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SL 44-775
HCK/ral

4333	McPherson	JOE BARROW
		JAMES NEELY
4339	"	JACK WORKMAN
		SAM CRAMER
		WAYNE MISTLER
		JAMES L. FITZGERALD
		JERRY "D.C." HENNEN
		MIKE YOUNG
		JACK GRIMES
		Mr. JOHNNY CARTER
4363	"	EDGAR STONE
4367	"	RILEY PHILLIPS
4373	"	THURSTON A. GREER
4381	"	Miss ARLEE MC GHAW
4397	"	MELVIN BURKE
		NAPOLEAN JONES
4308	"	RAYMOND FLIPPIN
		JOE GENNA
4312	"	BOB DALTON, manager of the rooming house at this address
4342	"	FRED MC GUIRE

SA LOUIS F. CAPUTO AND SA THOMAS L. BUCKLEY

4487	McPherson	JOHN MC VICKER
		ARTHUR DABOUB
		JANE ABRAMOFF
4483	"	WILLIAM SMITH
		Mrs. ERNESTINE SMITH
4477	"	Mrs. MABEL TAYLOR
		MERLIN TAYLOR
4473	"	Mrs. DOROTHY BLANCHARD
4463	"	CARL WESTERMAYER
		HERMAN BOEDICKER
		CHARLES SCHUMACHER
		SAM MISINANY
		RONALD GILES
		ROBERT MC DONALD
4457	"	Mrs. NITA CARNEAL
		Miss LINDA CARNEAL
4453	"	Sister DELORES
		Sister VERA
		MARY LINZMEYER
		Father FRANCIS MAC NUTT

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4437	McPherson	PATRICIA KOHN WILLIAM KOHN SAMUEL WAYNE JANE WAYNE
4431	"	Mr. THOMAS BOLEN Mrs. MARY BOLEN Miss ANNE BOLEN Miss CATHERINE BOLEN
4425	"	VERONICA HIGGINS LILLIAN PARKER AARON O'NEAL (a visitor residence 1315 N. 7th)
4421	"	Mrs. MABEL CURTIS
4417	"	BABE WEINSTEIN
4411	"	WILLIAM STEVENSON
	"	ISAAC RUSSELL
4374	"	JANET PETE
	"	CLARENCE PETE
	"	JOHN D. BROWN
4362	"	ALBERTA STRINGER
4350	"	GERALD HALL (manager) PATRICIA HALL
4346	"	Mrs. BEULAH LONG
4332	"	ELIZABETH B. JACKSON Mrs. EDNA LAYTON
	"	CLARENCE MEASHER
4320	"	Mr. BERT SMITH

SA JAMES T. DEARBORN and SA DONALD S. DE FONCE

382	Taylor	EMMA SLAUGHTER
4482	McPherson	PEARLIE HENDERSON
4480	"	WALTER MOSS
4476	"	MICHAEL HOUSTON
4476A	"	HELEN MEYERS
4478	"	Mr. LARSON
	"	RANSOM SCHWARTZ
4474	"	BILL GLADFELTER J. P. MULLHOLLAND EUGENE MOSES
4468	"	C. A. GROSS
	"	HUGO F. MUSKOFF
4466A	"	THEODORE MC GOWAN

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4466	McPherson	NAOMI SMITH
4464	"	E. K. HASBAN
		JULIE SHELDON
4464A	"	RUTH SIEGEL
4462	"	SOPHIE SHERMAN
4462A	"	MARGARET MC CLUSKEY
4456	"	DONA M. FOWLER
		RENE SANDLER
		CLEVELAND YOUNG
4452	"	LARRY BREWSTER
		MIKE BORTNICK
		FRANK FRIEMEL
		Mrs. IRA MOYERS
4448	"	Vacant
4444	"	ROBERT DAY
4438	"	CHARITY MULLINS
		THOMAS WASHINGTON
4434	"	FLORENCE GEST
4428	"	ROOSEVELT HAMM
		CLARLES HAMPTON
4426	"	ELMOS PEARSON
4424-22	"	Vacant
4402-6	"	Mrs. IONA REDMAN, Manager, Kampden Hall Apartments
4398	"	WILLIAM BUCKLEY
4396	"	SARAH BROWNE
4394	"	JAMES ATHANAS
4394A	"	EDITH HACKENBERRY
4390	"	FRANCIS G. HRABOVSKY
4388	"	ISABEL CLERVIS
4380	"	MARTIN STACK
4366	"	WESLEY RIDEOUT
4358	"	FRANK WOLFF
		MARGUERITE OLDANI (manager)
4330	"	Mrs. WILLIAM MARLOW.

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POLICE DEPARTMENTS UNIDENTIFIED LATENT COMPARISON

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

On April 23, 1968, MICHAEL FITZPATRICK, Identification Division, St. Louis Police Department, advised SA GEORGE M. PEET that he had compared unidentified latent fingerprints in robberies, burglaries, etc., in St. Louis against the fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 405 942 G, without effecting an identification.

AT ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI

On April 24, 1968, ED BRIGHT, St. Louis County Police Department, Identification Division, conducted a similar examination with negative results.

It should be noted that the Missouri State Highway Patrol, with headquarters at Jefferson City, Missouri, handles latent fingerprint work for most smaller police departments and in rural areas of the state.

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RE: LOCAL UNIDENTIFIED LATENT SEARCH

In connection with the search of the fingerprints of subject RAY against unidentified latent fingerprints maintained in files of local law enforcement agencies, Sergeant DAVID WENDELL, St. Louis County Police Department, Identification Bureau, and MICHAEL FITZPATRICK, Identification Division, St. Louis Police Department, were contacted in an effort to ascertain the identity of departments in the metropolitan St. Louis area who would have the files of unidentified latent fingerprints. As a result of this contact, the following departments were contacted on May 2, 1968. They advised that a comparison would be made of their unidentified latent fingerprints with the fingerprints of JAMES RAY. In the event an identification is effected by any department, that department will telephonically contact the St. Louis Office.

Florissant, Missouri Police Department
Kirkwood, Missouri Police Department
University City, Missouri Police Department
Clayton, Missouri Police Department
Webster Groves, Missouri Police Department.

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RE: UNIDENTIFIED LATENT CHECKS

AT HANNIBAL, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by SA
JAMES A. DUFFEY:

Chief ARLO BALDWIN, Hannibal, Missouri Police Department, on May 6, 1968, was requested to check the fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY, I. O. #4182, against the unidentified latents of any unsolved cases. He later advised, May 6, 1968, his fingerprint man had made the comparisons without results.

There are no other departments which maintain files of unidentified prints. The Missouri State Highway Patrol submits all latents to Jefferson City.

The Latent Fingerprint Section has been requested to compare the unidentified latents in the Perry State Bank burglary with subject's prints.

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RAY FELLOW PRISONERS

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PWB:amb

RE: PRISON ASSOCIATE WALTER E. NOLAN

The following investigation was conducted by SAs ROBERT A. HESS and PATRICK W. BRADLEY on April 24, 1968, at St. Louis, Missouri:

Mr. SAM KRAMER was contacted at his place of business, the Plaza Buffet, 18th and Chestnut Street, St. Louis, Missouri, at which time he advised that he is not in fact an uncle of former Missouri prison inmate, WALTER E. NOLAN, however, is commonly referred to as an uncle by NOLAN because in the past he and his wife have made efforts to rehabilitate and befriend NOLAN.

