Five months after his parole from Pontiac, Ray was picked up in East Alton for burglary of a cleaning shop. The charge was dropped.

The record then points to Kansas City, Mo., where he was arrested for forging U.S. postal money orders. He served from 1955 to 1958 in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan.

IN 1959, RAY hit the big time. He and an accomplice, James Owens, were convicted of the $120 armed robbery of a St. Louis supermarket.

He was sentenced to 20 years in prison on Dec. 17, 1959. By that time, Ray had had his taste of prisons and didn't like it.

On the way to court for his final hearing, Ray tried to dash away from guards, but was captured. He was sent to the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, where he made two unsuccessful escape attempts.

But success finally came. On April 23, 1967, Ray was reported missing from the prison. He escaped by hiding in a box in a truck leaving the prison.

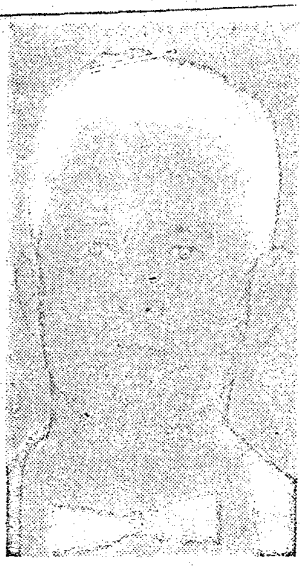
IN THE YEAR that has passed since then, he left a shadowy trail. FBI agents know that he was living in a Birmingham (Ala.) rooming house in September and October.

They know he paid $2,000 in cash for a white sports car and purchased a rifle in a Birmingham gun shop. They have no idea where the money came from.

There are reports of him taking dancing lessons in Birmingham and New Orleans. Other reports had him in a bartending school in Long Beach, Calif.

There were reports of long auto trips—from Los Angeles to New Orleans and back between Dec. 15 and 21.

Then there was the last report—the one in which he is alleged to have fled from a sleazy Memphis rooming house after shooting Dr. King from the narrow window of a bathroom.

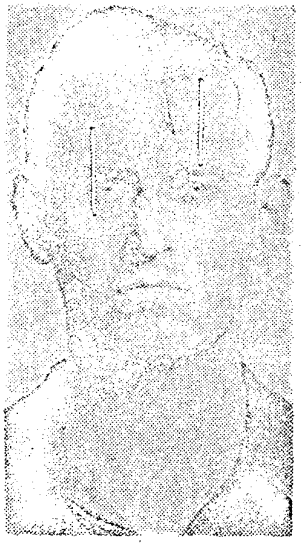


FBI photo, 1968

Jefferson City, 1966

FBI photo, 1960

St. Louis, 1959



Chicago, 1952

James Ray's many faces

James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer, John Willard, James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Conner, appeared to have as many faces as he had had names.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

How Suspect Fled Prison In Bread Box

By James Dewey

James Earl Ray, identified as the suspected slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City by hiding in a bread box aboard a bakery truck, it was learned Friday.

The prison's warden, Harold Swenson, said Ray worked in the prison's food service building and had access to trucks that delivered bread baked at the prison to prison farms outside. Swenson said it was Ray's third escape attempt.

The warden said Ray apparently curled up in one of the large wooden bread boxes in which the bread was carried and covered himself with a layer of loaves. The box was then loaded into the back of the bread truck and driven outside the prison.

He apparently jumped from the truck before it made its delivery to the farm, Swenson said.

Swenson estimated the escape took place between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. on April 23, 1967. Ray's disappearance was first noticed at the 5 p.m. prisoner count.

On March 14, 1966, Ray was found hiding in a ventilator shaft while trying to escape. On Nov. 19, 1961, he tried to go over the prison walls by using a ladder. The ladder collapsed.

Swenson described Ray as a "loner."

"I don't think anyone liked him or disliked him," the warden said. "He had no close associates or friends."

Swenson said Ray did not appear to be a racist in prison and he had no fights with Negro prisoners.

"There was no record of any altercation and to the best of my knowledge there was no record that he was a racist," the warden said.

Except for his escape attempts Ray had a reasonably good prison record, Swenson said. He was reported only twice in the seven years he was in prison for breaking discipline and both reports were for minor infractions, Swenson said.

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TELLING SUSPECT'S PAST

Native of Illinois; Seized Here in '52

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Identified as James Ray, Escaped Con

BY JAMES YUENGER
[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Washington, April 19 — James Earl Ray, an Illinois native and fugitive from the Missouri state penitentiary, was identified today as the "Eric Starvo Galt" wanted in connection with the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said the identification was made thru fingerprints.

The FBI said that Ray, 40, was born March 10, 1928, in Alton, Ill., and claimed to have attended school thru the 10th grade there.

Convicted in Chicago

Included in his long criminal record was a conviction for armed robbery in Chicago in 1952 and time served in Illinois state prisons at Joliet and Pontiac from 1952 to 1954.

He is described as being approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighing 163 to 174 pounds. He has blue eyes and brown hair. There is a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand.

Ray escaped April 23, 1967, from the penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo., where he began serving a 20-year sentence in 1960 for a conviction in St. Louis for armed robbery and operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner.

Nothing About Brother

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced in a statement that the identification was made after [illegible] Wednesday [illegible] Birmingham, Ala., for conspiracy in the slaying of Dr. King in Memphis. He is being sought on a Tennessee murder charge.

There was nothing in the statement about a man who, the FBI said, was alleged by Galt to be his brother, and with whom he conspired, the warrant said, to assassinate Dr. King. The FBI refused to amplify the statement.

Hoover said that a "systematic and exhaustive" matching of latent fingerprints uncovered in the King case and the prints of the 53,000 persons on the FBI's "wanted" list determined that Ray and "Galt" are the same man.

In addition to "Galt," the FBI said that other aliases used by Ray include Harvey Lowmyer, John Willard, James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron, and James O'Conner.

"Willard" was the name given to the landlady of a flophouse in Memphis on April 4 by the man suspected of shooting Dr. King. Firing from the flophouse's bathroom, he shot Dr. King as the Negro civil rights leader stood on the balcony of a nearby motel.

Record Dates to 1948

The suspect fled immediately, but he left behind a Remington 30.06 caliber rifle and several fingerprints.

Hoover said that Ray's known arrest record dates back to 1948. In addition to the armed robbery conviction in Chicago in 1952, he was convicted of burglary in Los Angeles in 1949 and of forging United States postal money orders in Missouri in [illegible]

In addition to his prison terms in Illinois, the Missouri and Los Angeles convictions, he served time in the Los Angeles county jail in 1949 and in the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., from 1950 to 1952.

The FBI announcement contradicts in one respect the announcement made Wednesday, in which the agency stated that a warrant had been issued for the arrest of Galt. At that time, the FBI said the suspect took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1967. The announcement today places the suspect in the Missouri state prison during those two years.

Served in Army

After serving as an army enlisted man from February, 1946, to December, 1948, Ray was given a general discharge for "ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service." While in the army, he was sentenced to three months at hard labor for drunkenness and breaking arrest.

Hoover said that Ray has the reputation of having been a drifter since he left school in Alton. He is known to have worked as a baker and laborer.

The FBI said on Wednesday that Ray had completed a bartender's course in March of this year in Los Angeles.

He should be considered armed and extremely dangerous, the FBI said.

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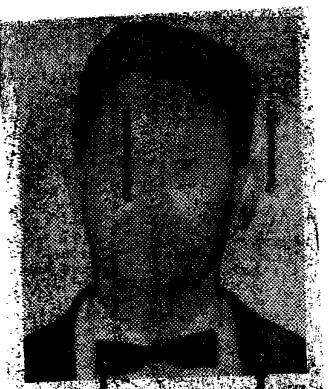
1952—James Earl Ray was convicted of armed robbery in Chicago. Pictures that follow trace his life since that conviction.

1960—Sentenced to 20 years for robbery in St. Louis.

1959—Photograph also made when Ray was arrested and convicted of armed robbery.

1960—Police photo of Ray after he began prison term.

[illegible] identification [illegible] penitentiary.



1968—FBI picture with eyes drawn in of suspect taken after he assumed alias of Eric Starvo Galt.

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They Remember His Boyhood In Missouri Town

By Burnell Heinecke
Sun-Times Correspondent

EWING, Mo.—People here remember James Earl Ray as a schoolboy who lived with his mother, stepfather and brother in a ramshackle house outside of town.

They must have been destitute, for the story is still told here that when they moved away the house collapsed. The stepfather, Jerry Raynes, had stripped the interior of everything that would burn and had chopped it up for kindling wood.

"Jerry Raynes was slow as life but honest," said one resident of this town, about 145 miles north of St. Louis and about 20 miles west of Ray's old home in Quincy, Ill.

Mrs. Thelma Ball, a schoolteacher, said the family moved here from Quincy about 1935. They stayed until about 1943.

The two boys went to school here, and records show they were enrolled under the names Jimmy was James Earl Ray, Jimmy was James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, a ne'er-do-well who escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary where he was serving a 20-year term as a habitual criminal and who is now sought in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Jimmy, whose school records say he was born in 1928, started the first grade when he was seven. He flunked that grade and had to do it over.

However, the boy completed the fourth and fifth grades in a single year.

In 1943 he had been given a conditional promotion from the eighth grade and was in the ninth grade when, in the spring of that year, his family took him out of school and moved back to Quincy.

Records show that Jimmy's brother Jack was born in 1933, but for some unknown reason attended school only two years—in 1939 and 1940.

One of the oddities of Jimmy's school record, according to Mrs. Ball, is that his first-grade registration form is accompanied by a fingerprint. She was at a loss to explain it.

In Quincy, a sister of Ray's stepfather, Mrs. Mabel Fuller, said she had not seen any of the family in years.

"The only time I knew they were living in Quincy was back in the 1940s," she said. "They lived here just a short time and left. I didn't know my brother had died until a few years after his death."

Mrs. Fuller said she understood that Ray's mother, Lu-

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cille, had been back in Quincy and had had "several more children" in addition to Jimmy and Jack.

"All the children were put in an orphanage after they left here the last time, I understand," Mrs. Fuller said. "Some of them were here in 1955 for their grantmother's funeral."

James Earl Ray's mother lived in Quincy during the late 1950s at 214 Spring St. under the name of Mrs. Lucille Ryan.

Donald Toomey, 67, a neighbor, said that at that time the mother had two sons in prison and five children living with her.

One of the children, Melba Ryan, who now lives in Quincy, said the name Ryan was chosen by her mother because she wanted the children to attend Catholic schools.

Last year Melba Ryan was picked up and questioned by police after they saw her carrying a 7-foot cross on the street. She explained she was on her way to a Catholic church to have the cross blessed and had turned down the wrong street.

