jacksonville State Hospital, Jacksonville, Ill., on three occasions.

RYAN advised that she has been living at the Virginia Hotel since December, 1967, and has had no contact with JAMES EARL RAY since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

She advised that she last saw JAMES EARL RAY around 1959 when he was living in St. Louis, Missouri, at a boarding house operated by their mother, LUCILE RYAN. She advised that she was staying with her mother, LUCILE RYAN at that time and that JAMES EARL RAY stayed with them for approximately six months.

She advised that she has never received a letter from JAMES EARL RAY in her life and had no idea as to his present whereabouts.

She advised that her mother is presently deceased and that her father is approximately 70 years of age. She stated that he was living in Missouri; however, she stated that she had talked to him on the previous night on the

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Roberts *UR*

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telephone and he did not want to furnish his present address to anyone. She stated for this reason she would not give the FBI the address of her father.

She advised that she has received letters in her life from her brother JOHN RAY or JOHN RYAN and also from JERRY RAY, aka JERRY RYAN. She advised that the real name of the family is RAY and that when the family moved from Ewing, Missouri, to Quincy, Illinois, the mother changed the name from RAY to RYAN inasmuch as they were going to St. Bonaface Catholic School in Quincy and the mother thought that RYAN sounded more Catholic than RAY.

She advised that her father once had a brother named EARL RAY; however, he is presently deceased.

MELBA RYAN furnished the following list of her brothers and sisters:

Brother	JAMES EARL RAY
Brother	JOHN RAY, aka
	JOHN RYAN,
	JACK RYAN
Brother	JERRY RAY, aka
	JERRY RYAN
Sister	CAROL PEPPER
Sister	SUSAN RYAN
	Whereabouts unknown
	Whereabouts unknown

MELBA RYAN advised that she also had a brother named FRANKLIN DELANOR RYAN who had drowned in the Mississippi River around 1963. She stated also an older sister had died in a fire in Ewing, Missouri, before the birth of MELBA RYAN.

She stated that when she knew her brother JAMES EARL RAY around 1959 he had mentioned at that time he might go back to Germany inasmuch as he liked Germany when he was stationed there in the Army. She also was under the belief that JAMES EARL RAY had had a girlfriend in Germany; however, she had no knowledge of any contact RAY had with anyone in Germany since his discharge from the service. She thought that he had been discharged sometime during the 1940s.

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She advised that she had moved to Quincy, Illinois, with her mother and father approximately 1948 when she was 10 years of age.

She stated around 1953 her father had left the family and that her mother had, at that time, "put several members of the family out for adoption", and the family had not been very close since that period of time.

The following physical description of MELBA MARIE RYAN was obtained during the interview:

Race	White
Sex	Female
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Place of Birth	Ewing, Missouri
Height	5'5½"
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Stout
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium
Occupation	None

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5-2-68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS - P -

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4-20-68, MELBA MARIE RYAN was interviewed at the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Ill.

MELBA MARIE RYAN furnished the following information to SA ELYON H. DAVIS and ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN:

MELBA MARIE RYAN advised that she is the sister of JAMES EARL RAY and identified a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, mated to Missouri Department of Corrections on 3-17-60, as her brother. She advised that she had only seen her brother JAMES EARL RAY three or four times during her life time and that she has spent a considerable amount of her life in mental hospitals. She stated that she has been in the Jacksonville State Hospital, Jacksonville, Ill., on three occasions.

RYAN advised that she has been living at the Virginia Hotel since December, 1967, and has had no contact with JAMES EARL RAY since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

She advised that she last saw JAMES EARL RAY around 1959 when he was living in St. Louis, Missouri, at a boarding house operated by their mother, LUCILE RYAN. She advised that she was staying with her mother, LUCILE RYAN at that time and that JAMES EARL RAY stayed with them for approximately six months.

She advised that she has never received a letter from JAMES EARL RAY in her life and had no idea as to his present whereabouts.

She advised that her mother is presently deceased and that her father is approximately 70 years of age. She stated that he was living in Missouri; however, she stated that she had talked to him on the previous night on the

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telephone and he did not want to furnish his present address to anyone. She stated for this reason she would not give the FBI the address of her father.