He stated that last fall (1967) NOLAN was again released from the state penitentiary, however, since that time he (KRAMER) has made no further attempt at rehabilitation of NOLAN. He stated that occasionally NOLAN comes by his place of business, the last time being Saturday, April 20, 1968, at which time he cashed a \$10 check drawn on the State Bank and Trust Company of Wellston, Missouri.

He stated that it is his understanding since NOLAN's release he has worked as a baker at Hullings Restaurant, 8th and Olive, and worked subsequent to that for a few weeks on a part-time basis as a cook on a river boat, barge line name unknown. Mr. KRAMER stated that he has no knowledge as to his current employment or current residence address.

Mr. KRAMER stated that his residence may be known to newscaster LES CARMICHAEL, KMOX Television Station. Mr. KRAMER pointed out that CARMICHAEL was in touch with NOLAN obtaining historical data regarding his lengthy imprisonment primarily for a human interest news-type story.

LES CARMICHAEL, KMOX TV, 1215 Cole Street, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that last fall he noticed an article in the newspaper regarding a prisoner writing his own brief and getting a release from prison and this article slanted the version to the point where it appeared the man might have been unjustly imprisoned. As a result of this he contacted

WALTER E. NOLAN, the ex-convict in question, in an effort to obtain some human interest story for a news item. He noted that he contacted NOLAN through a well-known St. Louis attorney whose name he could not immediately recall but whose name was either in the newspaper article or came to his attention as NOLAN's representative from some other source. Mr. CARMICHAEL also related that the reason why he followed up this was because when he contacted the attorney, the attorney spoke highly of NOLAN's intelligence and his legal ability in the preparation of legal briefs.

Mr. CARMICHAEL stated that after a number of contacts with NOLAN he did not feel that there was sufficient human interest in the matter to follow it any further and just left it drop. Mr. CARMICHAEL stated that in his conversations with NOLAN as he recalls NOLAN was a highly intelligent individual, was not radical or an extremist in any manner with the exception of having an extremely hostile attitude toward the authorities at the various penitentiaries he has been in. Mr. CARMICHAEL reiterated that NOLAN never displayed any racial extremism emotion. Mr. CARMICHAEL advised that at no time does he ever recall NOLAN mentioning JAMES EARL RAY as an associate or friend in prison.

The following information is confidential and can only be obtained by the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum issued to HENRY E. CLABOUGH, Manager, Bookkeeping Department, State Bank and Trust Company of Wellston, Wellston, Missouri:

Mr. HENRY E. CLABOUGH, Manager, Bookkeeping Department, advised that they have an account # [REDACTED] in the name of WALTER E. NOLAN, giving an address in care of Mrs. CARMEN PATTON, 5206 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri, 63108. Mr. CLABOUGH stated that this checking account has a current balance of \$18.34 and was opened in November, 1967. Since November, 1967, the average monthly balance has been \$17. Mr. CLABOUGH stated there are no major deposits nor withdrawals, the last deposit being made on April 16, 1968, in the amount of \$113.26.

Mr. CLABOUGH stated that their central indices do not reflect any other accounts nor do they reflect that this individual has a safety deposit box at this bank.

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Mrs. CARMEN PATTON, 5206 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri, telephone #FO 1-5462, advised that WALTER E. NOLAN resides as a roomer at this address. Mrs. PATTON stated that because of the newspaper publicity at the time of Mr. NOLAN's release from prison she is aware of his background as an ex-convict. She pointed out, however, that he is extremely quiet, mannerly, and appears to be a regular working individual. He does not have associates frequenting the rooming house and although she has no knowledge of his current employment he is employed somewhere as a cook and usually arrives home around 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. PATTON pointed out that he has been attempting to get some type of job with the Anti-Poverty Program and she displayed a note that had been left earlier this date to Mr. NOLAN which indicated that he should report ready for work in connection with the poverty program at 2420 Cass Avenue at 9:00 a.m. on April 29, 1968.

On April 24, 1968, IC JOHN D. DYER, JR. checked the records of the St. Louis Police Department and determined that under their #18295 and FBI #41847, WALTER ELLSWORTH NOLAN has the following record:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
December 24, 1921	Robbery first degree and grand larceny	5 years Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) committed to 3 years in the Missouri State Reformatory
October 16, 1925	Robbery first degree	7 years MSP
March 24, 1929	"	3-17-30, continued generally as he was at that time in the Illinois State Peni- tentiary (ISP). Hold placed against him at ISP.

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
		1-14-42, verdict guilty, robbery first degree, 50 years MSP with a dangerous and deadly weapon. (1-17-46, robbery first degree and habitual criminal - nolle prossed)
October 23, 1958	Robbery first degree with a dangerous and deadly weapon	2-11-59, nolle prossed
"	(Parole violator, State) (of Missouri) (Parole violator, State) (of Illinois)	2-13-59, turned over to Missouri State Parole Officer BERNARD LAKE
September 11, 1957	Violation of electric signal	Fined \$5 and costs.

The following description was obtained from these records:

Name	WALTER ELLSWORTH NOLAN
Aliases	WALTER ELSWORTH NOLAN, WILLIAM FLYNN, and WILLIAM LEYANN
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of birth	
Place of birth	St. Louis, Missouri
Height	5'7"
Weight	130
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Build	Slender
Complexion	Medium to sallow
Marital status	Married
Occupation	Clerk, sheet metal worker, and carpenter

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Addresses

February, 1959; September, 1957;
and October, 1958, 610 North
10th Street, St. Louis, Mis-
souri;

Wife

December, 1921, 451 Woodlawn,
Webster Groves, Missouri
MARILYNN NOLAN, 8034 Church
Road, St. Louis, Missouri
(December, 1921).

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4-26-68

At the onset of the interview SAs PATRICK W. BRADLEY and ROBERT A. HESS identified themselves to WALTER E. NOLAN in the lobby of the rooming house where he resides. After being advised of the identity of the interviewing agents he stated, "I want nothing to do with you people.", and then said, "What do you want with me? I haven't done anything since I've been out."

Mr. NOLAN was advised that we were not investigating his activities, however, we were conducting a fugitive investigation to locate one JAMES EARL RAY, a former inmate of the Missouri State Penitentiary. At this point NOLAN stated, "I remember Jim Ray but I don't know anything about him now and if I did know anything about him I wouldn't tell any representative of law enforcement."

It was pointed out to NOLAN that the agents had spoken earlier in the day to acquaintances of NOLAN who spoke very highly of NOLAN's intelligence and ability in legal research and briefs. Therefore, he should have a clear understanding of the possible consequences of harboring a fugitive.

NOLAN stated that he had nothing to do with the escape of RAY and has not seen or heard from RAY since the Saturday before he left from behind the walls of the Missouri State Penitentiary.