She said her mother died nine years ago in St. Louis, about the time James Earl Ray was sentenced to prison.

Whatever police record James Earl Ray may have had in Quincy is being withheld by local police, who refuse to discuss the case.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were in Quincy checking out the background of Ray, who is believed to have used such aliases as Harvey Lowmeyer, John Willard, James McBridge, James Wilton, W. C. Herron and James O'Connor.

Ray was born in Alton, Ill. He has a criminal record dating from 1949. His last sentence was for armed robbery and auto theft.

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WIDEN HUNT FOR RAY

FBI Checks Tips Here

By Art Petacque

FBI agents and Chicago detectives Saturday methodically combed rooming houses and taverns in three sections of the city in the massive hunt for James Earl Ray, suspected killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The investigators carried a series of pictures of Ray, a convict, drifter and habitue of society's back alleys who uses numerous aliases, including the name of Eric Starvo Galt.

The intensive, nationwide search for Ray, named Saturday to the FBI's list of "10 Most Wanted Fugitives," focused on cheap rooming houses because of the suspect's long history of frequenting them.

Investigators, characterizing Ray as a "cheap holdup man" and a "sneak thief," said the fugitive, until recently, was broke most of the time.

They checked more than 30 roughhouse-type taverns that feature either country music bands or jukebox recordings, a style of music found enchanting by Ray.

Agents and detectives also ran down a large number of tips on Ray's whereabouts provided by Chicagoans.

In a related local development, The Sun-Times learned that lawmen were hunting a man who had leased an apartment at 853 W. Fullerton in the early 1950s and rented rooms to lodgers, including Ray.

The murder suspect lived at the Fullerton address at the time of his arrest in Chicago on May 6, 1952, for the $11 robbery of a taxi driver.

Ray's temporary landlord disappeared several months after Ray was sent to the old Joliet Penitentiary and is being sought by the owners of the apartment, McCormick Theological Seminary, for defaulting in payment of rent.

The apartment is located only a long stone's throw from the Biograph Theater, where FBI agents gunned down the then public enemy No. 1, John Dillinger, in the 1930s.

Federal agents also were tracking down a long list of ex-convicts who served in prisons with Ray in the hope that they might be able to provide clues to his whereabouts.

A complicating element in the growing picture of Ray's

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life of crime. Shortly before the Dr. King assassination, he began using the name of Galt, he went on a spending spree.

During this period of sudden affluence, Ray, who has been characterized as a persistente thief, spent hundreds of dollars for dancing lessons, attended bartender's school and purchased an auto, binoculars, a rifle and other items.

It is this apparent financial transformation that has led investigators to speculate that Ray, if he did murder Dr. King, may have been supported in the venture by co-conspirators.

This theory was endorsed Saturday by Warden Harold Swenson of the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City, from which Ray escaped in a bread truck April 23, 1967.

Swenson said there was no doubt in his mind that Ray "could" have been a paid assassin. He termed the fugitive extremely dangerous, cold blooded and ruthless.

The plot theory also is strengthened by the fact that Ray, when left to his own devices, has bungled his criminal career at virtually every turn.

In the Chicago taxi holdup, for example, he was captured quickly when he blundered in climbing a 10-foot fence and fell through a window.

Two years later, two East Alton policemen heard Ray breaking into a cleaners in the Mississippi River town.

Ray, who lost his shoes in the burglary, escaped on foot, but was arrested later when police traced an auto he left at the scene of the break-in to Ray.

East Alton Police Chief Harold Riggins, who described the Dr. King murder suspect as "the most persistent liar I've ever talked to," said Ray's turned-up feet helped implicate him in the crime.

Cracks When Lying

Riggins, incidentally, said Ray tended to crack his feet in one direction or another when lying. Ray's brother, John, was beaten for lying at some time in his life and every time he told a lie instinctively he'd duck. It's head or twist it."

In 1959, according to Alton Police Chief William H. Petersen, Ray held up a small independent grocery, but was recognized by a policeman as he fled.

A robbery charge placed against him at that time was dropped when Ray subsequently was picked up in St. Louis soon after pulling another food store robbery and sentenced to 20 years in the Jefferson City prison under Missouri's habitual criminal act.

Ray's record of failure continued in prison, where he failed in three escape attempts before breaking out last year.

Sgt. Alonzo Gross of the prison staff told The Sun-Times Saturday that Ray crawled into a steam pipe, hid in a ventilator and climbed a ladder in his dead-end escape ventures. The third try came to naught when the ladder collapsed under Ray.

Gross said Ray was known as the "Junior Mole" by his fellow inmates because of his repeated breakout efforts. He said another prisoner, Jeff Quinn, who had escaped from the prison and been recaptured, was called "The Mole."

He said Quinn was released from the prison some time before Ray's escape, but there was no indication the two men were close.

One back-burner fear shared by investigators is that Ray, if he was a member of a conspiracy, might have been murdered by others involved in the assassination in order to cover their tracks.

Areas Of Search

The Chicago manhunt appeared to be concentrated in [illegible] Fullerton apartment where [illegible] lived until [illegible] ago.

The FBI [illegible] a warrant in Birmingham, Ala., last Wednesday charging the suspect under the name of Galt with conspiring to interfere with the civil rights of Dr. King.

A spokesman said it was Ray who had registered in a rooming house near the motel where Dr. King was staying. It was from that rooming house the fatal shot was fired.

Prints Compared

A comparison of the latent fingerprints uncovered in the room with 53,000 in FBI files revealed that Galt and Ray are the same person.

A fact leading probers to believe that Dr. King's suspected killer may have had an accomplice was the discovery that the name Eric Starvo Galt was used by a man who took dancing lessons in Los Angeles while Ray was in the Missouri prison.

Ray's "emergency" placement on the FBI's list of most-wanted criminals marked the second time in history that the list had been specially expanded from 10 to 15 persons.

The only other [illegible] ever given such a [illegible] was Richard Lawrence Marquette, who was sought for the butcher knife murder of an Oregon housewife in 1961. Marquette was arrested the day after he was put on the list.

Mexican authorities set up a special alert along the U.S.-Mexico border and [illegible] the country's [illegible]

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Hunt King suspect's kin here

By Robert J. Smith

AS FEDERAL agents and police across the nation pressed the manhunt for James Earl Ray, wanted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Chicago authorities and FBI agents sought Ray's brother, Jerry.

Records compiled during James Ray's frequent clashes with the law indicated a brother, Jerry, lived in suburban Wheeling.

Wheeling and Chicago police have been unable to locate a Jerry Ray, however.

They want to find the brother, if he exists, in the event the fugitive tries to contact him.

Police have received several reports that James Earl Ray, 40, alias Eric Starvo Galt, has been seen on Chicago streets, but none of the stories has been verified. One woman said she saw a man who looked like Ray in the 3800 block of Fullerton avenue between 1 and 2 p. m. on Easter.

MORE SUCH reports are expected as Ray's photograph and description are more widely circulated, now that he has been placed on the FBI's "most wanted" list.

Ray is 5 feet 10 inches, weighs 163 to 174 pounds; has brown hair and blue eyes, his left ear protrudes, and he speaks with a slight southern accent. He has a small scar on his forehead and his right palm.

Altho Ray is described by police as a "loner," he also reportedly is an avid dancer who took dancing lessons in at least three cities between 1964 and 1968.

A native of Alton, Ill., he lived in Chicago for a time in 1952. On May 6, 1952, he was arrested for robbing a cab driver of $11 in front of 19 W. Delaware st., and was sentenced to 1 to 2 years in prison.

RAY IS THE subject of the greatest manhunt since the search for the kidnaper of the Lindbergh baby or the quest for John Dillinger, Public Enemy No. 1 of the early 1930s.

Ray is described as "extremely dangerous, cold blooded, and ruthless." Hundreds of his associates and persons he met while spending 13 years and five months in prisons are being sought and questioned.

All information on the manhunt is being channeled thru FBI headquarters in Washington.

Ray's name was placed on the FBI's 10 most wanted criminals list yesterday. Actually, his is the 11th name on the list, but obviously the search for him overshadows all the others.

THIS HOUSE at 1021 W. 9th st., in Alton, Ill., is believed to be birthplace of James Earl Ray, sought in killing of Dr. King.

Clear

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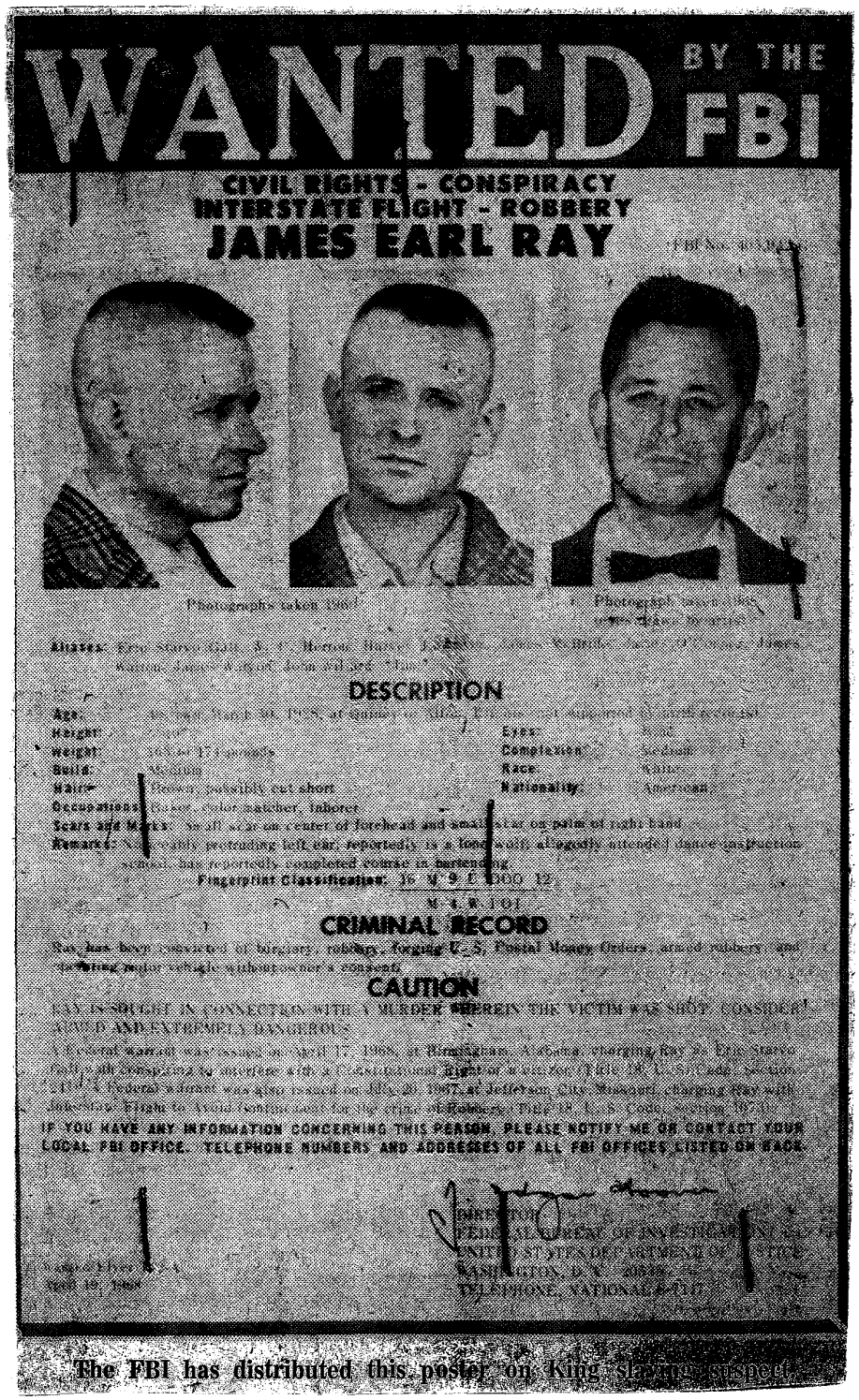

The FBI has distributed this poster on King slaying suspect.

