

ME 44-1987
TOR:LF

ORVILLE ERNEST GANN was located at Dismas House, St. Louis, Missouri, at which time he advised his last Missouri State Penitentiary number was 69729. He first entered the penitentiary in August 1926 on a four-year sentence for burglary, re-entered the penitentiary in April 1931 on a 25-year sentence for murder, and the third time in April 1955 for a 20-year sentence for armed robbery. He was released on parole on April 9, 1968.

GANN knew JAMES EARL RAY casually while both were inmates at the penitentiary. During the period of this casual acquaintance, they had some slight association in the yard and personal association based on the fact that RAY worked on the food detail and sometimes served special dishes to GANN while GANN reciprocated by giving RAY special consideration in connection with his laundry service, since GANN was assigned to the laundry. He considered RAY to be a neat individual and clean.

Close associates of RAY at the penitentiary were identified to be CARL DRAKE, a tinner, and TED RICHARDSON.

At the time of RAY's escape, GANN was not confined at Jefferson City but was on the honor farm at Springfield, Missouri. He has no knowledge of where RAY would be now or whom he would seek out once he had escaped.

JOHN KENNETH HURTT is an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary, having number 75502. In 1966 he celled in the same hall at the Missouri State Penitentiary as did JAMES EARL RAY for two or three weeks. He was not close to RAY and knows of no close associates of RAY.

RAY was always "planning an escape" but HURTT does not know who helped RAY escape in April 1967, if anyone did help him.

He never heard RAY mention a bounty on the life of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, nor did he ever hear anything from RAY to indicate one way or the other his feelings toward the Negro race.

In return for sending about a \$15 money order to a stationery company under the pretext of ordering some paper, all done at the direction of RAY, he (HURTT) was given cigarettes in return by RAY for accomplishing this feat. RAY was always talking about the man who owned the stationery company, and it is this person whom HURTT thought RAY said lived in Kansas City. The name it was directed to he believes was PEPPER. The paper never came and when he asked RAY about delivery RAY told him the paper would be delivered directly to RAY.

HURTT further advised that he never heard of "COOLEY's Organization" and he has been in the Missouri State Penitentiary for the past 15 years. He also has no information to indicate RAY was involved with the sale of amphetamine in the penitentiary.

DONALD JOHNSON, Missouri State Penitentiary inmate 19987, believes that when he was in the penitentiary during the 1960-1966 era he believes he may have known who RAY was during that time but was not associated or acquainted with him personally.

He returned to the Missouri State Penitentiary in February 1967 and worked in the bread room of the penitentiary in the early part of the year and he was working the morning shift during the time RAY escaped.

He does not know whether or not another inmate aided RAY in his escape and he does not subscribe to the theory that RAY escaped in the bread box being delivered to one of the prison farms. He (JOHNSON) personally loaded

ME 44-1987

12

the bread into the wooden bread box and took it down the elevator operated by an inmate to the dock and assisted in placing the box on the truck.

JOHNSON denied having knowledge of any plan by JAMES EARL RAY to escape and had no knowledge as to his possible whereabouts.

ME 44-1987

TOR:tjm

1

JOHN PAUL VELANTI, South 18th Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was in the Missouri State Penitentiary from February, 1960, to December, 1964. He does not believe he was ever housed in the same hall as RAY and therefore was not that familiar with him.

He described RAY as a quiet type, seldom noticed. RAY did not gamble or play sports or do anything to attract attention to himself.

He recalls RAY's face from having seen him at the penitentiary. RAY's escape attempts attracted no attention to RAY as there were frequent such attempts by numerous inmates.

He has no knowledge of RAY's present whereabouts.

When reinterviewed, VELANTI admitted he ran a poker game and lottery at the penitentiary, having numerous inmates working for him. He knew all of them personally, but JAMES EARL RAY never worked for him.

KENNETH LEE WADE, FBI number 568 123 B currently incarcerated San Quentin Penitentiary advised he was confined to the Missouri State Penitentiary from 1958 through 1965 on a robbery charge. He knew JAMES EARL RAY from about 1960 until 1965. RAY came to the Missouri State Penitentiary with a man by the name of RAY PRUETT and they were "fall partners." WADE meant that he, WADE, and PRUETT were convicted at the same time, but PRUETT fought the conviction and did not enter the penitentiary until a later date and the entrance was timed with that of RAY.