She advised that she has received letters in her life from her brother JOHN RAY or JOHN RYAN and also from JERRY RAY, aka JERRY RYAN. She advised that the real name of the family is RAY and that when the family moved from Ewing, Missouri, to Quincy, Illinois, the mother changed the name from RAY to RYAN inasmuch as they were going to St. Bonaface Catholic School in Quincy and the mother thought that RYAN sounded more Catholic than RAY.

She advised that her father once had a brother named EARL RAY; however, he is presently deceased.

MELBA RYAN furnished the following list of her brothers and sisters:

Brother	JAMES EARL RAY
Brother	JOHN RAY, aka JOHN RYAN, JACK RYAN
Brother	JERRY RAY, aka JERRY RYAN
Sister	CAROL PEPPER
Sister	SUSAN RYAN
	Whereabouts unknown
	Whereabouts unknown

MELBA RYAN advised that she also had a brother named FRANKLIN DELANOR RYAN who had drowned in the Mississippi River around 1963. She stated also an older sister had died in a fire in Ewing, Missouri, before the birth of MELBA RYAN.

She stated that when she knew her brother JAMES EARL RAY around 1959 he had mentioned at that time he might go back to Germany inasmuch as he liked Germany when he was stationed there in the Army. She also was under the belief that JAMES EARL RAY had had a girlfriend in Germany; however, she had no knowledge of any contact RAY had with anyone in Germany since his discharge from the service. She thought that he had been discharged sometime during the 1940s.

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She advised that she had moved to Quincy, Illinois, with her mother and father approximately 1948 when she was 10 years of age.

She stated around 1953 her father had left the family and that her mother had, at that time, "put several members of the family out for adoption", and the family had not been very close since that period of time.

The following physical description of MELBA MARIE RYAN was obtained during the interview:

Race	White
Sex	Female
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Ewing, Missouri
Height	5'5½"
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Stout
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium
Occupation	None

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5-2-68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS - P -

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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RYAN advised that she has been living at the Virginia Hotel since December, 1967, and has had no contact with JAMES EARL RAY since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

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She advised that she has never received a letter from JAMES EARL RAY in her life and had no idea as to his present whereabouts.

She advised that her mother is presently deceased and that her father is approximately 70 years of age. She stated that he was living in Missouri; however, she stated that she had talked to him on the previous night on the

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telephone and he did not want to furnish his present address to anyone. She stated for this reason she would not give the FBI the address of her father.

She advised that she has received letters in her life from her brother JOHN RAY or JOHN RYAN and also from JERRY RAY, aka JERRY RYAN. She advised that the real name of the family is RAY and that when the family moved from Ewing, Missouri, to Quincy, Illinois, the mother changed the name from RAY to RYAN inasmuch as they were going to St. Bonaface Catholic School in Quincy and the mother thought that RYAN sounded more Catholic than RAY.

She advised that her father once had a brother named EARL RAY; however, he is presently deceased.

MELBA RYAN furnished the following list of her brothers and sisters:

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Brother	JOHN RAY, aka JOHN RYAN, JACK RYAN
Brother	JERRY RAY, aka JERRY RYAN
Sister	CAROL PEPPER
Sister	SUSAN RYAN
	Whereabouts unknown
	Whereabouts unknown

MELBA RYAN advised that she also had a brother named FRANKLIN DELANOR RYAN who had drowned in the Mississippi River around 1963. She stated also an older sister had died in a fire in Ewing, Missouri, before the birth of MELBA RYAN.

She stated that when she knew her brother JAMES EARL RAY around 1959 he had mentioned at that time he might go back to Germany inasmuch as he liked Germany when he was stationed there in the Army. She also was under the belief that JAMES EARL RAY had had a girlfriend in Germany; however, she had no knowledge of any contact RAY had with anyone in Germany since his discharge from the service. She thought that he had been discharged sometime during the 1940s.

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She stated around 1953 her father had left the family and that her mother had, at that time, "put several members of the family out for adoption", and the family had not been very close since that period of time.