At this point NOLAN volunteered that he knew JIM RAY approximately 10 years, the entire acquaintanceship being made and carried on in the Missouri State Penitentiary. He pointed out that he was aware of RAY planning to escape on the three occasions that he attempted to do so, however, was not aware of the details of the plans nor was he aware of the exact time that RAY planned to go. He noted that he resided in the same hall with RAY although both he and RAY were celled individually, not having cellmates. He further noted that RAY was gone approximately 30 days from the penitentiary before his escape was reported and during that 30-day period on a daily basis he was reported present in the hall when he actually had already escaped.

On 4-24-68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY
SA ROBERT A. HESS PWB:amb Date dictated 4-25-68

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NOLAN stated that he believes that he (NOLAN) was the closest associate that RAY had in the penitentiary and walked in the yard with him daily. He pointed out that RAY in effect was a loner with no one really close to him. NOLAN stated that even though he considered himself the closest friend of RAY, RAY never really told him any personal information other than on one occasion he mentioned that he had an unnamed brother in Chicago, Illinois, and allegedly was raised in a small town in the State of Illinois.

NOLAN stated that RAY was a loner in his opinion because he felt all convicts were potential "stool pigeon material" and he did not trust any of them because he had been "done in a couple of times" by the stool pigeon system that operated in the prison. At this point NOLAN noted that it was his opinion that if RAY saw one of his former fellow-convicts he would immediately leave the area for fear of that individual turning "stool pigeon." He continued indicating that he felt RAY would never contact a former fellow-convict for this reason, including himself.

With regard to RAY's last escape from the penitentiary he stated that it was not as reported that RAY left in a bread box because he knew it to be a fact that RAY walked out the front door of the prison. He would not go into further details regarding this statement. When questioned as to whether or not he meant there was a bribery in connection with this escape he stated that he did not mean it in this manner, however, would not elaborate.

With regard to RAY's prior escape attempts, on one escape attempt charge he pled insanity as his defense and subsequently was sent to Fulton Mental Hospital for observation and after a short period of time was returned to the Missouri State Penitentiary adjudged sane.

With regard to RAY's emotional feelings he stated that JIM RAY was not an extremist, he never knew him to be emotional over anything, and if JIM RAY is responsible for the death of Dr. KING he feels that he was completely out of character with the person he knew as JIM RAY in the Missouri State Penitentiary. He described RAY's demeanor as being

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that of a cynical individual, however, the cynicism always being in a humorous vane. NOLAN pointed out that RAY had the unique ability of being able to laugh at himself and be cynical in a humorous way about his own past mistakes.

NOLAN pointed out that the majority of the conversation between him and RAY had to do with their legal research in regard to preparing briefs for themselves in an attempt to gain freedom from prison. He pointed out RAY was extremely interested in law, especially if it concerned his particular case. This interest was to the extent that RAY spent extra moneys to purchase law books and literature regarding recent court decisions.

NOLAN again reiterated that he felt that RAY would never contact him and doubts that RAY even knows his current location, however, he reluctantly agreed to notify the FBI if he was contacted by RAY because of the possibility of a law violation which would cause him (NOLAN) to return to prison which he does not want to do.

He noted that in the preparation of the brief by which he was released he had obtained the services of Attorney ORVILLE RICHARDSON in St. Louis for arguing the brief through approaching a judge by letter and suggesting the appointment of one or five attorneys by which ORVILLE RICHARDSON was the appointed one.

NOLAN indicated that he is currently employed as a second cook at the Heritage House Restaurant in St. Louis, however, is going to work in connection with the poverty program on April 29, 1968, in St. Louis noting that he is doing this at a reduced salary in an effort to help others rehabilitate themselves.

He again noted that he never knew of RAY to have any racial extremist emotions or ideas particularly pointing out that during part of the time RAY was in prison he was employed in the kitchen with many members of the Negro race and he always spoke well of anybody who held up their own end of the work regardless of their race. He never expressed any animosity toward anyone because of their color.

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PWB/leh

RE: RAY'S PERSONAL ASSOCIATE
WALTER ELLSWORTH NOLAN

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted on April 29, 1968, by IC JOHN D. DYER, JR.:

The records of the Commercial Credit Rating Company, St. Louis, Missouri, were checked and no record could be located identical with WALTER ELLSWORTH NOLAN, 5206 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri.

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JAD/leh

JAMES EARL RAY -
Former Associate
JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

On May 9, 1968, SA JOSEPH A. DUBYAK and SA HOWARD G. SLACK contacted MYRTLE COOK, Acme Hotel, 4040 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri, in an effort to obtain information regarding JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN. COOK advised she does not know JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN, JAMES FREELEY, "Sharkey," Or "Blackey;" nor has she ever known or corresponded with anyone known by the above names.

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JAD:mjb

RE: BUDDY BATCHELDER

AT HANNIBAL, MISSOURI:

The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY:

Chief ARLO BALDWIN advised on April 25, 1968, he last heard of BUDDY BATCHELDER being sentenced at Alton, Illinois, in 1961 or 1962, for murder. He believes him to be presently incarcerated at Illinois State Prison.

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WCJ:amb

RE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON JAMES EARL RAY

On April 29, 1968, the Kansas City Office advised St. Louis that the parents of Missouri State Penitentiary inmate, JAMES Z. BRADLEY, may have information concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

On May 8, 1968, OPHIE BRADLEY, 3860 DeTonty, St. Louis, Missouri, mother of JAMES Z. BRADLEY, advised SA WALTER C. JOHNSON she frequently visited her son at the Missouri State Penitentiary, the last time being May 7, 1968. The last visit she specifically asked her son if he knew RAY and he indicated he became acquainted with RAY while he was at the penitentiary but did not elaborate on his association. Mrs. BRADLEY said this was the only time RAY was ever mentioned to her by her son.

Mrs. BRADLEY said she resided with her husband, JOHN B. BRADLEY, at this address but he was in poor health and did not visit his son at the penitentiary.

Mrs. BRADLEY said her son's ex-wife, MAXINE, divorced her son eight years ago soon after he went to the penitentiary and re-married shortly thereafter. She does not know her current whereabouts but said her son had not heard from MAXINE for eight years.

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JDD: pdp

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

RE: RAY PRISON ASSOCIATES
GEORGE FREDERICK BRASS
POLICE CHECK

The following investigation was conducted by
IC JOHN D. DYER, JR.:

The records of the Metropolitan St. Louis Police Department disclosed GEORGE FREDERICK BRASS, St. Louis Police Department number 56230, was arrested with ROBERT DALE PORTER, St. Louis Police Department number 56229, on September 13, 1946, charged with larceny of an auto. On November 1, 1946, BRASS pleaded guilty to climbing in or upon a motor vehicle without the owner's consent and was sentenced to two months in the city workhouse.