The three of them lived in "K Hall" and RAY and WADE worked in the prison bakery.

RAY, PRUETT, WADE, BOBBY BURNS and GLEN SHURNICK (phonetic), were selling amphetamine and other stimulants to the inmates.

WADE estimates that the five of them made about \$1,000 a month or more selling these pills each month. They paid a guard \$100 to bring the jar in and after expenses cleared, about \$1,000.

RAY had a friend who sent him narcotics, but WADE did not know any more about this matter.

He described RAY as closed mouth who never discussed with anyone and would not discuss any ideas or plans he had about escaping.

He stated RAY does not like Negroes and was capable of killing Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

PRUETT, who was a cell block mate, worked in the library and would bring books to RAY, who liked to read about foreign countries.

BURNS and SHURNICK each got 75 years so they are still in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Money earned in the penitentiary could either be in currency and/or script, such as commissary chits. Money could be sent out by guards who were bribed by the prisoners to act as couriers involving items leaving or entering the prison, but WADE would not identify any guard as he still might be in use by the present penitentiary inmates. RAY would earn \$1.50 per month from his bakery work and \$15 or \$20 a month would be furnished to RAY by friends or the family outside of the prison for his personal use in purchasing commissary items.

WADE did not know how RAY handled his prison earnings.

ME 44-1987

TOR:mnr

1

MILTON ZAVALCOFSKI, Moberly Training Center for Men, #01658, served from November 1960 until April 1968 at the Missouri State Penitentiary as a portion of his 20 year sentence for armed robbery. Subsequently he was transferred to his current place of confinement.

He knew JAMES EARL RAY as an inmate and remembers his hiding in the penitentiary as well as his escape.

He could furnish no information concerning his present whereabouts or close associates.

U. S. PENITENTIARY, LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

CHARLES CALVIN BOOKMAN possesses FBI #892355 and resides in Room 201, Belmont Apartments, 948 South Figueroa, South Los Angeles.

BOOKMAN served time at Leavenworth with JAMES EARL RAY, becoming acquainted during the latter part of 1956 when both were in the kitchen of the trusty farm. He believes RAY was from the Biloxi - Gulfport, Mississippi, area and was able to pilot an airplane.

In August 1967 BOOKMAN returned to Los Angeles, California, from a trip and met JAMES EARL RAY at the Amber Room, Figueroa Hotel, Los Angeles. He estimated this to be August 12, 1967. RAY went with him to his room in the Belmont Apartments and he did not hear again from him until April 19, 1968, at around noon or 4:00 P.M. when he received a telephone call and states the person calling was JAMES EARL RAY.

Interview of BOOKMAN contained many inconsistencies and conflicts in his story and therefore no credibility could be given to the alleged phone call received by him from JAMES EARL RAY.

BOOKMAN has stated that he will contact the FBI should he again hear from JAMES EARL RAY.

The substance of the telephone call allegedly received from JAMES EARL RAY on April 19, 1968, was that he was "hotter than a cow marshal's pistol" and made a request of BOOKMAN for money, which was denied.

JOHN R. KELLER possessed Leavenworth Prison #72614-L.

He was located at 2150 Apache Boulevard, Mesa, Arizona, and stated he formerly served time at Leavenworth from 1955 to 1957. He denies any knowledge or association with JAMES EARL RAY and disclaims recognition of the photograph of RAY as a former inmate at Leavenworth. He states he has no knowledge of RAY's present whereabouts.

WALTER TERRY RIFE, FBI #4558766, was located at Quincy, Illinois, and disclaims having seen JAMES EARL RAY since he was incarcerated at Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1957. He has no information concerning the current whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY nor his close associates.

When arrested with RAY in 1955, he fabricated the name WILLIARD J. MC BRIDE as the individual from whom they purchased stolen money orders obtained in the Kellerville, Illinois, Post Office burglary. He also used the name VERNON ELMO RIFE on his first arrest.

RIFE stated that RAY was prejudiced against Negroes in a general way and he has never known RAY to belong to any organization or to make any threat against Negroes.

Both he and RAY were sentenced on July 1, 1955, to Leavenworth and RIFE was released in 1960.