The following physical description of MELBA MARIE RYAN was obtained during the interview:

Race	White
Sex	Female
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Ewing, Missouri
Height	5'5½"
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Stout
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium
Occupation	None

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5-2-68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS - P -

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4-21-68, the files of the Quincy, Illinois, Police Department, were checked and revealed the following arrest record for MELBA MARIE RYAN, date of birth 9-16-38 at Ewing, Missouri:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
3-12-63	Mental Case	Released without Charge
2-13-66	Drunk	\$10.00 and Costs
4-24-66	Intoxication	\$10.00 and Costs
12-14-66	Drunk	Dismissed
12-14-66	Disorderly Conduct	Dismissed
12-30-67	Drunk	\$10.00 and Costs
8-22-67	Drunk	\$15.00 and Costs
9-18-67	Drunk	Dismissed
9-18-67	Interfering with an Officer	Dismissed
9-18-67	Criminal damage to property	20 days in County Jail

The following physical description of MELBA MARIE RYAN was obtained from the Quincy, Illinois, PD, as furnished by Captain HAROLD HUNSAKER of that Department:

Name
Race
Sex
Date of Birth

MELBA MARIE RYAN
White
Female
[REDACTED]

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Place of Birth:	Ewing, Missouri
Height	5'5½"
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Stout
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium
Occupation	On welfare subsistence
FBI #	33 271 C

A review of the records of the Quincy Police Department also showed a record for JOHNNY RAY, aka JOHN LARRY RAY and JOHN L. RAYNS and JACK RAYNS. This file showed JOHNNY RAY's date of birth to be 2-11-31, home address 214 Spring Street, hair brown.

The record showed he was 5'10" and weighed 160 pounds. The file contained the following arrests:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
4-7-53	Larcent of an Automobile	Illinois State Penitentiary, 5 - 10 years
2-18-60	Fictitious license	\$10.00 and costs

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5-2-68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS - P -

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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9-18-67	Drunk	Dismissed
9-18-67	Interfering with an Officer	Dismissed
9-18-67	Criminal damage to property	20 days in County Jail

The following physical description of MELBA MARIE RYAN was obtained from the Quincy, Illinois, PD, as furnished by Captain HAROLD HUNSAKER of that Department:

Name
Race
Sex
Date of Birth

MELBA MARIE RYAN
White
Female
[REDACTED]

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Place of Birth	Ewing, Missouri
Height	5'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Stout
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium
Occupation	On welfare subsistence
FBI #	33 271 C

A review of the records of the Quincy Police Department also showed a record for JOHNNY RAY, aka JOHN LARRY RAY and JOHN L. RAYNS and JACK RAYNS. This file showed JOHNNY RAY's date of birth to be 2-11-31, home address 214 Spring Street, hair brown.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5-2-68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS - P -

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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9-18-67	Drunk	Dismissed
9-18-67	Interfering with an Officer	Dismissed
9-18-67	Criminal damage to property	20 days in County Jail

The following physical description of MELBA MARIE RYAN was obtained from the Quincy, Illinois, PD, as furnished by Captain HAROLD HUNSAKER of that Department:

Name	MELBA MARIE RYAN
Race	White
Sex	Female
Date of Birth	

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Place of Birth	Ewing, Missouri
Height	5'5½"
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Stout
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium
Occupation	On welfare subsistence
FBI #	33 271 C

A review of the records of the Quincy Police Department also showed a record for JOHNNY RAY, aka JOHN LARRY RAY and JOHN L. RAYNS and JACK RAYNS. This file showed JOHNNY RAY's date of birth to be 2-11-31, home address 214 Spring Street, hair brown.

The record showed he was 5'10" and weighed 160 pounds. The file contained the following arrests:

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2-18-60	Fictitious license	\$10.00 and costs

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5-2-68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS - P -

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4-20-68, GEORGE PARSONS, 2826 College Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

PARSONS advised that he is a supervisor for the Illinois Youth Commission and has had numerous contacts with the family of LUCILE RYAN. He stated that this family is also known by the name RAY. PARSONS advised that around 1955 and 1966 he had kept a member of this family, MELBA MARIE RYAN, in his home and that he had always been close to MELBA MARIE RYAN. He stated that this individual has mental problems and that nothing says can be relied upon.