Their records contain the following background and descriptive data concerning BRASS:

Sex	Male
Race	White
Date, place of birth	[REDACTED] Lorraine, Ohio
Height	6'1"
Weight	155
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Build	Slender
Complexion	Ruddy
FBI Number	4680585
U. S. Army Serial Number	15214140
Marital Status	Single
Occupation	Soldier
Addresses	September 1946 - Scott Field, Illinois Home address Lorraine, Ohio
Parents	JOHN F. and MATHILDA BRASS, Lorraine, Ohio, September 1946
Sister	BEVERLY A. BRASS, Lorraine, Ohio, September 1946
Brother	JOHN G. BRASS, 856 North Central Drive, Lorraine, Ohio

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WCJ:wma

RE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON
JAMES EARL RAY

On April 29, 1968, Kansas City Office advised JAMES HUGH CARPENTER, a fellow inmate friend of JAMES EARL RAY, at Missouri State Penitentiary, was currently serving time at St. Louis County Jail.

On May 7, 1968, PEGGY TAMMY, Clerk, St. Louis Circuit Court, advised SA WALTER C. JOHNSON, that JAMES HUEY CARPENTER was released from St. Louis City Jail on March 1, 1968, after serving nine-months sentence and current whereabouts unknown.

On May 1, 1968, WILLIAM R. STRADER, Apartment 3, 2102 Lafayette, St. Louis, Missouri, advised SA WALTER C. JOHNSON that he had been resident manager at this address for six or seven years and that EULA HOWELL had been dead for four years. HOWELL was supposedly a friend listed by CARPENTER in records of MSP. STRADER did not know CARPENTER.

The address 2201 Park, St. Louis, Missouri, occupied by CARPENTER's nephew, DON DEETER, has been a vacant lot for four years and no information developed in the area as to the whereabouts of DEETER.

Pertinent St. Louis directories negative concerning JAMES HUEY CARPENTER and DON DEETER.

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KAW:amb

RE: FELLOW PRISONER EVERETT WAYNE COX, FBI #127 115 C

The following investigation was conducted by SAs
KENNETH A. WILLIAMS and JOHN O. TRETHEWEY, JR., at St. Louis,
Missouri:

On April 25, 1968, Mr. PETE "SMILEY" GENOVESE, 10623
Hallwood Drive, St. Louis County, Missouri, advised until
March, 1968, he owned and operated the Northwestern Bar and
Lounge, 4911 Natural Bridge. He stated he had never been
incarcerated at the Missouri State Penitentiary and was not
acquainted with anyone named EVERETT WAYNE COX. He viewed
the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY without being able to identify
him by his true name or known aliases and stated he has never
known or met RAY.

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DR: pdp

RE: RAY PRISON ASSOCIATES
CARL BENTON DRAKE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA DOUGLAS ROSENBERGER at Cape Girardeau, Missouri:

On April 24, 1968, FRANK and BETTY WALLS, residing
in an apartment on the corner of Goodhope and Benton Streets,
Cape Girardeau, Missouri, advised as follows:

Mrs. WALLS stated that she was formerly married
to CARL BENTON DRAKE, however received a divorce from him
in early 1965 while he was still confined to the Missouri
State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri. She stated
she has since remarried and since her divorce from DRAKE
has had no contact or communication from him.

She supposed that subsequent to his release he
would return to St. Louis, Missouri, where his mother, OLLA
DRAKE, resides on North Ninth Street.

She stated that in the event any contact is made
with her by DRAKE she would immediately contact the Federal
Bureau of Investigation.

She stated that JAMES EARL RAY is unknown to her
and she has no information concerning him.

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Re: BACKGROUND OF JAMES EARL RAY

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

On April 29, 1968, CARL BENTON DRAKE, a self-employed contractor, 2934 St. Vincent, St. Louis, Missouri, residence telephone PR6-3540, furnished the following information to SA WALTER C. JOHNSON:

While an inmate in the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), DRAKE became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY and subsequently became good friends until DRAKE's release in June, 1965. Their main association at the prison was when they got together in the prison yard and conversed while walking for exercise. During this association, DRAKE feels that he became as close a friend to RAY as anyone at the prison. He described RAY as a "loner" and "close-mouthed", who kept his own counsel and did not even mention his planned escape which DRAKE later learned was an unsuccessful attempt by him to go over the wall on a ladder. RAY had very few friends, however, he mixed well with other inmates, both black and white, and had never shown any propensity for violence or appeared to be a racist.

DRAKE said there were several instances of racial trouble at the penitentiary, but RAY never seemed to get involved or to express his feelings in the matter one way or another.

RAY often mentioned that he could not do his twenty year sentence, but never indicated any escape plans or any contacts with outside individuals. The only member of RAY's family he referred to was his brother, JACK RAY of St. Louis. DRAKE recalled JACK visited his brother at prison on the average of possibly once a year. DRAKE vaguely recalled RAY mentioning that he had another brother who was killed in an automobile accident in northern Missouri, but did not recall RAY mentioning any other relatives. RAY did not discuss his general background, other than mentioning on several occasions he had previously done time at Menard State Prison, Chester, Illinois.

RAY was not addicted to use of drugs, however, DRAKE said nearly all inmates "fooled around" with anything they could get their hands on and that if RAY used any form of drugs it was unknown to DRAKE.

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DRAKE said about two weeks after his release in June, 1965, he visited JACK RAY in St. Louis upon the request of JIMMY and this was the last time he saw JACK. Their conversation primarily concerned JIM's welfare at the MSP.

DRAKE had no heard of RAY's escape and presumed he was still in prison until the recently publicity about him.

DRAKE regards RAY as a small-time robber, mentally incapable of planning the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING without additional intelligent guidance from some other source. He believes RAY capable of being hired for this but would certainly not be alone in this matter. He is also of the opinion that whoever hired RAY, that person or group has disposed of him. He commented with the "heat" on RAY and rewards advertised, it would be extremely difficult for a fellow like RAY to hide.

DRAKE indicated he would cooperate in any way he could with the FBI in the event any information came to his attention regarding the whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY.

CARL DRAKE said his brother, JAMES FRANCIS DRAKE, was also an inmate at the MSP and was acquainted with RAY through their association in the exercise yard. DRAKE, his brother JAMES and RAY all walked together on many occasions. JAMES FRANCIS DRAKE was released two years before CARL and later served time at Terre Haute Federal Prison being released in November, 1967. CARL said his brother JAMES resides with his mother, OLA DRAKE, at Modesta, Illinois, and is currently employed at the Valley Steel Company, Jacksonville, Illinois.

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SL: 44-775
WCJ:wma

RE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING
JAMES EARL RAY

On May 6, 1968, Little Rock advised RUSSELL LEE MARTIN, former inmate of Missouri State Penitentiary, contacted CARL BENTON DRAKE, an acquaintance at MSP, on May 4 and 5, 1968, at St. Louis, Missouri. DRAKE at the time indicated to MARTIN that JAMES EARL RAY had been in contact with him on two occasions since KING's assassination.

On May 9, 1968, CARL BENTON DRAKE was re-contacted by SA WALTER C. JOHNSON and reiterated information previously furnished regarding background information of RAY at MSP. DRAKE advised he had not learned anything further regarding RAY. He again expressed a willingness to cooperate in the event he learned anything of value.

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SL 44-775
HRD:paw

Fellow Prisoner: JAMES C. FLETCHER

AT MOBERLY, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by
SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN on April 26, 1968.