ME 44-1987

TOR:PEH

1

ASSOCIATES

DYRELL DENNIS, located at the Towne Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, listed her home address to be 1151 Wilcox, Los Angeles, California. When initially contacted on April 25, 1968, she advised she had no knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY and through viewing his photographs said she did not know him or anyone named ERIC STARVO GALT.

Subsequently, she was recontacted on April 27, 1968, at the Belmont Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She advised she had resided at the St. Francis Hotel, Los Angeles, California, from March 1 to March 9, 1968. One night in the Sultan Room, Hollywood Boulevard, she was approached by a man who introduced himself as ERIC (Last Name Unknown). She described him as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	Late 30's or early 40's
Height	5'10"
Build	Slender
Hair	Salt and pepper
Eyes	Light blue
Wearing apparel	Dressed very neatly
Characteristics	Appeared very nervous; pointed facial features; spoke with a nasal twang.

This person drank screwdrivers and claimed to have worked with computers. He had in his possession a large sum of money in \$10 and \$20 bills. She talked him into giving her a \$20 bill after which they left the Sultan Room and went to another club where they continued to drink and then went to ERIC's room, #403 in the St. Francis Hotel. As they drank he told her on more than one occasion that he could become violent. She began to fear that he might possibly be a psychopath and decided against having relations with him. Under pretext, she left the St. Francis Hotel.

Subsequently, she again encountered ERIC at the Sultan Room at which time he asked for and she returned his \$20 bill.

She stated she has not seen this person since that time.

ANITA LOUISE KATZWINKEL, Apartment 9, 1727 North Garfield Place, Hollywood, California, was unable to identify photographs of ERIC STARVO GALT as anyone she knew. She also did not know CHARLES J. STEIN.

KATZWINKEL stated she has never made any obscene films although SUE HARRIS had told her that she had made a nude film with a female named LOU (Last Name Unknown).

GINGER DAY, also known to her as GINGER NANCE, like the news broadcasts concerning GALT, favored beer and vodka and would listen only to country and western music.

KATZWINKEL has no knowledge of the location of JAMES EARL RAY, known as ERIC STARVO GALT.

MARIE MARTIN, residing at the St. Francis Hotel, room 201, Los Angeles, California, listed her original name to be MYRIAL TOMASO, and she has also used the names MARIE DENNINO and MARIE MARTINELLO. She is a cocktail waitress at the Sultan Room in the St. Francis Hotel.

She first met a person who introduced himself as ERIC GALT on approximately December 4, 1967, in the Sultan Room. He had been drinking at the bar and carried on a conversation with her while she was waiting on other customers.

She obtained GALT's agreement to drive her cousin, RITA STEIN to New Orleans, Louisiana, to pick up RITA's two children and return them to Los Angeles. GALT agreed to make the trip if MARIE MARTIN and RITA STEIN and her brother, CHARLES STEIN, would register to vote and list the political party sponsoring former Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE as their political candidate.

The day after the group registered for the WALLACE political party, MARIE MARTIN, RITA STEIN and CHARLES STEIN were issued registration receipts. Subsequently, MARIE MARTIN went to her room and brought a box of clothing

ME 44-1987

3

down to GALT's car which she had requested to be delivered to her mother, LORRAINE CALLAWAY, at New Orleans. At this point, RITA and CHARLES STEIN and GALT left.

About one week later, she again saw GALT at the St. Francis Hotel, and he gave her a \$20 bill after asking her if she were short of money. GALT told her he had visited some friends who lived in the Industrial Canal area of New Orleans near Chef Menteur Highway. GALT became a regular customer at the Sultan Room and on her recommendation, he moved into the St. Francis Hotel.

On February 14, 1968, GALT came to her room and they arranged to trade television sets. He took her portable set and gave her his set and a \$20 bill. He told her he was going south and agreed to drop off another package at her mother's house at New Orleans.

She said that GALT used Spanish phrases on occasion, though he told her he could not speak Spanish. He told her he had lived in Mexico for about six years and knew a girl in Guadalajara.

Referring back to her portable television set, she described it as a 21 inch General Electric set of plastic material with built in rabbit ear antennas and a handle on top.

The last time MARIE MARTIN saw GALT was on the day they traded television sets, February 14, 1968.