PARSONS advised that he does not have any exact dates concerning anything in the family but that he knows the family is supposed to have moved to Quincy, Illinois, sometime during the 1940s and that the entire family lived at 214 String Street, Quincy, Illinois, during the 1940s until approximately 1955. He stated that this area at that time was an area infested with houses of prostitution and a very rough neighborhood and a very poor neighborhood. PARSONS stated that the entire family had been very close to each other and that he felt that members of the family would certainly harbor JAMES EARL RAY. He stated this would be particularly true of JERRY RYAN and JACK or JOHN RYAN. He felt that these two would harbor JAMES EARL RAY if they though it would be to JAMES EARL RAY's advantage.

He furnished the following names for members of the family:

Father
Mother
Son
Son
Son
Son

JAMES, JIM or JERRY RAY
LUCILE RAY or LUCILE RYAN
JAMES EARL RAY
JERRY RAY
JACK RAY
FRANKLIN DELEANOR RAY

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Daughter
Daughter
Daughter

MELBA MARIE RAY
CAROL RAY
SUSAN RAY

He advised that this was all of the members of the family with whom he was acquainted and he felt this included the entire family.

He stated that when the family moved from Quincy, Illinois, in approximately 1965, the mother, LUCILE RYAN, moved to Alton, Illinois; however, during this period of time in approximately 1952, the father had run off with some woman and had gone to St. Louis, Missouri, to live.

After the father left, the entire family became practically wards of the court in charity cases and that Catholic charities had furnished most of the subsistence and supervision of the children.

He advised that several of the younger children of the family, including FRANKLIN DELEANOR RAY, CAROL RAY, SUSAN RAY and MELBA MARIE RAY, had been placed in a Catholic orphanage in Alton, Illinois.

He advised that during the period of time that he kept MELBA MARIE RAY in his home that she seemed to think a lot of JACK RAY and JERRY RAY; however, she never spoke favorably of JAMES EARL RAY or JIMMY RAY and often stated that she had no feeling for JIMMY as he was bad. He stated that he did not know the reason for this feeling; however, that JAMES EARL RAY had never to his knowledge contacted MELBA MARIE for any reason.

PARSONS advised that when JACK RAY had served a period of time in prison, he had gone to Mt. Prospect, Illinois, in the Chicago area, to work at a golf course and he had also obtained JERRY RAY a job at that golf course. PARSONS advised that this was several years before and he was not sure if this would be in the late 1950s or the early 1960s.

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PARSONS advised that LUCILE RYAN had worked as a prostitute in Quincy, Illinois. [REDACTED]

PARSONS advised that he had never heard of JAMES EARL RAY working any where and from his knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY and that family, he did not know of any racial hatred or dislike of Negroes by the family. He stated, however, that he did hear JERRY RAY mention one time after being in St. Charles Reformatory, St. Charles, Illinois, in approximately 1952 or 1953 that he had had considerable trouble with Negroes at St. Charles. He stated that he had found this to be so with most white prisoners who had been in a penitentiary with Negroes and that sometimes there seems to develop some type of racial difficulty at prisons.

PARSONS advised that at the present time, MELBA MARIE RYAN is living on a disability pension. He stated that she had been arrested in Quincy on several occasions for breaking out window lights with a cross and claimed that God had told her to do this. He advised that MELBA MARIE will make a cross out of a large two by four and smash window lights on occasions. He stated he did not know of any violence on any other member of the family.

PARSONS advised that he had not had any recent contact during the last four years with any member of the family other than MELBA MARIE RYAN but he knew that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and that SUSAN RYAN was either adopted by some family in Quincy or else was placed in a foster home. He stated that the case worker for Catholic charities in Quincy, Illinois, should be able to furnish background information concerning the family.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5-2-68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS - P -

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4-20-68, GEORGE PARSONS, 2826 College Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

PARSONS advised that he is a supervisor for the Illinois Youth Commission and has had numerous contacts with the family of LUCILE RYAN. He stated that this family is also known by the name RAY. PARSONS advised that around 1955 and 1966 he had kept a member of this family, MELBA MARIE RYAN, in his home and that he had always been close to MELBA MARIE RYAN. He stated that this individual has mental problems and that nothing says can be relied upon.

