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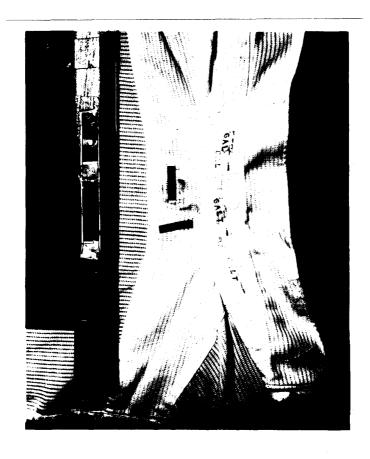
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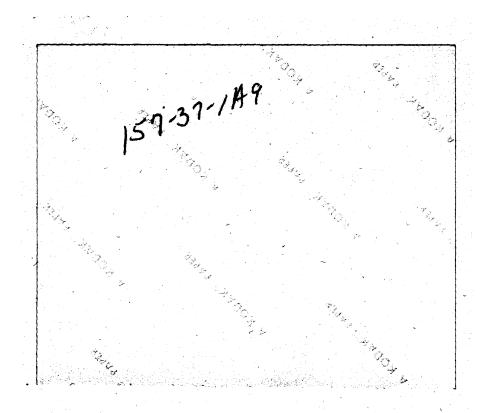


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# Fugitive a Man of Many Aliases

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the belief that the fullest possible exposure of information concerning James Earl Ray will serve to assist in his early apprehension, Army Times Publishing Co. has asked two newsmen from Ray's home town to trace his background from early boyhood. Ande F. Yakstis, 34, and Ed Pound, 24, are prize-winning reporters for the Alton (Ill.) Evening Telegraph. This is their story:

#### By ANDE F. YAKSTIS and ED POUND

ALTON, Ill. - James Earl Ray, an obscure, in-and-out-of-jail nobody until events of April 4 made him the subject of one of the most intensive manhunts in history, was born here 40 years ago into a family plagued by depression, death and an obsession to drift.

Much of Ray's past is hidden in a maze of contradictions, but an investigation of his background here, conducted by a twoman reporter team for Army Times Publishing Co., has shed some light on the man now being hunted by the FBI as a prime suspect in the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray was born March 18, 1928, at 1021 West Ninth St., in a now deteriorating section of town. The Ray family—or Raynes or Ryan, as it was also known—included nine children, at least three of whom have served prison terms.

FBI agents, trying to piece together Ray's Alton past, have uncovered a trail of arrests leading out of this city to Los Angeles, where he had his first encounter with the law.

But of Ray's life in the weeks preceding and following the sniper shooting of Dr. King in Memphis, Tenn., little is known. "Ray has dropped completely out of sight," FBI agents in Alton told these reporters.

LOCALLY, Ray is known as a two-fisted, two-gun character who has been in and out of jail repeatedly since his discharge from the Army in 1948 for "in-adaptability" after serving three months at hard labor for being drunk and break-ing arrest. All told, the fugitive has spent more than 13 years behind bars.

Police Chief Harold Riggins of nearby East Alton remembers Ray as the "bare-foot burglar." In August 1954 he broke into a cleaning shop and lost his shoes when he jumped through a plate glass window to elude a watchman.

Barefooted and bloody, Ray ran five miles to Alton before he was captured. Riggins said Ray "appeared to be bitter against society. He just didn't care for anything."

Four years later, Ray was back in town and again pursued by police follow-ing the armed robbery of the Wegener Food Liner here. But he somehow eluded the dragnet which had surrounded him just outside town.

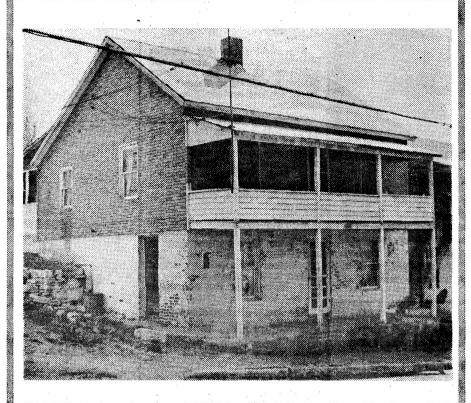
Ray's earliest brush with police here came in January 1949, when he was arrested and fined for a traffic violation. At the time, he was a gawky 21-year-old with wavy black hair.

His Alton police record also shows arrests for driving without a license in 1951; vagrancy, also 1951; investigation of burglary and release to East Alton authorities, 1954; vagrancy again, 1955, and investigation of armed robbery, 1959.