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FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

CHICAGO POLICE CHECK ON RAY

Many Citizens Tell of 'Seeing' Him

"He was seen hitchhiking. . . . He was seen in a tavern. . . . He was in the bus station. . . . He looks like the fellow who lives in the apartment next door."

These were typical of the comments of Chicago citizens to Chicago police yesterday in reporting "sightings" of James Earl Ray, the escaped convict with a seemingly unlimited supply of aliases, sought nationwide for conspiracy in the sniper slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dozens of reports of suspicious persons resembling the fugitive were telephoned to the Chicago police complaint room after photographs of him establishing his true identity were published and telecast in the area.

Chicago detectives, in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation began a painstaking check of the reports, keeping in mind the warning issued by J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief, that he is "armed and considered dangerous."

Ray, 40, who used the name Eric Starvo Galt in purchasing a high-powered rifle and a white auto, was a former Chicago resident. A rifle of the type he bought was used in the slaying, and a white auto was observed speeding away from the scene.

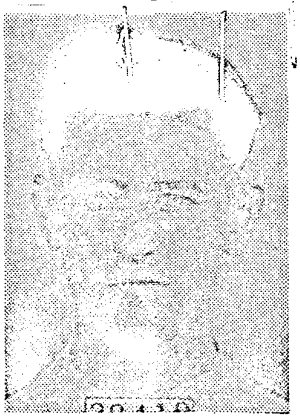
Ray gave the north side address of 853 Fullerton av. and said he was employed in the city when he was arrested in 1952 for robbing a Chicago taxi driver of $11 at 19 W. Delaware st.

Serves Two Years

He was sentenced to prison by Chief Justice Wilbert F. Crowley in Criminal court who rejected a plea for probation by Ray. Ray promised that if he escaped confinement for the crime, he would "never become involved with the law again.

He served nearly two years in the Joliet and Pontiac branches of the Illinois prison system.

Because of his familiarity with the Chicago area and his penchant for frequenting rooming houses, FBI agents have been checking records of rooming houses in the Chicago area since Tuesday.



[UPI Telephoto]

Photo of James Earl Ray, taken in 1952 at state prison in Joliet.

Rewards of more than $100,000 have been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the native of Alton, Madison county, who escaped from the Missouri state prison in Jefferson City April 23, 1967.

He is described as being 5 feet, 10 inches tall and weighing 163 to 174 pounds. He has blue eyes and brown hair. There is a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand.

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Cops Check Reports King Killing Suspect Seen Here

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and city police continued today to check out rumors that James Earl Ray has been seen in the Chicago area.

"We have received numerous calls resulting in leads," said Marlin W. Johnson, agent in charge of the FBI office here. "All are undergoing intense investigation."

The police communications center said it has received many leads, but that none of the tips has produced concrete evidence that Ray is in the area.

Ray, a native of Alton, Illinois, was arrested in Chicago on May 6, 1952 for robbing a cab driver of $11 in front of 19 W. Delaware pl., and was sentenced to 1 to 2 years in prison.

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Ray: A Walk On The Sleazy Side

For two nights, Sun-Times reporter Brian Boyer, armed with pictures of James Earl Ray, canvassed the denizens of Chicago's hillbilly dives and skid rows. He had pictures of two other men with him, too, just to provide a cross-check.

There are many persons in Chicago who think they know, or have seen, James Earl Ray, suspect in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Here is Boyer's account of his search and what he found.

By Brian Boyer

In dozens of sleazy bars—one where fresh human blood was still wet on the tile floor—in greasy restaurants where the smell turns your stomach, and in flophouses where you can hear the rats running down the corridors, I carried the picture of James Earl Ray.

JAMES EARL RAY

More than a dozen persons positively identified the man in one or another of the photographs as somebody they have seen or known — occasionally in contradiction of known facts. The FBI was given all pertinent information, of course.

The people who made identifications wanted to help. They did not want their names used, so most of the names here are probably not real.

But their identifications and stories—right or wrong—are real enough. Do any of them point a finger at James Earl Ray?

The hunt started at the Ewing Block Hotel, 347 N. Clark. The desk clerks couldn't identify any of the pictures I showed them of Ray. But a resident named Buzzy, a short, friendly man who said he had lived in the area for 33 years, said he could.

"I saw him in Chicago two or three months ago," Buzzy told me. "I think he's from St. Louis. A sarcastic son-of-a-gun. He wants to be a tough guy, but he can't. He said he

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FBI — CHICAGO

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was working for some steel plant, maybe Ryerson Steel."

Buzzy said that he first met him downstairs in the Ewing Bar.

"I knew his name was James Lawson," he said. "I called him Jimmy. He had a little mustache. He drinks a bit, but not all the time, like I do."

"He didn't want no one pushing on him," he said. "He's got a funny disposition. He must be from West Virginia. He sounds like that."

Buzzy said the man played the jukebox a lot. "That's how I got to know him. He likes his fun—especially in hillbilly bars."

Buzzy thought Ray lived on Armitage and that he might be found drinking at the Queen's Paradise, a hang-out of the down and out, at the southwest corner of Clark and Ontario.

Before going there, I checked into the Ewing Bar downstairs, where the bartender, Skipper, said he had never seen anybody who looked like James Earl Ray. He's been working there for seven years.

Ray's Photograph Is Recognized

However, a patron named "Earl" said:

"I saw him (the same photo Buzzy identified) in the Queen's three months ago."

He pointed emphatically to the picture. "This guy right here," he insisted.

At the Queen's, I ran into a number of people who thought they recognized Ray—from the 1966 picture taken by the Missouri Department of Correction—and the 1959 photograph.

A bartender named John Andreas looked at the 1959 photo and said, "He was here about one month ago. I think he drank Seven Crown and Coke."

A short man in a suit and overcoat, who said he was Joseph Dasback, also identified the 1959 picture.

"I saw this guy within the last week to 10 days," he claimed. "It was a Sunday or Monday. I saw him on Clark St. between Bughouse Square and Grand Av.—and he was sitting at Shay's Lounge."

The next identification—also in the Queen's—was one of the most curious.

A white woman with her Negro husband told me a story about an incident with the man in the photo that happened a week ago—an incident that involved a racial slur.

'He Made A Real Smart Remark'

After the woman identified the photo she said:

"I know I've seen him. This picture here is a damn good likeness. I saw him about a week ago—he was sitting in the corner of Queen's.

"We were sitting here having a drink," the woman said, "and he made a real smart remark. He said—'What are you, a nigger lover?' "

Her husband nodded and added:

"I offered to fight him, but the bartender wouldn't let me. That's when I offered to buy him a drink, but he wouldn't accept one."

A bartender named Ray confirmed their story while looking at the photo.

Ray claimed he saw the man in the photo at the Bohemian Club Thursday night.

I found nobody who could identify any of the photographs of Ray at the Bohemian Club on N. Clark, but struck gold once again at the Liberty Inn, 661 N. Clark, the 600 Club, 600 N. Clark, and the Sunshine Mission, 504 N. Clark.

At the Liberty Inn, manager John Rocco said:

"He looks awfully familiar. I might have seen him, two, three months ago."

At the Sunshine Mission a caretaker identified the 1966 photo and remembered:

"He was on the street here about six months ago."

W. Madison St. was a disappointment compared to N. Clark—few could identify any of the pictures.

But a bartender at 740 Liquor, 740 W. Madison, said he saw the man in the photo "drinking in here about three months ago."

A woman at Harvey's II, 837 W. Madison, thought she had seen him there, and a bartender at the Union Bar in the 600 block of W. Madison knew a fellow named "Tony" who knew Ray in Memphis.

Or so they all said.

There was more excitement on W. Wilson.

The manager at the Wilson Club Men's Hotel, 1124 W. Wilson, identified a photograph of the pop artist Andy Warhol as somebody he saw "right on Broadway going north yesterday (Friday)."

He was very excited about it.

Other men living at the hotel came to look at the photographs.

A 90-Minute Story Unfolds

"This is the dumb nut who shot King," a heavy, older man said.

In Andy's Bar at 1148 W. Wilson there was no identification. But one man told me:

"If you find a red-headed guy with a crew cut, I want him too."

Kelly's II, in the 1200 block, was where I struck the mother lode of information.

A 27-year-old man whom I will call Bill Jackson said he had knowledge he was willing to give. We went to another tavern near-by and he unfolded his story for 90 minutes.

"Ray is the guy I used to know about a year and a half ago at the Cub's Lounge, at N. Clark & W. Addison," he said. "I used to shoot pool with him." (Ray was in prison at the time, according to the FBI.)

He said the man he knew and thought was Ray was "an average type guy, the kind you meet in a bar. He drank a lot—good wine. He had money to pay for it. He had a white Buick convertible, about 1962 model, I think."

Jackson said "Ray" was a "senile sort of person, but smart, too."

He described him as a good gambler despite the fact that he was "slow in his talk."

The 1959 photo was the one that most resembled him, Jackson said.

Then he dropped a bomb.

"I saw the guy a week ago at a used car lot in the vicinity of Armitage and Cicero," he confided. "He was wearing a gray sports coat, khakis, a sport shirt with a rain coat draped over his arm."

He Was A Symbolic Stranger

After discoursing at length on Ray's habits and his dress, he said [illegible] Kenneth Ryan at the time he [illegible]

Jackson said [illegible] the "Mope" [illegible] him.