PARSONS advised that he does not have any exact dates concerning anything in the family but that he knows the family is supposed to have moved to Quincy, Illinois, sometime during the 1940s and that the entire family lived at 214 String Street, Quincy, Illinois, during the 1940s until approximately 1955. He stated that this area at that time was an area infested with houses of prostitution and a very rough neighborhood and a very poor neighborhood. PARSONS stated that the entire family had been very close to each other and that he felt that members of the family would certainly harbor JAMES EARL RAY. He stated this would be particularly true of JERRY RYAN and JACK or JOHN RYAN. He felt that these two would harbor JAMES EARL RAY if they though it would be to JAMES EARL RAY's advantage.

He furnished the following names for members of the family:

Father
Mother
Son
Son
Son
Son

JAMES, JIM or JERRY RAY
LUCILE RAY or LUCILE RYAN
JAMES EARL RAY
JERRY RAY
JACK RAY
FRANKLIN DELEANOR RAY

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[REDACTED]
Daughter
Daughter
Daughter

[REDACTED]
MELBA MARIE RAY
CAROL RAY
SUSAN RAY

He advised that this was all of the members of the family with whom he was acquainted and he felt this included the entire family.

He stated that when the family moved from Quincy, Illinois, in approximately 1965, the mother, LUCILE RYAN, moved to Alton, Illinois; however, during this period of time in approximately 1952, the father had run off with some woman and had gone to St. Louis, Missouri, to live.

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[REDACTED] and that SUSAN RYAN was either adopted by some family in Quincy or else was placed in a foster home. He stated that the case worker for Catholic charities in Quincy, Illinois, should be able to furnish background information concerning the family.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5-2-68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS - P -

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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Father
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Son
Son
Son
Son

JAMES, JIM or JERRY RAY
LUCILE RAY or LUCILE RYAN
JAMES EARL RAY
JERRY RAY
JACK RAY
FRANKLIN DELEANOR RAY

3 - Springfield (44-561)

EHD:ras

(3) *ras*



5010-108

44-561-414

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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[REDACTED]
Daughter
Daughter
Daughter

[REDACTED]
MELBA MARIE RAY
CAROL RAY
SUSAN RAY

He advised that this was all of the members of the family with whom he was acquainted and he felt this included the entire family.

He stated that when the family moved from Quincy, Illinois, in approximately 1965, the mother, LUCILE RYAN, moved to Alton, Illinois; however, during this period of time in approximately 1952, the father had run off with some woman and had gone to St. Louis, Missouri, to live.

After the father left, the entire family became practically wards of the court in charity cases and that Catholic charities had furnished most of the subsistence and supervision of the children.

He advised that several of the younger children of the family, including FRANKLIN DELEANOR RAY, CAROL RAY, SUSAN RAY and MELBA MARIE RAY, had been placed in a Catholic orphanage in Alton, Illinois.

He advised that during the period of time that he kept MELBA MARIE RAY in his home that she seemed to think a lot of JACK RAY and JERRY RAY; however, she never spoke favorably of JAMES EARL RAY or JIMMY RAY and often stated that she had no feeling for JIMMY as he was bad. He stated that he did not know the reason for this feeling; however, that JAMES EARL RAY had never to his knowledge contacted MELBA MARIE for any reason.

PARSONS advised that when JACK RAY had served a period of time in prison, he had gone to Mt. Prospect, Illinois, in the Chicago area, to work at a golf course and he had also obtained JERRY RAY a job at that golf course. PARSONS advised that this was several years before and he was not sure if this would be in the late 1950s or the early 1960s.