ME 44-1987
TOR:LF

RITA STEIN resides at 5666 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, California, and first met ERIC S. GALT in mid-December 1967 at the Sultan Room, St. Francis Hotel, Los Angeles, California. In conversation with GALT relative to her two children residing at her mother's home in New Orleans, Louisiana, she was able to determine that GALT would drive to New Orleans in his own car and return the children to Los Angeles. He agreed to take her brother, CHARLES STEIN, with him on the trip. Conditions for making this trip were that she, her brother and her cousin, MARIE MARTIN, all register with GEORGE WALLACE's party in California.

The following morning GALT drove the three of them to a location where they registered for the WALLACE party. Following this, they all returned to her residence, after which her brother left for New Orleans with GALT.

She next saw GALT when he returned with her two children approximately one week. He entered her house upon his return but stayed only a few moments and then departed. He returned again the next day to bring one of her children's toy blackboard which had been left in his car the previous day.

Following this, she saw GALT in the Sultan Room in mid-January 1968 and had no conversation with him. This was the last time she saw him.

A photograph of ERIC S. GALT obtained from the International School of Bartendering, Los Angeles, California, when displayed to RITA STEIN, reflected that this indeed was the ERIC S. GALT known to her.

JEROME WALLIS VERNON, known also as Jay Wallis Vernon, resides in Apartment B, 1246 Woodbury Court, Upland, California.

He operated the Home Service Laundry and Dry Cleaning Company, Los Angeles, from January 16 to March 23, 1968, and a man by the name of GALT was a regular customer at the laundry. He believes GALT came in each Saturday afternoon.

ME 44-1987
TOR:LF

He first saw GALT on Saturday, January 20, 1968, and last recalled seeing him on March 16, 1968. GALT would always leave a bundle of laundry consisting of underwear, T-shirts and dress shirts, and he would pick up the finished laundry the following Saturday. Photographs of the T-shirts and shorts recovered near the scene of the assassination were similar to the ones brought in by GALT, according to VERNON, but he could not be sure whether the two pieces belonged to him. The laundry markings on the underwear were identified by him as being similar to the mark used by his laundry.

GALT always paid for his laundry in cash, using \$10 and \$20 bills.

ME 44-1987

TOR:tjm

1

GINGER LEE NANCE (nee CUNNINGHAM) resides 405 First Street, Dixon, Illinois. On the first Saturday or Sunday of May, 1967, she and ANITA KATZWINKEL left Dixon, Illinois, and proceeded to Los Angeles, California, where they established residence at the Palms Apartments on Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood.

After about three weeks, she and KATZWINKEL moved to 1535 Serrano and resided there for about a month and a half.

In June, 1967, she hitchhiked back to Dixon, Illinois, accompanied part of the way by her boy friend, JIM LEEHY. She cannot recall writing her name and address on any paper nor did she give any name and address on a paper to any of the people who gave her a ride in a car. She did enjoy several rides across country during her hitchhiking trip in Mustangs.

She stated that SUE HARRIS and ANITA KATZWINKEL were working as prostitutes in California, working out of SUE's apartment.

NANCE further advised the name ERIC S. GALT is unknown to her.

CHARLES J. STEIN resides at 5666 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, California, and first met ERIC S. GALT at the Sultan Room of the Saint Francis Hotel, Los Angeles, California, on December 24, 1967. His sister, RITA STEIN, was present along with his cousin, MARIE MARTIN, at the time of the meeting.

GALT offered to drive STEIN to New Orleans to pick up RITA's two children, and return them to Los Angeles.

The morning after the initial meeting, the three of them registered at GALT's request in the political party of GEORGE WALLACE.

STEIN and GALT traveled to New Orleans along the southern route through Yuma, Tucson and El Paso. While en route, GALT made several telephone calls, mostly while traveling through Texas and these calls were made from pay telephones.

GALT mentioned that he had recently returned from Mexico where he had formerly had a part ownership in a bar and that his former partner, a Mexican, had bought out his interest in the bar. This bar was located near a seaport or boats.

At New Orleans, GALT expressed the desire not to stay at STEIN's mother's residence, but to stay at a motel and he was directed to a motel in the 1000 block of Charter Street (determined to be the Provincial Motel), New Orleans. They had driven straight through from Los Angeles, arriving on December 17, 1967.