[illegible]

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"He could be bought for $700," Jackson said. "He could be bought for anything for $700. But he's not a big-time man—he's small time."

The FBI will, of course, decide what the information might be worth, but Jackson was strong in his identification of somebody who resembled the man in the photo.

"This picture here is almost identical with him," Jackson stressed over and over. "He was a handsome looking son-of-a-gun. He had a muscular chest and was proud of his build."

Why was Jackson, a well-dressed, articulate man willing to give his information?

"I'll do anything I can as long as my family is kept out of it," he said. "I've had enough of it. It would be a different thing if he (Ray) came out and faced the man (Dr. King.) If you're going to do something, do it honorably."

Jackson gave me his name and his telephone number for further follow-up.

"If there's a reward," he said, "give it to Catholic Charities."

At the Shamrock, 1022 W. Wilson, bartender Larry O'Shea said he could identify the 1960 photograph of Ray.

"This fella I saw not less than a week and a half ago," he said.

"I'd swear he was in here having a drink."

At the Backstage All Girl Review, in the 900 block of W. Wilson, a bartender named Gary McCoy picked out the 1960 photograph of Ray.

"He looks familiar," he said. "He might have been in here within the last 10 days. I've only been back on the job for the last 10 days."

A bar girl who called herself Betty, a tall, black-haired woman, identified the 1960 photograph.

"He's been in here three times," she said. "I was with him last Friday. He was quiet and said he came from Indiana not long ago. He said he was living around here."

Betty called over another woman named Donna, who, she said, served them drinks last Friday. Donna said, looking at the 1960 picture:

"Yes, he looks like the one."

"He said he'd be back," Betty remembered.

"A lot of people come in here and say 'I killed Martin Luther King,' " Betty added.

She remembered a young man who came into the Backstage shortly after Dr. King's death who said he was the murderer and was "throwing money around."

There can be no questioning the seriousness of the persons who identified "Ray" from the photographs. If any of them had actually seen the murderer of Dr. King, time may tell.

They are all persons who live in or around the seamy sort of world James Earl Ray lived in. Most of them think they live at the bottom of the world. But Ray, if he lifted the assassin's rifle, proved them wrong.

The man who did that found a lower depth than any of them will ever reach.

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Schoolboy Ray A Star Pupil—In The Art Of Theft

By Burnell Heinecke
Sun-Times Correspondent

EWING, Mo.—The lengthy crime career of James Earl Ray, suspected killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., began in this backwater community before he was old enough to shave.

Ewing Postmaster Carlyle Washburn, 38, recalled Sunday that Ray, then known as Jimmy Raynes, stole the local school's hot lunch money when in the eighth or ninth grade.

Washburn, who was a classmate of Ray, said he remembered the incident because Ray tried to implicate him in the crime, even though he had nothing to do with it.

"We just didn't get along too well," said Washburn. "He was a country kid, and my family lived in town."

Washburn said he doesn't remember how much money was involved but did recall Ray was caught by school officials and forced to return the funds.

Nolen V. Leach, 63, superintendent of the Ewing School at the time of the theft, said he could not recall how Ray was caught but he added:

"I do remember that Washburn was one of our brighter students, and we definitely proved that Raynes had taken the money himself and was just trying to drag Washburn in."

Ray spent his formative years living with his parents and two younger brothers in a ramshackle home about 1½ miles outside Ewing, which is 21 miles west of Quincy, Ill.

The boyhood home of Ray, now 40, and one of the FBI's 10 Most Wanted Fugitives," was torn down after the family moved to Quincy in 1943.

Ewing residents said the family was destitute, and that most of the interior of the house had been stripped for fuel by the time the family moved out.

But young Jimmy was not forgotten by residents of this town of 375 persons although he left at an early age. They saw newspaper stories of his life in crime for many years.

In 1959, he was sentenced to 20 years in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City under the state's habitual criminal act. He escaped in a bread truck April 23, 1967.

Since Ray became a suspect in Dr. King's slaying, Ewing residents have been searching for old school pictures in which he appeared.

So far, the best that's been turned up is a group picture in which only the top of the boy's head shows.

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"Discrepancies"

Confusion snarls hunt in King case

MEMPHIS (AP)—A ranking Memphis police officer acknowledges "a whole lot of discrepencies" in official descriptions of the man sought as the slayer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Asst. Chief Bill Price referred to statements that James Earl Ray, 40, an escaped Missouri convict, and Eric Starvo Galt, first sought for Dr. King's April 4 assassination in Memphis, are the same person.

"You don't know what to look for," Price said Sunday. The nationwide manhunt continued.

THE FBI ISSUED a conspiracy warrant Wednesday for Galt. Friday it said a fingerprint comparison showed that Galt was really Ray.

The naming of Ray in the case caused confusion, primarily because earlier statements indicated that Galt and Ray were in different places at the same time.

When Galt was charged as a conspirator in the shooting of Dr. King, the FBI said the man had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964-65. The FBI later backed off.

During that time, Ray was in the Missouri State Prison at Jefferson City serving a 20-year sentence for a 1959 supermarket robbery.

THE AGE of the man also was in conflict. [illegible] Witnesses who saw a man in a Memphis rooming house from where the fatal bullet was fired estimated his age as in the late 20s. The FBI, in issuing its warrant for Galt, said he had given his birthdate as July 20, 1931, that would make him 36. The FBI said Friday that Ray is 40.

The personalities of the two men are sometimes at odds. A prison pal described Ray as virtually a nondrinker. The FBI describes Galt as a guzzler of beer and vodka.

There were other differences:

Galt: Neat appearance. Ray: careless appearance.

Galt: Southern accent. Ray: born in Alton, Ill., no Southern accent.

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Check Rumor King Suspect Seen Here

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and city police continued today to check out rumors that James Earl Ray has been seen in the Chicago area.

"We have received numerous calls resulting in leads," said Marlin W. Johnson, agent in charge of the FBI office here. "All are undergoing intense investigation."

The police communications center said it has received many leads, but that none of the tips has produced concrete evidence that Ray is in the area.

Ray, a native of Alton, Illinois, was arrested in Chicago on May 6, 1952 for robbing a cab driver of $11 in front of 19 W. Delaware pl., and was sentenced to 1 to 2 years in prison.

Bureau

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Descriptions at odds

Conflicts cloud hunt for King's assassin

MEMPHIS (AP)—A ranking Memphis police officer acknowledges "a whole lot of discrepancies" in official descriptions of the man sought as the slayer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Asst. Chief Bill Price referred to statements that James Earl Ray, 40, an escaped Missouri convict, and Eric Starvo Galt, first sought for Dr. King's April 4 assassination in Memphis, are the same person.

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Witnesses who saw a man in a Memphis rooming house from where the fatal bullet was fired estimated his age as in the late 20s. The FBI, in issuing its warrant for Galt, said he had given his birthdate as [redacted] That would make him 36. The FBI said Friday that Ray is 40.

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Report $5,000 King Death Plot Heard in Bar

NEW YORK (AP)—Time magazine said today that a Memphis man told the FBI he overheard a business man in that city giving another man orders to shoot Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the motel balcony where the civil rights leader was slain April 4.

Without identifying the tipster, Time said in its current issue: "A Memphian told Time —and later the FBI—that he had overheard a local business man giving an unknown triggerman urgent orders to kill King on the balcony of his motel, and even specifying the price for the job [$5,000] and the pickup point for his fee [New Orleans]."

The FBI had no comment on the report.

Admits Manhunt Discrepancies

BY DOUG STONE

MEMPHIS (AP) — A ranking Memphis police officer acknowledges there are "a whole lot of discrepancies" in official descriptions of the man sought as the sniper slayer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Assistant Chief Bill Price referred to statements that James Earl Ray, 40, an escaped Missouri convict, and Eric Starvo Galt, first sought for King's April 4 assassination in Memphis, are the same person.

"You don't know what to look for," Price said yesterday as police here and elsewhere continued their investigation of the slaying.

Naming Brings Confusion

The FBI issued a conspiracy warrant Wednesday for Galt, then updated their case Friday by saying a finger print comparison showed Galt was really Ray.

The naming of Ray in the case caused confusion, primarily because earlier official statements indicate that Galt and Ray were in different places at the same time.

When Galt was charged as a conspirator in King's death by rifle bullet, the FBI said the man had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964-65. The FBI said later the earlier description should have said Galt reportedly took dancing lessons rather than stating it definitely.

In Prison at Time

During that time Ray was in the Missouri State prison at Jefferson City, serving a 20-year sentence for a 1959 supermarket robbery.

The age of the man also was in conflict.

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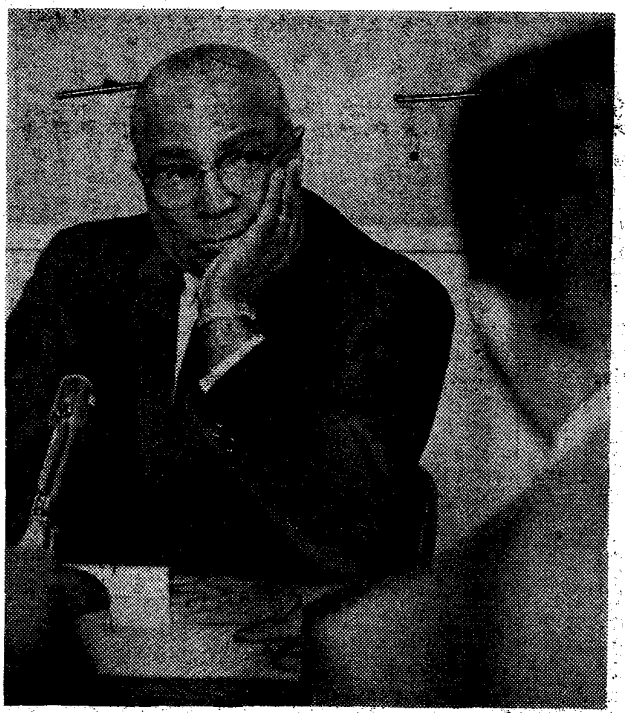

KING'S FATHER REVEALS THREAT

The Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. tells newsmen in Detroit that "anything can happen" in today's racial climate. He said he was committed to carrying on the ideas of his son whose murder earlier this month touched off nationwide rioting. If America doesn't respond positively, the minister observed, all will be lost. The Rev. Mr. King revealed that he received a threatening phone call the morning after his son was buried in Atlanta. "Maybe my life will have to go also," he added. (UPI)

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REPORT ORDER TO SLAY KING OVERHEARD

New York, April 22 (AP)—Time magazine said today that a Memphis man has told the Federal Bureau of Investigation that he overheard a Memphis business man giving another man orders to shoot Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the motel balcony where the civil rights leader was slain April 4.