BUT IT WAS in Los Angeles, only a little more than a year after his release from the Army, that Ray got into his first serious trouble. Convicted of bur-glary, he served eight months in the L.A.

April 1952 found him in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, arrested for vagrancy. In May 1952, Ray was wounded and captured in a Chicago robbery attempt and subsequently sentenced to a one- to two-year term in the state prison at Joliet.

Not long after he got out of Joliet



IN THIS rundown house at 1021 West Ninth St. in Alton, III., James Earl Ray was born on March 18, 1928. Within the year the Ray family was to move away, assuming the first of a series of aliases that were to become a pattern of the fugitive's later life. When he was 16, Ray returned to Alton to live, this time with his grandmother, until he entered the Army in 1946.

came the burglary of the cleaners in East Alton, for which he was indicted but never tried. His subsequent burglary of a Hannibal, Mo., post office sent him to Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary with a three-year and nine-month sentence.

Released from Leavenworth in April 1958, Ray moved up the ladder from simple to armed robbery. He became a suspect in the Alton food store holdup the following year. But it was a similar rob-bery of a grocery in St. Louis that left him sentenced to 20 years in the Missouri State Penitentiary as a habitual criminal.

Twice he tried unsuccessfully to escape from the high-walled Jefferson City, Mo., prison. On his third try April 23, 1967, he made it, apparently by hiding in a truck carrying bread to an honor farm across the Missouri River from the penitentiary.

He has been a fugitive since, going under one or more of his many aliases—among them the now infamous Eric Starvo Galt.

Other known aliases are "Jack Sims," as his alleged accomplice in the Alton grocery burglary knew him, "James McBride," "James Walton," "James O'Connor," "W. C. Herron," "John Willard" and "Harvey Lowmyer."

ALIASES are not foreign to Ray. He grew up with them. Although born in Alton to James Earl Ray Sr. and Lucille Maher, who had been married two years earlier at Edwardsville, Ill., he was less than a year old when the family moved to St. Louis. There Ray is believed to have lived until he was four or five.

Next stop was Ewing, Mo., a village of 390 people about 20 miles northwest of Hannibal. Here, from 1935 to 1943, Ray attended grade school and was graduated conditionally—meaning he passed on condition that he complete other work.

His education ended in the eighth

One of his teachers, Virgil Graves, who now teaches high school science at Philadelphia, Mo., said Ray "was no different from most kids when he was growing up in Ewing, except that he never mixed much with other kids." Graves said Ray had an average or better IQ but was a poor student.

While living in Ewing, the family went under the alias of "Raynes," although school records list Ray's name as "Rayns," apparently an error.

The family was poor, still feeling the strain of the depression. Ray's father was frequently unemployed and reportedly left a string of debts. During this period the family lived on a farm purchased by Mrs. Ray's maternal grandmother.

It was while the family lived in Ewing that Ray's six-year-old sister Marjorie died of burns apparently received when playing with matches. She is buried in an unmarked grave in Ewing's Queen of Peace Catholic cemetery.

Sometime around 1944 — the exact year is not known—the Rays, or Raynes, left Ewing for Adams, Ill., near Quincy. Here the grandmother bought another farm for the family, who by now had switched to using the name "Ryan."

It is believed that the family split up in the late 1940s or early '50s, and following the split young Ray, then 16, returned to his birthplace to live with his grandmother. In the intervening years before joining the Army he was employed at least part of the time by a shoe tannery in nearby Hartford.

Also ending up in Alton were a sister and two brothers, who were placed in the Catholic Children's Home here. Several years later one of the brothers was killed in a car accident in Quincy.

It was the death of this brother, who used the name "Raynes," that confirmed that the Ray, Raynes and Ryan families were one. Two sisters who had taken the Ryan name came to identify the body of Franklin Raynes as their brother.

ACCORDING to the FBI, James Earl Ray Sr., died in 1946, but an uncle now living in Alton said he recalled seeing him "sometime in 1948 or '49."

The Alton uncle, who asked not to be identified by name, remembers young James Ray as a troublemaker, "who wasn't like the rest of us."

"He called me once to bail him out of jail for some traffic offense, and it cost me \$45," the uncle said. "And he never paid me back."

Ray's mother died in St. Louis in January 1961 and is buried in Alton. Death records list her name as "Ryan." This led to speculation that the mother had remarried, but Ray's uncle does not believe this

FBI agents have visited the uncle in an attempt to trace the path of young Ray after he left Alton.

"The last time I saw him was about 15 years ago," the uncle told these reporters. "And then I never talked to him much. I didn't want him around the family."