Inmate JAMES C. FLETCHER, Number 72071, Missouri Training School for Men, advised he had been incarcerated at the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City, Missouri, at the same time as subject and knew subject slightly from going back and forth to the dining room to eat. He stated everyone in the penitentiary knew RAY by his reputation as he had attempted to escape several times. FLETCHER stated he had reported RAY as being missing at the time of his escape on April 23, 1967, to Lieutenant BILLY "BOB" TURNER after he had heard from other inmates that RAY had escaped. FLETCHER stated it was rumored at that time that RAY was going to go to the State of Georgia if his escape was successful. FLETCHER was of the opinion that Major B. J. PORTER, presently at the penitentiary at Jefferson City, would be aware of the inmates who furnished information concerning RAY's intentions to go to Georgia.

FLETCHER stated he had no knowledge or information concerning RAY following RAY's escape, and that he would be unable to make any suggestion as to where RAY might be found at this time.

Date May 8, 1968

ORVILLE ERNEST GANN was interviewed at Dismas House, 901 Cole Street, at which time he advised that his last Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) number was 69729. GANN stated he first entered the MSP in August, 1926, on a four-year sentence of burglary from Butler County, Missouri. He re-entered the MSP April, 1931, on a 25-year sentence for murder from Butler County and entered a third time in April, 1955, on a 20-year sentence for armed robbery at St. Louis, Missouri. He was released from this institution on parole to Dismas House on April 9, 1968.

GANN is presently employed in maintenance work at the Milner Hotel, 20th and Washington, but is seeking employment as an employee of the Missouri State Hospital on Arsenal Street in the laundry department. GANN expects to be residing soon with his wife, EILEEN MASCHINO, 4040 Laclede in St. Louis.

GANN knew subject RAY casually while they were both inmates in MSP at Jefferson City. During the period of this casual acquaintance, RAY was living in K Hall while GANN was a resident of J Hall. Their association consisted of casual passing in the hallways of the institution, some slight association in the yard and slight association based on the fact that RAY worked on the food detail and sometimes served special dishes to GANN and GANN reciprocated by giving RAY special consideration in connection with his laundry service since GANN was assigned to the laundry in the institution. GANN recalled that RAY was always a neat, clean individual, but he stated he could not picture RAY as a person who would plan and carry out an assassination such as that committed on Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING.

GANN stated he had never heard RAY or anyone else in the institution discuss any plans concerning the assassination of KING or anyone else for a monetary consideration. He recalled vaguely the name COOLEY (phonetic) among inmates in the MSP but could not place this individual as to race or any associates. When questioned concerning possible close associates of subject RAY while he was in the MSP, GANN named one CARL DRAKE, age about 40, tinner, who has returned to the St. Louis area and was recently shot in South St. Louis in a tavern brawl. He also mentioned one "RED" RICHARDSON employed in a small cleaning establishment in the 1600 block of South Jefferson in St. Louis, Missouri.

When questioned concerning any individuals in the MSP who might be capable of planning a major assassination such as that of

On 5/6/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775

by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL/mjb
SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD Date dictated 5/6/68

SL: 44-775

KING he named BOBBY ASH, current inmate of the penitentiary who is doing 30 years for armed robbery in the vicinity of Kansas City, Missouri. He also named JIM BRADLEY, who is serving time in the penitentiary for killing a St. Louis policeman. He described the majority of the MSP inmates as small time hoodlums but advised that ASH and BRADLEY may have connections on the outside that would afford them information such as a planned assassination. He attributed political connections to ASH.

He pointed out at the time of RAY's escape from the penitentiary he, GANN, was not ~~confined~~ at Jefferson City but at the honor farm located at Fordland near Springfield, Missouri.

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SL: 44-775
HRD:jfb

RE: FELLOW PRISONERS

AT MOBERLY, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES A. DUFFEY:

Convict JOHN EDWARD JOHNSON, Number 00876, Men's Training Center, advised on May 3, 1968, he knew subject when both of them were prisoners were at Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri. He was never a close associate of RAY and last saw him in 1964. He has observed photographs in the newspaper recently and recognized them as being of the person he knew as JIM RAY.

He never heard RAY make any antagonistic remarks concerning Negroes and never heard him mention Dr. KING.

The names "COOLEY" or "COOLEY Associates" was not familiar to him. He never heard any gossip at the prison that any amount of money would be paid to anyone for the death of KING. He was unable to suggest the name of any person who would have been a close associate or confidant of subject.

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SL 44-775
HRD:paw

Fellow Prisoner: PAUL ARTHUR LAIL, JR.

The Springfield Division, on April 26, 1968, requested that the Miami Division be furnished available information in St. Louis files concerning PAUL ARTHUR LAIL, JR. for the assistance of the Miami Division in conducting an interview of LAIL at his residence, 34 Barbodos Drive, Palm Springs, West Palm Beach, Florida.

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

A review of St. Louis files on April 27, 1968, concerning PAUL ARTHUR LAIL, JR. disclosed that LAIL had been sentenced at Stoddard County, Missouri, on June 20, 1963, on a fraudulent check charge. He escaped on June 22 or 23, 1963, by sawing the bars of the jail. Process for unlawful flight to avoid confinement was issued, and LAIL was subsequently apprehended at Galesburg, Illinois, on October 12, 1963. He was returned to local authorities.

LAIL WAS CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS BECAUSE HE HAD A .22 CALIBER WEAPON.

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SL 44-775
HRD:paw

Fellow Prisoner: ERIC LARSON, No. 0877

AT MOBERLY, MISSOURI

A review of the records of the Missouri Training School for Men at Moberly, Missouri, by SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN on April 26, 1968, failed to disclose that ERIC LARSON is now, or has ever been, an inmate of that institution. Officials of the Training School advised that No. 0877 is not a Moberly number.

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SL: 44-775
HRD:jfb

RE: FELLOW PRISONER

AT MOBERLY, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES A. DUFFEY:

Convict FRANK MAYBERRY, Number 13763, Men's Training Center, advised on May 3, 1968, he was only in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, from December, 1962, until August, 1963, when he was paroled. He thereafter violated his parole and was sent to the Renz Prison Farm until he was discharged on May 15, 1964. He was again sentenced in March, 1965, and sent to the Missouri State Penitentiary. Except for the thirty day processing section on each occasion he was assigned to the "L" Hall outside the walls.

He was unable to recall ever seeing or hearing anything about subject until after the assassination of KING.

MAYBERRY stated he had never heard any mention of "COOLEY" or "COOLEY Associates" in prison and he was not aware of any prison gossip to the effect that the killing of Dr. KING might be worth some money. He was unable to suggest the identity of any individual who might have been closely associated with RAY and he had no information concerning him.

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SL 44-775
WRD:pjh

FORMER INMATES INCARCERATED WITH JAMES EARL RAY

The Jacksonville Division by communication dated April 30, 1968, advised that BILLIE MILES, presently at the new prison at Moberly, Missouri, was an acquaintance of JAMES EARL RAY.

The following investigation was conducted by SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN on April 30, 1968:

AT MOBERLY, MISSOURI:

Mr. A. H. BALDWIN, Associate Warden, Missouri Training School for Men, Moberly, Missouri, advised from records that the only two MILES he presently has in the institution are JOHN SHERMAN MILES, FBI #367 878 D, and LAVELLA MILES, FBI #388 565 B.