Without identifying the tipster, Time said in its current issue: "A Memphian . . . told Time and later the FBI that he had overheard a local business man giving an unknown triggerman urgent orders to kill King on the balcony of his motel, and even specifying the price for the job [$5,000] and the pickup point for his fee [New Orleans]."

The FBI in Washington had no comment on the report.

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King slayer search turns to Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) —The search for the slayer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has taken another twist.

The FBI Monday night issued a pickup order for Eric Starvo Galt and asked that it be transmitted to all law enforcement agencies in Florida. The order said Galt was wanted for "civil rights conspiracy" in the April 4 slaying and had used the aliases of Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard.

IT MADE NO mention of James Earl Ray, the 40-year-old escaper from the Missouri State Prison. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said last week, fingerprints had proved Ray was the same person as Galt.

The FBI in Miami refused comment.

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'Wanted' sketches can help

A likeness between a sketch of the suspect in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and a photo of the man the FBI later identified as the suspect, James Earl Ray, points up how useful sketches of wanted men often can be. This, despite the fact that they usually are made from descriptions by witnesses who have seen a suspect [illegible] only fleetingly and, often, in a moment of terror. The Ray case sketch was made by a Memphis newspaper artist from descriptions by residents in the rooming house from which Dr. King was shot; the other sketches here, among many that have proved helpful in Chicago police cases, are the work of Otis Rathel, police department artist.

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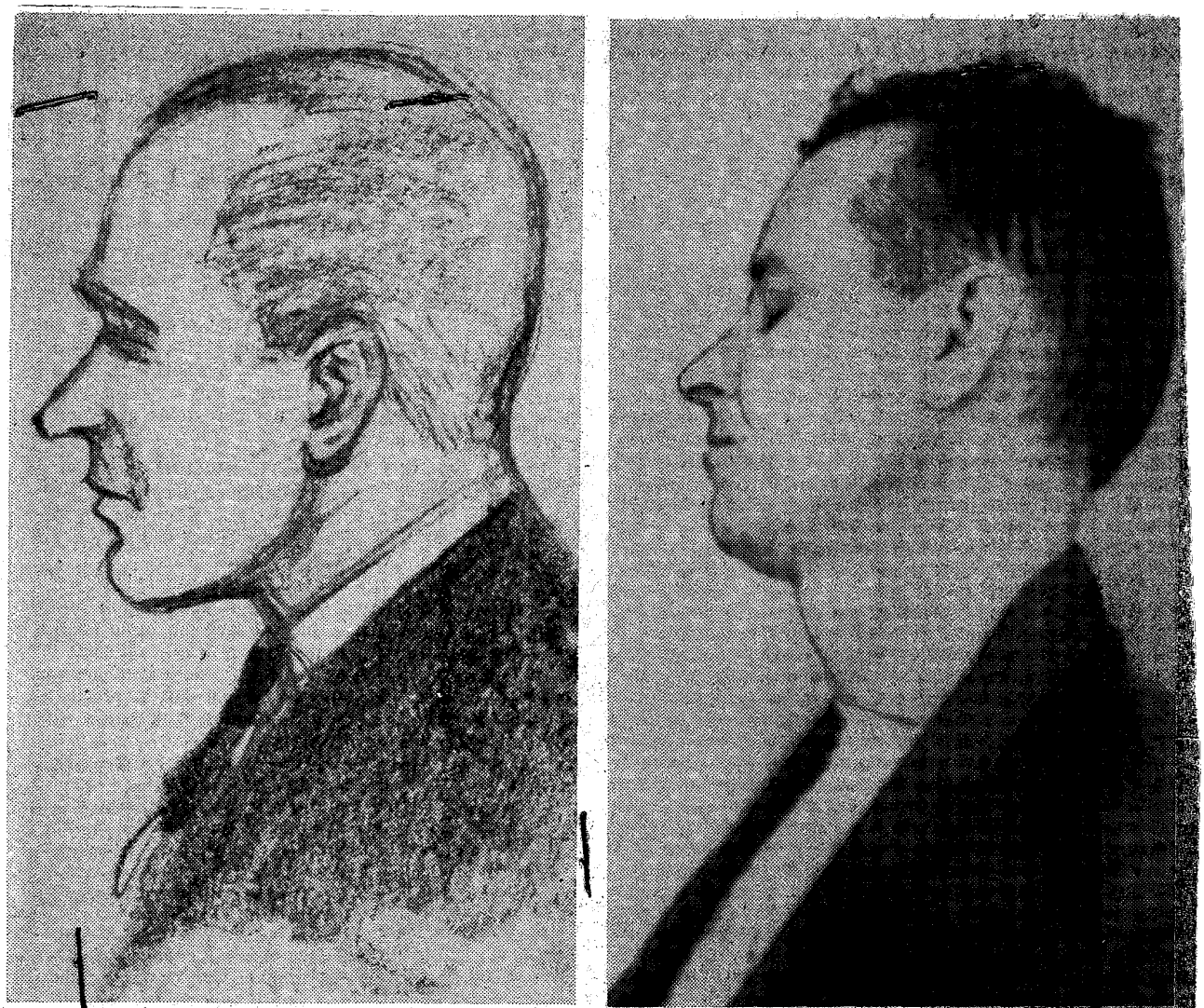

Sketch of King-case suspect and a 1966 prison photo of James Earl Ray.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Sketch of Richard Speck made from description by lone survivor of nine nurses in mass murder case; and photo of Speck, convicted of the murders.

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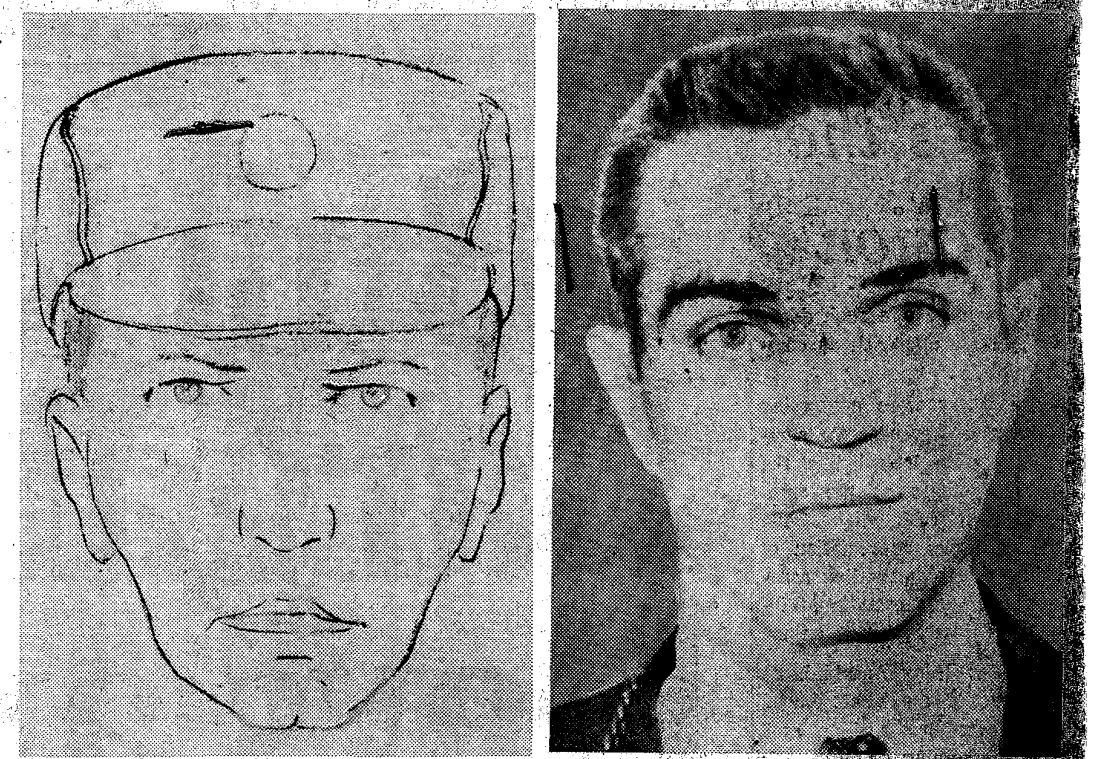

Sketch of Robert Kubat, made from description by victims in four robberies here in 1965; and photo of Kubat, now serving 4 to 7 years in Joliet state penitentiary for the robberies.

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EVANS-NOVAK

FBI Made Unhappy By Ramsey Clark

WASHINGTON—The deep-seated unhappiness of J. Edgar Hoover's Federal Bureau of Investigation with its boss, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, was aggravated by Clark's misleading public optimism about a quick solution of the Martin Luther King murder.

FBI agents working on the case grumbled privately that Clark's repeated statements hinting at imminent capture of Dr. King's assassin were not justified by the progress of the investigation. On the contrary, some agents complained that what legitimate information the attorney general did let drop risked drying up the killer's trail.

In Justice Department conferences, Clark justified his contribution to the credibility gap on the grounds that optimistic talk about closing the case "would help morale"—that is, calm down Negro anger in the turbulent days immediately following the murder.

Simultaneously, there is skepticism inside the Justice Department and FBI that the renewed investigation of black-power extremist Stokely Carmichael will result in any action.

FBI agents are making detailed probes into Carmichael's role in fomenting the Washington riots of April 4-6 following Dr. King's death, but many feel Clark will never push for a Carmichael prosecution. The Justice Department staff recommended a year ago that the government seek an indictment of Carmichael, but the attorney general vetoed the advice on grounds it would make him a martyr.

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King mystery grows

'Galt' hunted in Mexico

Was alias code for murder?

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (UPI) —U.S. and Mexican officials are reported to be hunting in Mexico for James Earl Ray, 40, identified as the mysterious Eric Starvo Galt.

"Galt" is the object of an international manhunt in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis on April 4.

Rumors that Ray is in Mexico have spread for the last two weeks.

An FBI alert has been issued in southeast California, near Arizona and Mexico, for a man fitting Ray's description.

THE FBI said Ray had assumed such aliases as Galt, Harvey Lowmeyer, John Willard, James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Connor.

The man who checked into a rooming house from which King was shot by a sniper registered as John Willard.

The hunt is continuing amid speculation that the name "Eric Starvo Galt" may have been a code name for the murder of Dr. King. Investigators in Birmingham said Friday that the name Galt appears in too many widely scattered places at about the same time and with different descriptions—thus leading to a more-than-one-Galt theory.

TWO KEY incidents in the intensive manhunt for Ray point up that witnesses have told newsmen and FBI agents of seeing him in two places at the same time.

On March 1, 1968, the Alabama Highway Patrol received a call from a man identifying himself as Eric S. Galt and asking for a duplicate to a driver's license the caller said he had lost.

Five days after the duplicate form was mailed, the state patrol headquarters in Montgomery received the paid bill for the license.