Two of Ray's brothers are now be-lieved to be living in the Chicago area. Both have prison records, one for car theft at the age of 22 and the other for larceny when he was 15.

RAY'S WHEREABOUTS remain a mystery despite a world-wide manhunt, but the FBI is certain that "Eric Starvo Galt," alleged killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is James Earl Ray.

"A systematic and exhaustive check of latent fingerprints" found on the rifle left near the Memphis flophouse from which the fatal shot was fired led to this conclusion, FBI officials said.

In tracking Ray's activities since his escape from prison last year, the FBI has sketched a portrait of a Negro-hater who made several trips to New Orleans in the months before King's death.

The drinking crowd at the Rabbit's Foot Club on Hollywood Blvd. in Los Angeles, to which Ray has been traced, remembers him as a racist who once threatened to drag a girl out of the bar because she defended Negroes.

"I'll drop you off in Watts and see how you like it there," he reportedly yelled at the woman.

Early this year the man known as Galt took songwriter Charles Stein with him on a trip from Los Angeles to New Orleans in a white Mustang. On the way Galt stopped several times to make long distance calls from pay phone booths.

But Stein saw little of Galt-or Rayafter they returned to LA, and Galt's activities in Los Angeles come to a dead end in March.

A white Mustang driven by "John Willard" showed up in Memphis April 3, and the driver registered at a cheap hotel across the street from the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was staying.

#### HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

### This Is James **Earl Ray**

SUBJECT of a world-wide manhunt, James Earl Ray is 40 years old, about five feet, 10 inches tall and weighs between 163 and 174 pounds.



He has squinty blue eyes and brown hair head and right palm.

His most conspicuous feature is a pro-truding left ear, which he is known to tug when nervous. Ray is reported to be an avid dancer, fond

(1960 Phote)

commanding officer.

of country and western music and a beer and vodka drinker. Any serviceman who may have information concerning Ray should contact his

The FBI warns that Ray is probably armed and should be considered as extremely dangerous.



#### FAA Educational Aids

AN AIR TRAFFIC control specialist at Merrill Tower, Anchorage, Alaska, Frank Austin, left, explains Federal Aviation Administration education material at a statewide PTA convention. Also shown are Mrs. Katherine Lester, secretary of the Anchorage Borough school district, and Orville A. Perley, FAA Flight Standards Division. Austin is president of the Chugiak High School PTA and is on the executive board of the Anchorage PTA.

## Viet Gifts Program Set by Red Cross

CHRISTMAS IS coming early to the American Red Cross again in 1968. For the third successive year, its chapters across the country will stage a "Shop Early" program to provide Christmas gift bags for all U.S. servicemen and servicewomen stationed in South Vietnam during the holiday season.

Last year, the more than 610,000 gift bags filled with small comfort and recreational articles that were sent to the Asian country for dis-tribution to Americans there brought a flood of "thank-you" let-ters from men and women of all ranks in the services.

A similar plan will be followed in "Red Cross Shop Early—Viet-

Red Cross chapters have been provided with the specifications for the bags themselves and with the list of suggested contents. Those participating will enlist the cooperation of organizations and

ARC national headquarters has suggested that a holiday greeting eard, identifying the Red Cross chapter and cooperating agencies providing the gifts, be placed in each bag. The filled bags are to be ready for ship-ment between September 1 and October 15.

At least eight of the following items are to be included in the special gift bags for servicewomen:

cold-water soap, sewing kits, foot "peds," emery boards, hand lotien, night caps, shower caps, creme sachet or cologne, bobby pins, straight and safety pins, small packets of facial tissues, "Wash and Dries," talcum powder, "Wipe and Shine" shoe polish, sachet packets, small powder puffs, floral designed notepaper with selffloral designed notepaper with selfseal envelopes, nylon and plastic headcovers, packet-type deodorants, calendar type towels, dry cleaning pads, cosmetic remover pads, ballbusinesses wishing to make their point pens, tins of nuts and cancontributions to the servicemen's christmas.

### **Peace Corps Advises** Seekers of Staff Jobs

volunteers interested in future Corps talent search unit has an staff jobs with the corps should file applications at least three months prior to their termination

### **ASPA Chapter** To Meet May 21

WASHINGTON — Thirty personnel officers who live or work in the Montgomery County, Md., suburbs have organized a chapter of the Society for Personnel Administration.

organization meeting was held April 18, followed by a regular evening meeting on April 23.

Robert Fredlund, the organizer, said the group plans to have monthly meetings at night with a speaker or panel disoussion at each one. The next meeting will be held at 8 p.m., May 21 at the county office building in Rockville.