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PARSONS advised that LUCILE RYAN had worked as a prostitute in Quincy, Illinois. [REDACTED]

PARSONS advised that he had never heard of JAMES EARL RAY working any where and from his knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY and that family, he did not know of any racial hatred or dislike of Negroes by the family. He stated, however, that he did hear JERRY RAY mention one time after being in St. Charles Reformatory, St. Charles, Illinois, in approximately 1952 or 1953 that he had had considerable trouble with Negroes at St. Charles. He stated that he had found this to be so with most white prisoners who had been in a penitentiary with Negroes and that sometimes there seems to develop some type of racial difficulty at prisons.

PARSONS advised that at the present time, MELBA MARIE RYAN is living on a disability pension. He stated that she had been arrested in Quincy on several occasions for breaking out window lights with a cross and claimed that God had told her to do this. He advised that MELBA MARIE will make a cross out of a large two by four and smash window lights on occasions. He stated he did not know of any violence on any other member of the family.

PARSONS advised that he had not had any recent contact during the last four years with any member of the family other than MELBA MARIE RYAN but he knew that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and that SUSAN RYAN was either adopted by some family in Quincy or else was placed in a foster home. He stated that the case worker for Catholic charities in Quincy, Illinois, should be able to furnish background information concerning the family.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/22/68 Circuit Judge RICHARD SCHOLZ, Quincy, Illinois, confidentially made available the dependency files concerning the LUCILE RYAN family in Quincy. Judge SCHOLZ advised that the information contained in these files was confidential and should not be made public.

The file contained the following information:

On 3/9/55 five members of the family became wards of Adams County Circuit Court, Quincy, Illinois. The file showed the following to be the complete list of the members of the family:

Father	GERALD RYAN
Mother	LUCILE MAHER RYAN
Son	JAMES, age 26, whereabouts not known
Son	JOHN, age 24, Pontiac Prison
Daughter	MARJORIE, died at age 2
Son	JERRY, age 20, parolee from Pontiac
Daughter	MELBA, age 16
Daughter	CAROL, age 14, living with mother
Son	FRANKLIN, age 12, Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois
Daughter	SUZAN, age 8, Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois

On that date MELBA, CAROL, FRANKLIN, SUZAN, and [REDACTED] became wards of the Adams County Court.

The file showed that MELBA MARIE RYAN was born at Macomb, Illinois, and was taken from GEORGE PARSONS, Supervisor, Illinois Youth Commission, who had been caring for MELBA on 6/28/55 and was given to a Mrs. TURNER FOLEY, 332 North 24th Street, Quincy, Illinois.

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On [REDACTED] was tested by Dr. GRAVIS SMITH, Beverly Farms, Godfrey, Illinois, and [REDACTED]

On 8/9/55 MELBA MARIE RYAN was committed to the Jacksonville State Hospital, Jacksonville, Illinois, and custody of RYAN taken from GEORGE PARSONS and given to the Illinois Youth Commission. Judge SCHOLZ advised that apparently at that time MELBA MARIE RYAN had attempted to set fire to the PARSONS' home. He stated that this had been kept quiet by PARSONS and was not known generally.

On 3/20/56 Dr. GRAVIS SMITH, Beverly Farms, Godfrey, Illinois, had found [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

The file showed that on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 8/6/57 MELBA MARIE RYAN was granted a discharge from the Jacksonville State Hospital.

On 10/24/57 custody of FRANKLIN RYAN and SUSAN RYAN was given to the Catholic Charities of Springfield, Illinois.

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On [REDACTED] was transferred
[REDACTED]

On 8/21/58 a court order gave custody of MELBA MARIE RYAN, CAROL RYAN, FRANKLIN D. RYAN and SUZAN RYAN and [REDACTED] to the Catholic Charities, Springfield, Illinois.

A notation was contained in the file that on 7/57 LUCILE RYAN moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and was residing at 1135 South Tenth Street, Apartment 8, St. Louis, Missouri.

At that time the father of the RYAN children, GERALD RYAN or GERALD RAY, was residing at 4149 West Pine Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

The file contained information that [REDACTED] RYAN had been adopted in County Court, Sangamon County, Illinois, on [REDACTED]

On 6/30/60 a letter was addressed to the Court from Mrs. JENNY RAYNES from St. Louis, Missouri.

Judge SCHOLZ advised that apparently this would be a woman living with the father of the RYAN children.