The institution at one time had BILLY MAC MILES, also known as MILLY MAX MILES, FBI #89 784 C, who was transferred from Moberly to Fordland, an honor camp, operated in the Missouri Prison System out of Jefferson City, Missouri, on February 10, 1964. He came to the institution originally on August 16, 1963, transferred to Moberly, September 13, 1963, transferred to Fordland, September 10, 1964.

Mr. BALDWIN determined by telephone from Jefferson City from Mr. DON BUNKER of the Records Office, that MILES was paroled from Fordland on September 29, 1964, returned as a parole violator on May 31, 1966, and released from Jefferson City on January 20, 1967, upon completion of his sentence. His relatives were listed as father - GARIE MILES, Marshfield, Missouri; wife - SHIRLEY SUE MILES, 612 Burford Street, Marshfield, Missouri.

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SL 44-775
WRD:pjh

FORMER INMATES INCARCERATED WITH JAMES EARL RAY

The Kansas City Division by communication dated May 1, 1968, advised that FRED MILLER, Missouri Corrections #02273, and FRED HENRY MILLER, Missouri Corrections #66535, are both incarcerated at the Missouri Training School for Men at Moberly, Missouri, and were former inmates of subject JAMES EARL RAY.

The following investigation was conducted by SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN on May 1, 1968:

AT MOBERLY, MISSOURI:

FRED HENRY MILLER, white, male, Missouri Training School for Men #66535, advised that he was convicted and sentenced to a life term for murder on November 2, 1952, in Wayne County, Missouri. He served time at Jefferson City, Missouri, from November, 1952, through July 1965, when he was transferred to Moberly, Missouri. He was transferred back to Jefferson City, Missouri, during August 1966, and stayed there until February 4, 1968, when he was transferred back to Moberly, Missouri. During this time he was Hall Tender of "A" Hall and a clerk in the Honor Barracks. He knew JAMES EARL RAY by sight and by reputation. He knows nothing personally about him and was not even a speaking acquaintance. He is the only FRED MILLER he has known either in Jefferson City or Moberly in the 15½ years that he has been there.

Mrs. PAULINE DICKERSON, Missouri Training School for Men, advised that they have no record of a FRED MILLER, #02273, and this is not even a good number for the Missouri Training School for Men.

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SL 44-775
KAW:amb

RE: FELLOW PRISONER JAMES LOMA OWENS

The following investigation was conducted by SAs KENNETH A. WILLIAMS and JOHN O. TRETHEWEY, JR. at St. Louis, Missouri

The records of the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, reflect the last known address listed for JAMES LOMA OWENS as being in care of his wife, BETTY OWENS, 4447 Rosemary, Berkeley, Missouri.

On April 25, 1968, it was observed that Rosemary Lane, Berkeley, Missouri, extends only from 9336 through 9522. A review of the St. Louis City and St. Louis County Directories for the 9300 through the 9500 block of Rosemary Lane listed no one named OWENS living in the area.

On April 24, 1968, IC JOHN D. DYER, JR. ascertained that the Commercial Credit Rating Company has no record of JAMES LOMA OWENS.

The records of the St. Louis Police Department reflect the last known address for OWENS, listed in October, 1959, as 4023 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri. This address is now occupied by non-Caucasians.

On May 6, 1968, Mrs. MARY LEVAN, Secretary, Barbers Union #102, 2133 Hampton Avenue, advised a search of the active and inactive members of Union #102 failed to reflect any records to JAMES LOMA OWENS. She also advised that she examined the records of licenses issued to barbers who are non-members of the union and also advised these records were negative concerning OWENS. She stated Barbers Union 102 includes Jefferson, Franklin, St. Charles, and St. Louis Counties as well as the City of St. Louis, Missouri. She also advised that a convicted felon cannot receive a barber's license in the State of Missouri.

On May 7, 1968, Mrs. EMMA MC CLURE, 9447 Rosemary Lane, Berkeley, Missouri, advised her daughter, BETTY, was formerly married to JAMES LOMA OWENS. They were divorced six years ago and BETTY has remarried, living somewhere in the greater St. Louis area. She advised that she was under

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the impression that OWENS was still serving a sentence in the Missouri State Penitentiary. She advised she is positive that her daughter, BETTY, does not know the whereabouts of OWENS. Mrs. MC CLURE stated she does not know where her daughter is living since their relationship is very estranged and she, herself, had not seen her daughter in the past 18 months. She advised her daughter married an individual named JESSE SMITH but she did not know any further information concerning him. Mrs. MC CLURE advised that she did not approve of her daughter's marriage to OWENS and actually knew very little concerning him or his background. She stated OWENS' mother reportedly lives in Honolulu, Hawaii, and she would venture a guess that he is most likely to be incarcerated in some penal institution since he was always breaking the law.

On May 6, 1968, Mrs. DAVIDA WILKIN, Secretary, Missouri State Board of Pardon and Parole, 1500 Big Bend Boulevard, advised she possessed no record of JAMES LOMA OWENS as a current parolee. She advised complete records of all current and former state parolees are maintained in Jefferson City, Missouri, and records are returned to Jefferson City after a parolee becomes inactive.

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SL 44-775
HRD: amb

RE: PRISON INMATE LEO HOLDEN PARKER

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

The Kansas City Division advised on April 26, 1968, captioned prisoner at Missouri State Penitentiary claimed he was innocent of the crime of kidnaping for which he was being imprisoned; that the victims had identified a retouched photograph of him; and that victims claimed their kidnaper stated he had broken out of prison and needed a car. He felt he bore such a physical resemblance to subject RAY that RAY might actually have been responsible for the kidnaping.

The following investigation was conducted by SA HAROLD R. DOBSON on April 26, 1968, telephonically:

Detectives JOHN L. PIPING and EDWARD ALLERS, 5th District, St. Louis, Missouri, Police Department, advised there is no actual similarity of features or appearance between LEO HOLDEN PARKER and subject RAY. They denies that a retouched photograph had been utilized in the identification of PARKER and stated that a copy of the regular mug photograph which had been used would be available at 5th District Headquarters on the following day. They stated that comparison of that photograph with the photograph of subject RAY failed to disclose any similarities.

They advised further that PARKER is known as a "jail house lawyer" and conducted his own defense at the time of his trial. They ventured the opinion that PARKER is mentally unbalanced.

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SL 44-775
JEL/leh

RE: RAY LOOK-ALIKE - LEON HOLDEN PARKER

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by SAs
JAMES E. LINDSAY and LAWRENCE B. CURTIN:

On April 27, 1968, Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE MC QUADE, JR., 4708 Plover, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that photograph of JAMES EARL RAY is not identical to LEO HOLDEN PARKER, the person who kidnapped them and stole their vehicle.

Mrs. MC QUADE who is the former RITA BROCKELMAN, advised that similarities in PARKER's hairline with JAMES EARL RAY, but PARKER is one who they identified as the kidnapper.

GEORGE MC QUADE advised he saw no similarity between PARKER and JAMES EARL RAY.