Two service station attendents in Birmingham said Fri-

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day they saw Ray in their service station as recently as mid-February.

Both these stories conflict with an earlier FBI statement that Ray was in Los Angeles at a bartending school.

TO COMPLICATE things further, roomers and the manager of the boarding house here say Ray has not been seen since he left on Oct. 7, 1967.

The service station employes, Jimmy Phillips and Henry Powell, told the FBI a man resembling the FBI's picture of Ray, who drove a white Mustang, traded at their station last September and October and in February.

It was learned the FBI traced trading stamps found in the Mustang when it was confiscated in Atlanta to the stamp company in New York, back to Brimingham and to the district manager who would have sold stamps to the service station.

The station is only a short distance from the rooming house where Ray lived from mid-August to October, 1967.

Sources said the conflict may be resolved by the theory that at least two men—men who closely resembled each other, perhaps brothers—used the alias Eric Starvo Galt.

THE WIDELY varying descriptions seem to support the theory that there is more than one Eric Starvo Galt.

They include:

From the Memphis assassination witnesses, an artist's drawing of a man neatly dressed, in his late 20s, with a long nose.

From the Birmingham boarding house, a description of a 30-year-old man, quiet, soft-spoken.

From the FBI, under the name Eric Galt, a 36-year-old man who is an "avid dancer" and took dancing lessons in New Orleans at the time James Earl Ray was imprisoned in Missouri.

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The ~~FBI,~~ in a virtual hunt for a "needle in a haystack," did a magnificent job in turning up the identity of **James ~~Earl Ray~~**, being sought for the assassination of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. . .** His photograph will be shown on network TV Sunday night as an aid in his apprehension. It'll be flashed on ABC-TV's The FBI Story. . . . FBI authorities report Ray, if ~~he's~~ the man, probably was hired by others to do the killing. He's not the type, they point out, to nurse convictions deep enough on a social issue to lead to murder.

CHICAGO SUNDAY SUN TIMES

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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Chief Admits Discrepancies in King Case

BY DOUG STONE

MEMPHIS (AP) — A ranking Memphis police officer acknowledges there are "a whole lot of discrepancies" in official descriptions of the man sought as the sniper slayer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Assistant Chief Bill Price referred to statements that James Earl Ray, 40, an escaped Missouri convict, and Eric Starvo Galt, first sought for King's April 4 assassination in Memphis, are the same person.

"You don't know what to look for," Price said yesterday as police here and elsewhere continued their investigation of the slaying.

Naming Brings Confusion

The FBI issued a conspirary warrant Wednesday for Galt, then updated their case Friday by saying a finger print comparison showed Galt was really Ray.

The naming of Ray in the case caused confusion, primarily because earlier official statements indicate that Galt and Ray were in different places at the same time.

When Galt was charged as a conspirator in King's death by rifle bullet, the FBI said the man had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964-65. The FBI said later the earlier description should have said Galt reportedly took dancing lessons rather than stating it definitely.

In Prison at Time

During that time, Ray was in the Missouri State prison at Jefferson City, serving a 20-year sentence for a 1959 supermarket robbery.

The age of the man also was in conflict.

Witnesses who saw a man in a Memphis rooming house from where the fatal bullet was fired estimated his age as in the late twenties. The FBI, in issuing its warrant for Galt, said he had given his birthdate July 20, 1931. That would make him 36. The FBI said Friday Ray is 40.

Other Discrepancies Noted

The personalities of the two men are sometimes at odds. A prison pal described Ray as virtually a nondrinker. The FBI describes Galt as a fancier of beer and vodka.

There were other differences:

Galt: neat appearance. Ray: careless appearance.

Galt: Southern accent. Ray: born in Alton, Ill. No southern accent.

Is There a Galt?

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, who came to Memphis after King was slain, at first ruled out a conspiracy, but then the FBI issued its warrant for Galt on a conspiracy charge.

Police here have their own investigation of the slaying under way, and officials say detectives are working hard on the case.

One theory within the Memphis department is that Eric Starvo Galt is a myth, painstakingly created by the conspirators as a smoke screen.

"Somebody has muddied the waters," Price said.

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Profit Theory in King Death

EAST ALTON, Ill. (AP) — If James Earl Ray was involved in the slaying of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., it was for profit, not because of racial prejudice, Police Chief Harold H. Riggins said.

Ray is wanted by the FBI in the April 4 killing. The FBI identified Ray as the elusive Eric Starvo Galt, who is wanted in the Memphis killing.

Riggins said yesterday that Ray, who was born in Alton, lived most of his life in racially mixed neighborhoods. "I doubt that he has built up hatred for the poverty stricken," Riggins said.

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FD-350 (4-3-62)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

TOWER TICKER

By Herb Lyon

There are several things that set the F. B. I. apart from all other law enforcement agencies. One of the most commendable is they clam up while doing painstaking investigation—as in the James Earl Ray case—until they have something to say. A snappy approach for anybody. . . .

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22

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Chicago Police, FBI Continue Manhunt For James Earl Ray

Chicago police and FBI agents are pressing their search for James Earl Ray, 40, alias Eric Starvo Galt, wanted in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther Kinf, Jr.

Ray, whose fingerprints led the Federal Bureau of Investigation to tag him as a suspect, was born at Alton, Ill.

Ray dropped out of school after 10th grade at Alton. Since then he has been mostly alone and on the run.

An FBI spokesman said that a number of Illinois residents have reported seeing a man resembling Ray and these "tips" are being methodically checked out.

The FBI has been after Ray since April 23, 1967, when he escaped inside a bread truck from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City where he was serving 20 years as a habitual criminal for the $190 robbery of a St. Louis grocery store.

Before that he served 90 days in jail at Los Angeles and was given two years probation for the theft of a typewriter from a cafeteria in 1949. From June, 1952, to March, 1954, he was in Joliet and Pontiac, Ill., state prisons for the $11 robbery of a cab driver in Chicago.

Then, in 1955 Ray was sentenced to three years in the eFderal ePnitentary at Leavenworth, Kan., for forging U.S. Postal money orders in Kansas City. Next came his St. Louis arrest in 1959 and subsequent escape.

In between jail sentences he moved from city to city and alias to alias, working for small wages as a laborer and baker. Apparently, he made few friends.

To Warden Harold Swenson of the Missouri State Penitentiary, he was "an evasive type of person" who had "the usual type of troubles."

To Alton police chief William H. Peterson, he was "a dirty-necked thief who slept all day and stole all night. His record is as dirty as he is."

To Ross Randolph, now Illinois Director of Public Safety and former warden at Pontiac Prison, he was "just an average inmate as far as his ability to get along with officers and other inmates, but his progress was only fair."

Randolph said records indicated Ray exhibited an asocial attitude and "compulsive" behavior when drinking.

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State prison photos taken in 1952 of James Earl Ray, 40, alias Eric Starvo Galt, suspected assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ray served a two year sentence at the state prison in Joliet for armed robbery.(UPI)

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King slaying suspect among most wanted

WASHINGTON (AP) — What may be the nation's most intensive manhunt gained fresh pressure Saturday when the FBI placed on its "most wanted" list a fugitive convict accused of murder in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old habitual criminal, is being hunted by police from border to border and beyond for the April 4 sniper slaying in Memphis, Tenn., of the Negro civil rights leader from Atlanta.

The FBI always has limited its list of most wanted criminals to 10 names but Saturday it lengthened this roll of dishonor to 11 by adding Ray, a white loner known also by the name of Eric Starvo Galt and by six other aliases.

In addition to a state first-degree murder warrant issued in Memphis, Ray is wanted on federal charges of conspiracy to deny Dr. King his civil rights and of flight to escape confinement. The latter traces to his April 1967 escape from Missouri prison at Jefferson City, where he was starting his eighth year on a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

In announcing the unprecedented step of adding an [illegible] to the "10 most wanted" list, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover [illegible] it was done "to [illegible] widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help direct [illegible]

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JAMES EARL RAY

his earliest possible location."

As usual, the FBI is appealing to the public for help in spotting its man, and—as usual—gives implied warning against any effort by a plain citizen to apprehend the criminal unaided.

The official language puts it this way:

"Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous. Anyone with information concerning this fugitive is requested to immediately contact the nearest office of the FBI, the telephone number of which may be found on the first page of local telephone directories."

Reportedly a native of Illinois, Ray is described as about 5 feet, 10 inches tall, weighing from 163 to 174 pounds. He has blue eyes and brown hair usually worn short. Forehead and right palm bear small scars. His nose is narrow and straight, teeth even, and he has a noticeably protruding left ear, the lobe of which he reportedly tugs at when nervous.

By way of further help in the search which the FBI described Saturday as "massive and intensive", Ray is reported to speak in a "rural" manner and in a fashion indicating limited education. He is described as neat in dress and as an avid dancer with a taste for vodka and beer.

In addition to armed robbery, Ray has been convicted of burglary, forgery of a postal money order and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. He has been confined in the Los Angeles County, two state prisons in Illinois and the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan.

Dr. King was killed [illegible] shot from a [illegible] while he stood on the [illegible] of his motel room. The [illegible] reportedly came from a [illegible] rooming house across [illegible] away. Ray, not so [illegible] ful, [illegible] has been [illegible] since [illegible] which [illegible]

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Warden, Cellmate Assert Ray Can't Be King Killer

BY DOUGLAS E. KNEELAND
[A NEW YORK TIMES SPECIAL]

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Prison officials and inmates at the state penitentiary here are still stunned that James Earl Ray, a convict who escaped a year ago, has been accused of conspiring in the slaying of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Last Wednesday the FBI named Eric Starvo Galt, described as a 36-year-old "loner," a meat dresser, and avid dancer, as a conspirator in the assassination April 4 of King in Memphis.

No Word of Recognition

Newspapers with pictures and sketches of Galt circulated behind the gray walls of the old penitentiary on the Missouri river, but no word of recognition was heard along the prison grapevine.

On Friday, the FBI said Galt was Ray, a 40-year-old habitual criminal who escaped from the penitentiary here April 23, 1967, after having served 7 years of a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

Warden Harold R. Swenson said in an interview that the FBI had not notified officials here before the announcement. Nor, he said, has any representative of the agency come to Jefferson City to look at Ray's record or interview prisoners who knew him.

He's "Penny-Ante"

"I was floored," the white-haired warden said. "This guy's penny-ante. It doesn't shape up, does it?"

Thumbing thru Ray's records, noting that his work records in food service here were "pretty good," Swenson, who has been in prison work nearly 30 years, mostly in the federal system, shook his head. "He's innocuous," he said. "Penny-ante."

Noting that the pictures of Galt had meant nothing to the staff and that there had been no reaction from the inmates, the warden said: "If there's anyone who'd talk, it's the prisoners. Once a guy's gone they'll talk."