Interested persons should call Fredlund at WO 1-3161 or 762-8686 for more details.

WASHINGTON - Peace Corps of volunteer service, the Peace

According to new application procedures, volunteers obtain application forms from their country directors, complete the forms and then submit them to members of the Peace Corps staff whom the applicants wish to include as refer-ences. Dr. Suojanen will serve as a

Staff members in turn attach their recommendations to the application before forwarding it to Talent Search. Marguerette Norton of Talent Search's division of returned volunteers has indicated that no application form will be considered without the attached references.

After receipt and review of applications, Talent Search will write directly to applicants. Interviews for positions in Peace Corps headquarters and the field take place in Washington. Candidates for recruiting jobs are interviewed at regional recruiting jobs are inter-viewed at regional recruiting of-

### Love Story **Could Win** Honeymoon

YOUNG LOVERS taking the final steps toward marriage are urged by an Andrews AFB (Md.) resident to "think television."

The resident is Mrs. Charles Errickson and the reason for thinking TV is the television program "Wedding Party" produced by her brother Roy Kammerman.

"What my brother is interested in is a young couple who will be married soon and has an interesting story to tell, an un-usual hobby or background," said Mrs. Errickson, Kammer-man's program is aired daily on WMAL Television, channel 7, at

The show consists of an interview and a question answering game. Prizes range from a mink stole to motorboats. Regardless of their luck at winning prizes, each couple will win a free honeymoon for appearing on the show.

For further information about eligibility for the telecast call Mrs. Errickson at 868-4621 or write: Mrs. Charles Errickson, 7519 Juliet Dr., Clinton, Md.

### **Service Honors** Accorded to Six

KANSAS CITY - Six federal employes were recognized for out-standing service at a dinner on May 3 sponsored by the Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board.

The winners, listed by category.

Careeer Service, Technical — John Ross Watts, Federal Aviation Administration.

Career Service, Secretarial, Clerical and Crafts — Gladys Whitaker, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Military Service — TSgt. Don-ald F. Sedor, Richards Gebaur AFB, Grandview, Mo. Administrative Services — Wil-

liam C. Allen, General Services Administration.

Supervisory Services — Glenn Allen, Federal Aviation Adminis

Professional and Scientific-Es tella F. Smith, Veterans Administration Hospital.

Each winner received a plaque. Theodore Bland, postmaster, was chairman of the awards banquet A dance was held afterward.

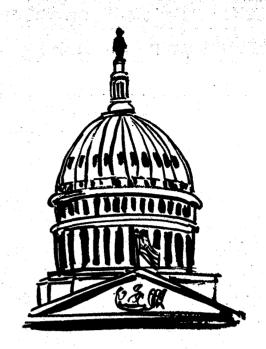
#### **New NASA Aide** Takes Office

WASHINGTON — Dr. Waino W. Suojanen, chairman of the University of Miami's department of management, has been sworn in as a special consultant to James E. Webb, administrator of the National Aeronautic and Space Adminis-

member of the space agency's management advisory panel. This panel makes in-depth reviews of the agency's administration pat-

### Picatinny Analyst Has New Book

DOVER, N.J. — William Griffel, a physical science analyst at the Picatinny Arsenal here, has a new book out called "Plate Formulas." The publisher, Frederick Ungar Co., describes it as a time-saving volume prepared to help the practicing engineer do a good fast



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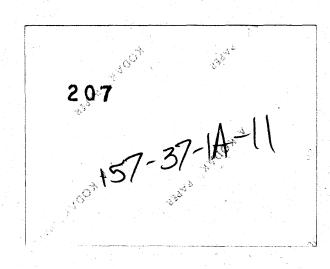
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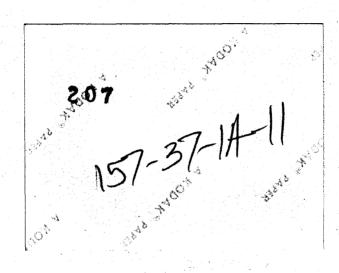