He advised that PARKER from his observation is a "nut," and thinks he is a legal brain, and attempted to conduct his own defense. MC QUADE advised that PARKER was identified in open court as the person who committed this local crime.

Mr. MC QUADE advised that he believes that PARKER is trying to obtain coverage in the news media and attempt to get another trial.

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SL: 44-775
JDD: pdp

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

RE: RAY PRISON ASSOCIATES
ROBERT DALE PORTER
POLICE CHECK

The following investigation was conducted by
IC JOHN D. DYER, JR.:

On April 25, 1968, a review of the records at the
Metropolitan St. Louis Police Department disclosed the following
arrests for ROBERT DALE PORTER, St. Louis Police Department
number 56229:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
September 13, 1946	Larceny of auto	November 1, 1946, pleaded guilty to charge of climbing in and upon a motor vehicle without owner's consent - sen- tenced to three months in city workhouse
October 30, 1956	Investigation - suspect larceny	Released
January 7, 1957	Suspect fugitive Dinuba, California (child abandonment, non-support, bigamy)	Turned over to East St. Louis, Illinois, authorities
September 7, 1957	Suspect burglary	Released

The St. Louis Police Department records disclosed the
following background and descriptive data regarding PORTER:

Sex	Male
Race	White
Date, place of birth	[redacted] Clerinda, Iowa
Height	5'11"
Weight	166

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SL: 44-775

Hair
Eyes
Build
Complexion
Tattoos

Brown
Blue
Slender
Ruddy
"CHERYLE" on right upper arm,
outer;
"BOB LOVES WINNER" on right
forearm outer;
Wings and "AAF" left upper forearm;
"MOM AND DAD" left forearm outer
Two inch scar right thumb
Wears glasses
Laborer
4590482

Scars
Peculiarities
Occupation
FBI Number
Addresses

September 1946 - 2736 Caroline
Street, St. Louis, Missouri;
Waverly, Iowa;
October 1956 - Oriole Hotel, 607
Pine Street, St. Louis;
January 1957 - 5139 Enright,
St. Louis;

Wives

December 1967 - 3819 Wyandotte,
Kansas City, Missouri
MARIAN ELIZABETH PORTER, nee
HANEY, Negro female, born in
Tennessee, address 2502 Marcus
Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, in
November 1956;
JOSIE LUNA PORTER, married
November 3, 1955, Dinuba,
California, residing 270 South
L Street, Dinuba, California,
January 1957;
MARY MARTHA PORTER, 3819 Wyandotte,
Kansas City, Missouri, December
1967
HAROLD and CLARA PORTER, Waverly,
Iowa, September 1946
NINA DE GROOTE, Waverly, Iowa,
also shown as NINA ACKER
April 1946, Iowa, April 1946;
BETTY SPURBECK, Waverly, Iowa,
September 1946

Parents

Sisters

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SL: 44-775
HGS:jfb

RE: RAY FELLOW PRISONERS
ROBERT POWELL

AT FARMINGTON, MISSOURI, AND DOE RUN, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent HOWARD G. SLACK on April 25, 1968, in order to locate ROBERT POWELL, former inmate at the Missouri School for Men. This investigation was predicated on receipt of a communication from the Kansas City Division which advised that JAMES R. RUSSELL was a fellow inmate of JAMES EARL RAY. RUSSELL advised that ROBERT POWELL was also a fellow prisoner of RAY.

Mrs. OPEL POWELL, Doe Run, Missouri, was interviewed at her residence and advised that she is the mother of ROBERT POWELL, who was released from prison in February, 1968. Mrs. POWELL stated she did not know her son's address but believed that he was employed in St. Louis.

Mrs. POWELL viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY but stated she had never seen him nor had her son mentioned his name.

On April 29, 1968, ROBERT LYNN POWELL advised he was in prison at Jefferson City, Missouri, from January 16, 1967, to February 1, 1968. He stated that he knew JAMES EARL RAY only slightly since they both had worked in food service in prison. POWELL advised that he may have talked to RAY but they were not friends. POWELL further advised that he did not know of any background information concerning RAY and he had no information concerning RAY's escape from the prison and did not know whether or not RAY used narcotics. POWELL stated that RAY was somewhat of a loner and no one was very close to him. POWELL stated that he had no idea of RAY's present whereabouts.

1Date May 8, 1968

JAMES EDWARD "TED" RICHARDSON, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) #49632, was interviewed at his place of employment, the Jefferson Cleaning Shop, 1650 South Jefferson. His residence is in the rear of this establishment. RICHARDSON furnished information that he was born [redacted] at Chillicothe, Missouri, and entered the MSP on a murder charge from Trenton, Missouri, in May, 1935. He was sentenced to "death row" at that time but his death sentence was later commuted. He was released from MSP on March 30, 1965, and has resided in the St. Louis area since that time.

He described RAY as one of the "nuts" or "cowboys" who according to RICHARDSON were small time hoodlums who would be involved in most any type or petty thievery or gangsterism going on inside the institution.

RICHARDSON stated he knew subject RAY only casually since he worked more than 20 years in the hospital in the institution under Doctor HUGH W. MANLEY. RICHARDSON stated he read some publicity concerning RAY escaping shortly after it occurred but had heard nothing indicating that subject RAY had been in St. Louis or made any contacts in the St. Louis area since that time.

He described RAY as one of the inmates who used narcotics or medicine of any kind whenever obtainable. He stated that his most frequent encounter with RAY was upon the occasions of RAY's reporting to the hospital for sick call.

On 5/6/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL/mjb
SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD Date dictated 5/6/68

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SL 44-775
HRD:paw

Fellow Prisoner: DONALD DEAN RIGGER

AT MOBERLY, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by
SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN on April 26, 1968.

Inmate DONALD DEAN RIGGER, Number 03959, Missouri Training School for Men, Moberly, Missouri, advised that he had been convicted in December of 1951, and had been an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, from December, 1951, through August of 1967. While there, he worked in the kitchen at the Penitentiary with RAY. RIGGER stated that no one was really friendly with RAY.

RIGGER stated that prior to his apprehension he had jumped bond and had been in Salpillo Coahuila, Mexico. Following his apprehension, he received mail from Mexico. RAY was aware of this and asked questions of him concerning the economy in Mexico. He indicated particular interest in the Mexican Army structure. RIGGER explained it was generally understood by inmates that if they could get into the Mexican Army they could effectively lose their identities.

RIGGER stated that in his estimation the person who was most closely associated with RAY was inmate DONALD JOHNSON, who, to the best of his knowledge, is currently employed in the bread room at the Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City, Missouri.

RIGGER was unable to offer any suggestions as to the present whereabouts of subject.

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SL 44-775

HRD:paw

FELLOW PRISONERS

AT MOBERLY, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by
SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN on April 25, 1968.

JAMES R. RUSSELL, inmate, Missouri Training School for Men, Moberly, Missouri, advised he had been committed to the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, in November of 1965, and had remained confined there until January, 1966, when he was transferred to Moberly, Missouri. He was released in February, 1967, but went back to Jefferson City as a parole violator in June of that year. He was in the same cell with ROBERT POWELL, also known as BOB POWELL, from August, 1967, to January, 1968.