JAMES EARL RAY
Not his type of crime.

Hour Could Visit

An aid strolled into the warden's office and interrupted.

"We've got 2,000 prisoners in here," he said, "and none of them recognized him."

Continuing with Ray's file, Swenson said that the prisoner had received permission for four persons to visit him, two brothers, Jerry and John; his mother, Mrs. Lucille Ryan; and his grandmother, Mrs. Mary Maher. All were listed at the same address, 1913 Hickory st., St. Louis. But the warden said the file did not show whether any of them had visited Ray.

Not a Troublemaker

Aside from escape attempts in 1965 and 1966, the warden said, Ray was not a troublemaker in prison. His file showed only two minor disciplinary reports—one for trying to smuggle cigarets and other contraband to a hospital-ized prisoner and another for refusing to work. That is a highly unusual record, Swenson explained.

"He wasn't a big dealer," the warden went on. "We know these people. I've got 125 pictures here—he wasn't in that group. I was shocked. It didn't make any sense to me."

Another prison official, who asked not to be identified, came into the warden's second-floor office.

Interview with Inmate

"This would seem foreign to the nature of the man up to this point," the official said.

Altho it is against his policy, Swenson agreed because of national interest in the case to allow an interview with the prisoner who had been closest to Ray, who was known as a close-mouthed loner without real friends or enemies. A condition of the interview was that the inmate would not be identified.

The prisoner entered the warden's office hesitantly.

Other Prisoners Wonder

The other prisoners were wondering, he explained nervously, why he was being questioned.

Seated at a table in front of the warden's desk, dragging deeply on a cigaret, he slowly relaxed.

Shown a picture of Galt and asked if that was his friend, Ray, he shook his head vigorously.

"No sir, not this," he insisted. "I guess I knew him about as well as anybody. He was here when I came here in 1960. I knew him from about 1962 well. I associated with him night and day [illegible] 1966 when he tried to escape [illegible]

Struggling for words as he tried to explain Ray's person-ality, the prisoner started to talk.

"I just don't know how to explain it," he said. "He was just the type of guy who took a long time, well, if you didn't know anybody he knew very well.

"The picture with the bottle on the FBI photo of Galt, nobody thinks it's him. They think it's a different guy altogether. We think it's two different people altogether."

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Con recalls boast

Ray vowed to get 'bounty' for King

DALTON, Ga. (UPI) — A prison buddy of James Earl Ray said Tuesday that when Ray heard there was a "million-dollar bounty" on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he smiled and said "I'll collect it."

Ray, a 40-year-old fugitive from the Missouri State Prison, is accused by the FBI of assassinating Dr. King in Memphis on April 4.

In the Dalton jail, Raymond Curtis, 40, awaiting appeal on a murder sentence, said he had known Ray in the Kansas City jail, in federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., and in the state prison at Jefferson City, Mo.

He described Ray as likeable, addicted to "dope," a "loner" and a man concerned only with money.

ON THE DAY President Kennedy was assassinated — Nov. 23, 1963—Curtis said he, Ray, and about 150 other prisoners were in an exercise yard when they heard the news.

He said Ray remarked, "Well, somebody made a pretty penny on that.'

About a week later, Curtis said, he and Ray were in the yard when "a new man just in off the street" told them "the businessmen's association has a million dollar bounty out for Martin Luther King."

Ray smiled, Curtis recalled, and said, "If there's a million dollars out for King, I believe I'll go get it. I'll collect it."

CURTIS SAID he never figured out what the "new man" meant by the "businessmen's association." He said he couldn't remember who the man was.

"I didn't think much about it at the time. In prison, you hear all sorts of hellacious ideas," said Curtis, a tall, rawboned man.

Authorities in Jefferson City confirmed that Curtis and Ray were in prison at the same time. Authorities in Dalton said the FBI had interviewed Curtis on Sunday and again Monday. It refused comment on the matter.

Curtis said Ray told him "he always carried a gun. He was always interested in money," Curtis said, but never mentioned racial matters.

"He never made no statements of any king in a group," Curtis said. "He was a loner."

RAY COULDN'T "make a long coversation unless he was planning something," said Curtis. "If he was planning something, you could bet they'd be thorough plans." Ray, he said, "stermined things "that would be small things outside, but were pretty big Jobs in prison" —such as the theft of eggs and drugs and cigarets.

He said Ray told him that if he ever wanted to kill someone, he would buy a gun under a false name, and have everything ready for an escape. "He used to talk a lot about escaping to New Zealand, Brazil and Argentina," Curtis said.

Curtis said when he heard of Dr. King's death he did not connect it with Ray because he didn't know Ray had escaped prison.

If others were in the plot with Ray, Curtis said, Ray "would go to his grave with the secret."

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Ray's Vow to Kill King Told

Dalton, Ga., April 23 (UPI) — A prison buddy of James Earl Ray said today that when Ray heard there was a "million-dollar bounty" on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he smiled and said "I'll collect it."

Ray, a 40-year-old fugitive from the Missouri state prison, is accused by the FBI of assassinating King in Memphis on April 4.

In the Dalton jail, Raymond Curtis, 40, awaiting appeal on a murder sentence, said he has known Ray in the Kansas City jail, in federal prison at Leavenworth, Kas., and in the state prison at Jefferson City, Mo.

Hears JFK Shot

On the day President Kennedy was assassinated — Nov. 23, 1963 — Curtis said he, Ray, and about 150 other prisoners were in an exercise yard when they heard the news.

He said Ray remarked: "Well, somebody made a pretty penny on that."

About a week later, Curtis said, he and Ray were in the yard when "a new man just in off the street" told them "the business men's association has a million dollar bounty out for Martin Luther King."

Ray smiled, Curtis recalled, and said "If there's a million dollars out for King, I believe if I ever get out I'll collect it."

Issue Florida Order

Tallahassee, Fla., April 23 (UPI) — The search for the slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has taken another mysterious twist and was turned toward Florida today.

The FBI last night issued a pickup order for the prime suspect, Eric Starvo Galt, and asked that it be transmitted to all law enforcement agencies in Florida. The order said Galt was wanted for "civil rights conspiracy" and had used the aliases of Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard.

Ray Not Mentioned

It made no mention of James Earl Ray, whom FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said, fingerprints had identified as the same person as Galt. "Ray and Galt are identical," Hoover said last week.

The FBI in Miami refused comment.

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Reveal Brother's Visit To Ray A Day Before Escape

By Jack Nelson
L.A. Times Special

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

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

In a telephone interview from the prison at Jefferson City, Warden Swenson said prison records showed it was the eighth time John Ray had visited his brother, who was serving 20 years for robbery.

FBI Mum

Newsmen have been unable to locate John Ray and the FBI refuses to say anything about him.

Memphis police also have accused James Earl Ray, in the name of Galt, with murder.

Warden Swenson said prison records show that Jerry Ray, another of the suspect's brothers, visited him five times. Two known relatives of the suspect have said he has one other living brother, Max, a teen-ager.

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

Address Checked

Prison records from 1960 listed John and Jerry Ray as residing with their grandmother, Mrs. Mary Maher, in St. Louis, but an investigation showed they had not lived there for several years.

The Los Angeles Times has learned that John Ray's school records in Ewing, Mo., show he was born on [redacted]. An uncle, William E. Maher of Alton, Ill., told a Times reporter he thought John was a migrant farm worker.

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

Ray, who worked as a baker in the prison, was believed to have escaped by hiding in a bakery truck.

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Spurs FBI Hunt for James Earl Ray

Report $1 Million Bounty on King

BY WILLIAM FEDERICI
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS SPECIAL

NEW YORK—A report of a "million-dollar bounty" offered by a "business men's association" has intensified the FBI's investigation of a conspiracy in the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

A former cellmate of fugitive James Earl Ray, hunted as King's assassin, told the FBI in a Georgia jail "that a quick nervous sneer" came across Ray's face when a new man told of the bounty for killing King. Convicted murderer Raymond Curtiss, quoted Ray as saying: "I'll collect that if I ever get out of here."

Thru the Grapevine

The new evidence of a possible conspiracy prompted FBI agents to return to Whitfield county jail, near Dalton, Ga., and the Tennessee state line, where they questioned Curtiss Sunday and Monday nights.

Sheriff Gerry Mauldin, warden of the jail, said:

"Word that Ray Curtiss knew the fellow Ray, wanted by the FBI, came to me thru the prison grapevine. I sent for him and he told me how he knew him. I called the FBI and they sent men in both Sunday and Monday nights."

Curtiss, awaiting appeal on a murder charge, told the agents that he knew Ray [also known as Eric Starvo Galt] in Kansas City, Mo., jail, in the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kas., and in the Missouri state prison at Jefferson City. It was from Missouri that Ray escaped last April. It was also in Missouri that Ray made the statements concerning the bounty.

"We were all standing in the exercise yard, about a week after President Kennedy was killed and a new man just brought into prison told about the bounty," Curtiss told authorities.

Interested in Money

"Ray smiled," Curtiss recalled, "and said, 'if there's a million dollars out for King, I believe if I ever get out of here I'll collect it.' "

In describing Ray to authorities, Curtiss said he was addicted to "dope," a "loner," and a "guy only interested in money."

"I remember," Curtiss said, "on the day the President was killed, Ray turned to me and said: 'Well, somebody made a pretty penny on that.' "

Bragged About Gun

Altho Curtiss refused to divulge to anyone except the FBI who the "new man" was and what he thought the "business man's association" was, it was learned that agents have uncovered substantial leads and are questioning the "new man."

"Ray" the tall, rawboned Curtiss said, "bragged that he always carried a gun when he was outside. He wasn't the type anyone would call a troublemaker, but he was tough."

Ray never seemed concerned about racial matters, Curtiss reported, and never had any trouble with Negroes in prison.

Long conversations were not part of Ray's makeup," Curtiss said, "but if he was planning something, you can bet he made thorough plans."

Curtiss also told the FB Ithat Ray had told him that, if he wanted to kill someone, he would buy a gun under a false name, and have everything ready for an escape.

"He used to talk a lot about escaping to New Zealand, Brazil, and Argentina," the convict said.

Visited Every Day

In telling about his friendship with Ray, Curtiss said: "When I was hospitalized for 6 weeks with hepatitis, Ray came to visit with me every day."

Curtiss said he didn't "connect Ray with King's killing until he saw his picture on a TV set. "I didn't even know he had escaped Missouri prison," he said.

"If others were involved in a plot to kill King," Curtiss said, "Ray will carry the secret to his grave."

In Memphis, where King was slain on April 4, the FBI refused to confirm or deny that it was investigating a possibility that the hunted man was dead.