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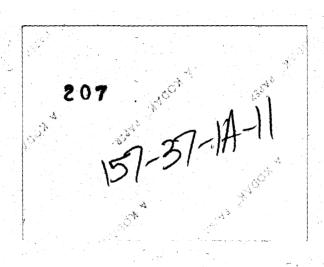
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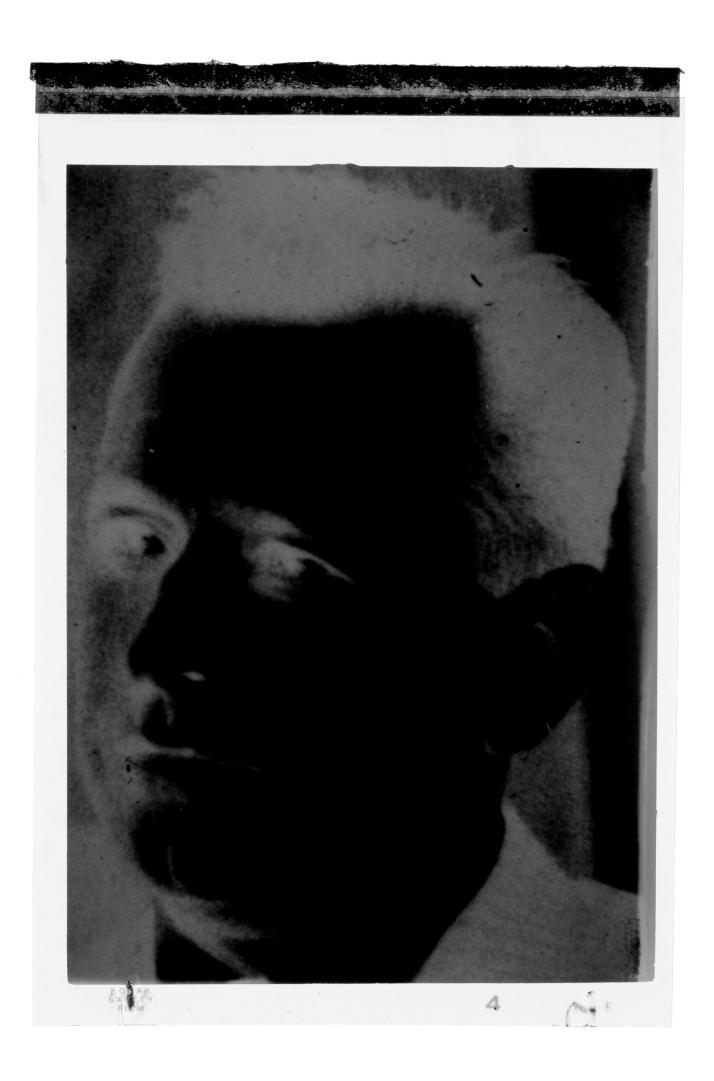
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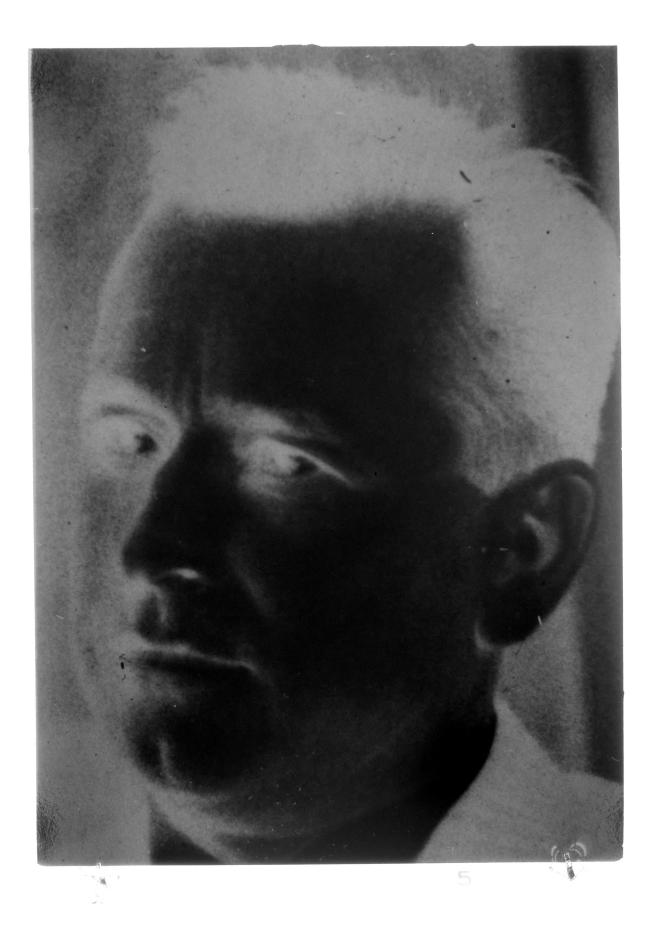
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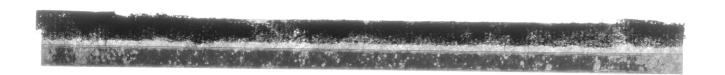
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