RUSSELL stated he knew JAMES EARL RAY by reputation only, but did not know him personally. RUSSELL was in the prison kitchen at Jefferson City and also worked with POWELL. He said POWELL mentioned that RAY, because of his escape, was the cause of prison officials cutting down the size of the boxes used to hold bread from the main kitchen. It was his belief that POWELL was released in February, 1968, and was thereafter employed by the American Car Company in St. Louis. To his understanding, POWELL is now in the Los Angeles area. He was of the opinion that POWELL's sister, [REDACTED], who is a student at Farmington, Missouri, High School, might be aware of POWELL's current residence.

RUSSELL stated he recalled a Negro penitentiary guard named BILLY BOB TURNER, but stated he had never heard anyone say that TURNER should be dead.

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SL 44-775
CBB/WHW:amb

RE: FELLOW PRISONER - JOHN PAUL VELANTI

The following investigation was conducted at St. Louis, Missouri, by SAs CLETIS B. BIDEWELL and WILLIAM H. WARFIELD on May 3, 1968:

OPAL HIGHLEY, owner of the property 1630 through 1636 South 18th Street, advised that one JOHNNY VELANTI resides in an upstairs apartment at 1630 South 18th. He has resided there for approximately eight or nine months and is employed as a radio broadcaster at the Lady of the Snows FM Radio Station, WMRY, Belleville, Illinois. She advised that VELANTI worked from about 11:00 a.m. until sometime around 8:00 p.m. but frequently did not return home until around midnight.

Efforts to interview VELANTI on that date were negative. Appointment was made with VELANTI for an interview on the morning of May 4, 1968, at the St. Louis FBI Office.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 5-7-68

JOHN PAUL VELANTI, 1632 South 18th Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was interviewed at the St. Louis Office of the FBI and furnished the following information:

He viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as depicted on Wanted Flyer #442-A dated April 19, 1968. He advised that none of these photographs resembled RAY as he recalls him. He advised that the picture of RAY in the bow tie particularly does not resemble him. He viewed a photograph of RAY taken by the St. Louis Police Department October 10, 1959, and stated this is a very good likeness of RAY as he recalls him.

He advised that as a result of his employment as a radio announcer he has frequently broadcast news releases regarding RAY but failed to recognize RAY as a fellow inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary until viewing his photograph in a newspaper.

He described RAY as a quiet type who was seldom noticed. RAY did not gamble, play sports, or do anything to attract attention to himself while at the Missouri State Penitentiary. He does not recall having ever spoken with RAY or having been in the same dormitory as RAY. However, he does recall RAY's face from having seen him at the penitentiary. He advised that RAY's escape attempts attracted no attention to RAY inasmuch as there were frequent such attempts by numerous inmates.

VELANTI advised that he was in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, from February 13, 1960, to December 19, 1964, at which time he was transferred to the Moberly Minimum Security Prison at Moberly, Missouri. In December, 1966, he was transferred to the honor camp at Fordland, Missouri. He was released on parole March 21, 1967. He was sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary February 11, 1959, to serve a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

While in the Missouri State Penitentiary VELANTI advised that at one time or another he lived in all of the halls. However, he does not believe he was ever housed in the same hall as RAY.

On 5-4-68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD
SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL WHW:amb Date dictated 5-4-68

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While at the Missouri State Penitentiary he never heard of money being offered for the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING or anyone else. He advised that it was common knowledge that anyone could "pick up a few bucks by killing guys like that." He suggested that organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan or other southern organizations commonly referred to as the Klan resisting the present integration movement might pay for the death of KING or other Negro leaders.

VELANTI recalls that ORVILLE GANN, also known as PAPPY, who presently resides at the Dismas House, St. Louis, Missouri, lived in F&G Hall at the Missouri State Penitentiary with RAY. VELANTI believes that he has seen GANN speaking with RAY at the penitentiary. VELANTI has not seen GANN since he was released but has heard that GANN was released from the penitentiary approximately one month ago. He recalls JOHNNY JOHNSON, FRANK MAYBERRY, KENNY HURT, and NONEY EDEN as fellow inmates at the Missouri State Penitentiary. He believes the true name of NONEY EDEN to be JAMES EDEN. He explained that EDEN is tongue-tied and was nicknamed NONEY for his inability to pronounce bolcna. He is unaware of EDEN's present whereabouts.

VELANTI advised that the name COOLEY (phonetic) and Cooley's Organization have no meaning to him. He advised that COOLEY may apply to a Negro inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary whose true identity is unknown to him.

The following description and background information was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	JOHN PAUL VELANTI
Address	1632 South 18th Street, St. Louis, Missouri
Employment	Announcer at WMRY, FM, 9500 West Route 460, Belleville, Illinois
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Portsmouth, Virginia
Height	5'9"
Weight	180
Hair	Black, slightly receding
Eyes	Brown

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Tattoos	Butterfly and snake on left outer forearm; "Bayou Kid" and alligator riding a pig on right outer forearm
Admitted convictions	1949, sentenced to five years Louisiana State Penitentiary, burglary, served three years and five months; 1956 to 1957, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, imper- sonating a Federal Agent; February 11, 1959, sentenced to 20 years Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, armed robbery; Served at Missouri State Peni- tentiary February 13, 1960, to December, 1964; December, 1964, to December, 1966, at Moberly, Missouri; December, 1966, to March 21, 1967, honor camp at Fordland, Missouri, parole officer - Mr. HICKMAN, 1500 Big Bend, Richmond Heights
Military service	U. S. Army, 1952 to 1959, Serial Number RA 18 426 869
Relatives	Brother, ANTHONY VELANTI, age 45, unknown address, New Orleans, Louisiana. Advises he has numerous brothers and sisters who are unknown to him due to the fact that he was reared by foster parents; Foster father, ROBERT DUTTON JACKSON, Deltaville, Virginia, deceased; Foster mother, LAURA JACKSON, nee DANIEL, Deltaville, Virginia
Education	Public schools at Deltaville, Virginia
Religion	Catholic.

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PRISON ASSOCIATES OF
JAMES EARL RAY

The following investigation was conducted by IC JOHN D. DYER, JR.:

On April 30, 1968, a review of the records at the Metropolitan St. Louis Police Department, St. Louis, Missouri, disclosed RAY EUGENE WARREN, St. Louis Police Department #70871, was arrested on August 5, 1954, for robbery and was sentenced on November 9, 1954 to serve 20 years in the Missouri State Penitentiary and was subsequently sentenced on February 10, 1955, to serve an additional 10 years in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

The records of the Metropolitan St. Louis Police Department contained the following descriptive and background data concerning WARREN:

Sex
Race
Date of birth
Place of birth
Height

Weight
Hair
Eyes
Build
Complexion
Tattoos

Male
White
[REDACTED]
Palmer, Missouri
Five feet, seven and one
half inches
152
Brown
Blue
Medium
Ruddy
LOVE on fingers of right
hand; RAY on fingers
of left hand; chain
around right wrist;
flowers on top of left
hand; numerous undescribed
tattoos on both arms