On 128/60 JERRY RAYNES was shown residing at 1727 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri; his DOB was shown as 11/24/1899, and employed by J & R Auto Sales, St. Louis, Missouri. At that time he was living with daughter, CAROL RYAN, DOB 1/30/41, who was employed by the Kresge Company in the St. Louis area.

At this time JERRY RAYNES gave JACK RANDOLPH, 5901 South Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri, as a reference. The file showed that JACK RANDOLPH was the owner of J & R Auto Sales and that RAYNES was employed as a car salesman on a used car lot for RANDOLPH.

The file showed that custody of FRANKLIN D. RYAN was given to his father JERRY RAYNES, 1727 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri, on 3/30/60.

Judge SCHOLZ advised that FRANKLIN D. RYAN had died in approximately 1962 or 1963 when an automobile in which he was riding drove into the Mississippi River in West Quincy, Missouri. He advised that any records concerning the death of FRANKLIN D. RYAN would be in Missouri.

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Judge SCHOLZ advised that FRANKLIN D. RYAN was also known as BUZZY RYAN and that possibly some people would not know the true name of FRANKLIN D. RYAN.

The file showed that FRANKLIN D. RYAN was first declared a dependent on 9/8/52 and at that time was residing at 214 1/2 Spring Street.

Included in the FRANKLIN D. RYAN section of the dependency records was a letter dated 3/29/59 from LUCILE RYAN, his mother, who at that time was residing at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri. In the letter she stated that "JIMMY is going to Chicago". The letter indicated that at that time JIMMY was residing with LUCILE RYAN at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

The file contained information showing that before 9/24/59 Mrs. LUCILE BERNES, aka LUCILE RAY and LUCILE RYAN resided 1209 East Fourth Street, Alton, Illinois, and that she had moved from that address to 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis.

A notation was contained in the file that one 8/20/59 LUCILE RYAN's son, JAMES EARL RAY, and an accomplice JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN were arrested for an armed robbery of a supermarket in Alton, Illinois, and that this matter was pending in Circuit Court, Madison County, Illinois.

The file contained a section concerning JERRY W. RYAN, DOB 7/16/35. He was declared a delinquent on 3/10/50 for unlawfully growing up in idleness and crime and was to be sent to St. Charles Boys' Reformatory, St. Charles, Illinois.

At that time his father was GERALD RYAN, 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, and mother, LUCILE RYAN, at same address.

Psychological tests given JERRY W. RYAN at that time showed he functioned between a low, average and dull in intelligence.

The file showed that SUZAN RYAN, aka SUSANNE RYAN, DOB [REDACTED] had been a ward of the court from 9/8/52 until 4/15/65 when she was discharged from the supervision of the court.

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HAZEL HAMILTON, Case Worker, Catholic Charities, Quincy, Illinois, had been SUZAN RYAN's supervisor since 3/54.

The file showed SUZAN RYAN resided at Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois, from 3/8/54 until 1961.

The file showed that the RYAN children had an uncle, WILLIAM E. MAHER, who resided 1118 East Seventh Street, Alton, Illinois.

Also, the file included that an aunt, Mrs. SADIE FITZSIMMONS, address unknown, visited SUZAN RYAN while under supervision.

On 9/2/59 SUZAN RYAN had apparently run away from the supervision of the Catholic Children's Home and was located in Alton, Illinois, with a Mrs. MARY MAHER.

On 8/31/59 SUZAN RYAN was located with her mother, 1209 East Fourth Street, Alton, Illinois, where the mother lived under the name of BERNES. Apparently at one time the mother had resided at a home in St. Louis that was condemned at which time she had moved to Alton, date of the move or other information not shown.

The file contained information that JAMES RYAN resided at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri, or 1727 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri, where he lived with CAROL RYAN. The file did not indicate whether this was the father or son, JAMES RYAN.

The file contained a letter dated 3/30/60 that JACK was going to Chicago and that he had been held "for those licenses".

The file showed that MELBA RYAN, CAROL RYAN, and FRANKLIN RYAN were born in St. Louis County, Missouri, and SUZAN and [REDACTED], Quincy, Illinois.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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