Registered [illegible]

According to [illegible] Atlanta, Ray registered [illegible] Briarcliff motel, there [illegible] the name of Galt on the [illegible] after the slaying. Three [illegible] glasses, supposedly used by Ray and two females, boys, visited him, were impounded by the FBI after a desk clerk identified a photograph shown by agents.

The FBI in Los Angeles [illegible] reportedly trying to find a blonde woman who was [illegible] Ray before the [illegible] from southern California.

The Los Angeles Times reported that the woman [illegible] peared about the [illegible] Ray did.

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[AP Wirephoto]

RAYMOND CURTISS
Friend of Ray

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Ray's love of money ties into tale of King 'bounty'

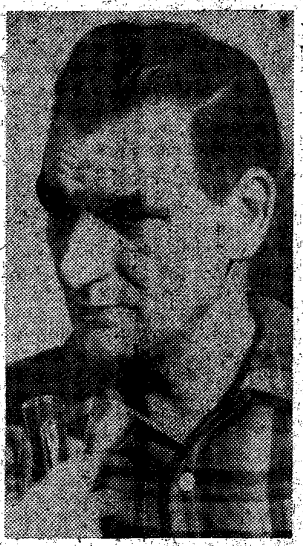
DALTON, Ga. (UPI)—Fugitive James Earl Ray once said he would collect a "million-dollar bounty" put up by a mysterious "businessmen's association" for the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., according to a prison friend.

Ray, an escapee from the Missouri State Prison, has been charged with conspiracy and murder in the assassination of Dr. King at Memphis April 4.

Raymond Curtis, in jail here awaiting an appeal of a murder conviction, said he had served with Ray in jail once and in prison twice and the matter of Dr. King first came up shortly after President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

"WELL, SOMEBODY made a pretty penny on that," Ray told Curtis after hearing of Kennedy's death.

About a week later, in the yard of the Jefferson City prison, Ray said, a "New man just in off the street" told them "the businessmen's association has a million-dollar bounty out for Martin Luther King."



Raymond Curtis

He said Ray smiled and said "If there's a million dollars out on King, I believe if I ever get out I'll collect it."

Curtis said the subject of Dr. King came up "a couple of times" thereafter. Curtis later was freed. Ray fled the prison last year by hiding in a bread truck.

CURTIS SAID he had no idea what the "businessman's association" was. Authorities said Tuesday they were pursuing several reports—some circulating in prisons—that there was a "contract" out for Dr. King's death.

"I didn't think much about it at the time," said Curtis. "In prison, you hear all sorts of hellacious ideas."

Curtis said he had been with Ray in the Jackson County jail at Kansas City, in federal prison at Levenworth, Kan., and in the state prison at Jefferson City, Mo. He said FBI agents have questioned him about his talks with Ray.

Curtis said Ray never mentioned racial matters. "He didn't have any prejudice. He didn't care if a man was white or colored," Curtis said. "He was only interested in money."

He said Ray used to talk about how he would handle an assassination. "He said he would buy a gun under a false name and have everything ready for an escape," Curtis said. "He used to talk a lot about escaping to New Zealand, Brazil or Argentina."

HE SAID he was "about as close to him as anybody in Jeff City," describing Ray as a "loner" who used dope while in prison, and liked beer, weightlifting, miniature golf and poker.

"I only saw him really mad one time. It was at a poker game. He fired up real good—you knew he was there," Curtis said.

He said Ray talked about having "lots of women." None special. He'd pick 'em up and leave 'em," Curtis said. He could not recall Ray ever talking about dancing, despite an FBI report which lists him as a dance partner or mentioning any family except his sister.

It was learned that the FBI in Atlanta had investigated reports the two convicts had Starvo Gall, whom they met in was a Ray alias, met two women in a hotel the weekend after the slaying.

Dunne

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THE MYTHICAL GUILT OF WHITE AMERICA

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has named the man it believes to have been the assassin of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and is searching for him diligently. Assuming the identification is correct, a number of pertinent inferences may be drawn from the case history of the suspect.

He is a white man, a drifter, a drunkard, and an escaped convict. He has a 20-year police record; committed at least five crimes, ranging from driving without a license to armed robbery and cashing forged money orders, before the murder of Dr. King; served sentences in four penitentiaries and three city or county jails; and during army service was confined for three months in the stockade for drunkenness and resisting arrest. He was discharged from the army for "general ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service."

His father deserted the family, and the suspect was the oldest of three brothers known in their area as constant troublemakers. All were high school dropouts and the suspect himself was a drifter who never held a steady job requiring any degree of proficiency.

Here, in sum, was a man who represented the very dregs of society, and the curious fact emerges that he never had any acquaintance with or known exposure to the man whose assassin he is said to be. He was in prison during most of Dr. King's public career. He lived under a succession of aliases, at least seven in number, and was parading as "Eric Starvo Galt" at the time of the killing in Memphis.

All of these facts are relevant because, as we have repeatedly said, the last time no later than April 7, criminals are always and uniquely individuals. We said on that occasion:

"There is no such thing as collective guilt, either among white people or black people. Those who say that every white person shares the guilt for the crime at Memphis are deluded and irrational. Criminals must be punished. Justice demands that none of the guilty escape. At the same time it must be clear that the characteristic of criminals is that they are individuals, not nations or races. They should be punished for what they individually did."

We suggested in the same editorial that a single individual, presumably demented, gunned down Dr. King. That assumption gains substance from the fact that the man sought by the FBI, while an inmate of the Missouri state penitentiary at Jefferson City, was transferred for a period to the maximum security ward of the state hospital in Fulton, Mo.

Now, all of the characteristics and facts applying to the fugitive individual who is sought for the killing were lost sight of directly after the crime, when a wave of sentimentality and assumed guilt swept the nation and provided cover for widespread rioting, looting, arson, and murder. In this orgy of breast-beating, lamentation, and superheated oratory and prose, the assertion that "white America" collectively was guilty went unchallenged in wide areas of society.

But we find the profile of a killer who is as unrepresentative of white America, or any America, as ever could be conceived—a man as unrepresentative of all of his countrymen as Lee Harvey Oswald, the lone killer of John F. Kennedy. If we are all invited to don sackcloth and ashes because of the acts of such as these, no thank you.

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Picked Up by Mexican Police

Quiz, Free New King 'Suspect'

BY CHARLES GREEN

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican authorities today questioned a United States citizen they said resembles the man wanted on a charge of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and then released him.

Daniel David Kennedy of Baltimore, who said he was on a walking tour of the state of Sonora, denied any connection with King's death. An FBI agent, identified only as a Mr. Smith, said there was no resemblance between Kennedy and the suspect, James Earl Ray, according to police in the city of Hermosillo.

Seized at Hotel

Lt. Roberto Fletcher of the judicial police in Caborca, Sonora, had taken Kennedy into custody from a Caborca hotel.

In Baltimore, Kennedy's mother, Hearl E. Kennedy, said, "There is just no connection. He doesn't even look like Ray."

In Phoenix, John Mull, in charge of the FBI in Arizona, said he had heard nothing from Mexican authorities and none of his agents were en route to Hermosillo.

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

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

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

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

Two days later, the bureau said a "systematic and exhaustive search" thru its finger print files revealed Galt and Ray, a 40-year-old drifter and prison escapee, were the same man.

Ray fled from the Missouri penitentiary on April 23, 1967, while he was serving the 7th year of a 20-year sentence for a market holdup and auto theft in St. Louis.

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

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

Authorities said Ray had worked at different times as a laborer, baker, and color matcher.

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Mexico frees American in King probe

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican authorities Thursday questioned a U.S. citizen they said resembles the man wanted on a charge of slaying the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., then released him without pressing any charges.

Daniel David Kennedy of Baltimore, who said he was on a walking tour of the state of Sonora, denied any connection with Dr. King's death. An FBI agent said there was no resemblance between Kennedy and the suspect, James Earl Ray, according to police in the city of Hermosillo.

Lt. Roberto Fletcher of the judicial police in Caborca, Sonora, had taken Kennedy into custody from a Caborca hotel. Dr. King was slain April 4 in Memphis, Tenn.

IN BALTIMORE, Kennedy's mother, Pearl E. Kennedy, said, "There is just no connection. He doesn't even look like him (Ray)."

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

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

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

MRS. KENNEDY said her son led a normal boy's life and enlisted in the Army at the age of 17 when he dropped out of high school.

Kennedy was born in Wilmington, Del., in [redacted] and his family moved to Baltimore "a year or two later," Mrs. Kennedy said. She said her husband is dead.

"I never heard Daniel speak bad about anybody, colored or white," his mother said.

KENNEDY served in World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Kennedy's mother described his war injuries by saying he was paralyzed from the waist down for a number of years. She said she thought he stepped on a land mine. An operation relieved the paralysis.

"He had been married, but he's divorced now. He has one daughter," Mrs. Kennedy said.

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

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'Similarity' Brings Arrest

It's a Mistake, Says His Mother

"My son is not the killer of Martin Luther King. This is all a case of mistaken identity."

Mrs. Pearl Kennedy, 68, a widow, told CHICAGO'S AMERICAN by phone from her home in Baltimore that her son, Daniel David Kennedy, 41, was out of the country when King was assassinated in Memphis April 4.

"He left here March 24 to go to Mexico," Mrs. Kennedy said. "He was discouraged, just divorced. He is a disabled veteran. He suffered shrapnel wounds while serving with the 1st army in World War II."

Picked Up in Mexico

Kennedy was picked up by police in the Mexican mountain town of Caborca, 80 miles southwest of Nogales, Ariz. Police there said he resembled pictures being circulated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of Eric Starvo Galt, or James Earl Ray, sought in connection with the King slaying.

"I know Daniel was out of the country," Mrs. Kennedy said. "I wired him money in Mexico. He wanted to take a trip into the mountains. I sent him $30."

Mrs. Kennedy said her son had "a small facial scars" of the type FBI descriptions say Galt or Ray had. As to a "nervous habit of twitching the right ear," Mrs. Kennedy said her son had no such habit. He is a former musician.

Swamped by Calls

"Ever since it was announced he was being held, I have been swamped by phone calls. From the police . . . newspapers. I told them all the same thing.

"It is not my son. He has no police record."

Mrs. Kennedy said Daniel has a married daughter living near Baltimore. She would not identify the daughter, stating she is expecting a baby soon.

After seeing FBI photos of Ray, Mrs. Kennedy said, "there is just no connection. He doesn't even look like him."

"Wouldn't Kill a Fly"

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

Mrs. Kennedy said her son led a normal boy's life and enlisted in the army at the age of 17 when he dropped out of high school.

"He was very intelligent, he's still a bright guy. He took life seriously," she said.

Mrs. Kennedy stopped briefly, saying, "You'll have to excuse me, I'm so shaky, he's all I have. I'm sorry I'm going to pieces."

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