On the following day, he met GALT in the street near the residence of CLOVINA ALONZO, 1907 $\frac{1}{2}$ Royal Street, STEIN's mother, and GALT told him he had contacted the individuals he needed to contact and wanted to begin the trip back to Los Angeles. Subsequently, he telephoned STEIN and delayed the departure due to a storm blocking their present route.

They returned to Los Angeles on December 19, 1967, with RITA STEIN's two children. GALT paid for all expenses of food and gasoline in cash.

STEIN stated that a girl, with blond hair, about 5'2", by the name of JERI, according to information developed by he and LOUIS LOMAX, a Los Angeles newspaper man, had lived with GALT while GALT resided in Los Angeles. JERI is presently in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and had used several names in the past, one of which he believed to be DYRELL.

STEIN further stated that he learned, following his initial meeting with GALT, that GALT must have thought he was being set up for a robbery because MARIE MARTIN told STEIN that GALT had made the comment following STEIN's departure from the Sultan Room that "He would hate to have to kill someone."

When STEIN loaded his suitcase into the trunk of GALT's Mustang, he noticed GALT's blue suitcase there, as well as what appeared to be a Kodak camera box. This box was yellow and black in color, two and one-half feet long and a foot wide.

Driving through New Orleans, STEIN told GALT he was grateful to him for driving down to pick up the children of RITA STEIN, but GALT mentioned that he was not doing anyone a favor because he had business to conduct in New Orleans, himself, and he mentioned an Italian-sounding name, which he cannot recall, but is a well-known name in New Orleans and the street he mentioned gave STEIN a mental picture of the Chalmette-Industrial Canal area of New Orleans.

Near El Paso, Texas, GALT purchased a used tire for the Mustang at a tire store. Later in the evening of the same date, December 16, 1967, STEIN recalled that he awoke from a sleep and found they had stopped and GALT was making a lengthy telephone call from a public coin box telephone booth. He believes this call was made somewhere in the vicinity of Houston, Texas, and since it was dark, he could recall the light in the telephone booth shining down on GALT while he made the call.

Later in the day, after arriving at New Orleans and GALT's going to the Provincial Motel, STEIN went for a walk with his sons through the French Quarter and over near the new Trade Mart Building on Canal Street. Later in the day, during the evening, GALT commented that he had seen STEIN and the two boys earlier that day near the Trade Mart Building while he was having a beer at a bar in the area. This was at the home of his sister, MARIE LEE, that the conversation with GALT took place.

On the evening of December 19, 1967, GALT, STEIN and RITA STEIN's two children departed New Orleans for Los Angeles. They drove straight through, arriving on December 21, 1967, in the morning.

After this trip, STEIN did observe GALT on a couple of occasions in the Sultan Room of the Hotel Saint Francis. On one of these occasions, GALT mentioned the fact that he had "just finished bartending school." Sometime after this, either RITA STEIN or MARIE MARTIN

ME 44-1987

mentioned to STEIN that GALT was going to New Orleans again, and his comment was that GALT liked hamburgers because that was all he ate on the trip to New Orleans.

STEIN did advise that he had helped LOUIS LOMAX, the newspaper reporter, identify DYRELL DENNIS, who is now in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who allegedly dated GALT on one occasion while he resided in Los Angeles. STEIN feels that LOMAX "Used" him for publicity purposes, identifying STEIN as the "Key to the case." This upset STEIN because he felt whoever shot KING might take a shot at him.

ME 44-1987

TOR:PEH

1

JOHN EUGENE GAWRON, residing at 1807 South 11th Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was born on July 12, 1897, at Chicago, Illinois, and estimates that he has spent about 45 years of his life in penal institutions.

Paroled in 1954 to a Soldier's Home, Quincy, Illinois, GAWRON became acquainted at a tavern in Quincy with LUCILLE RYAN who was separated from her husband, JERRY RAYNES. LUCILLE had a daughter named CAROL, then living with her; a son named JERRY, who was also living with her; a son named JIMMY (JAMES EARL RAY), who was then serving a Federal sentence in the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas; a son named FRANKLIN DENNIS RAYNES, deceased; a daughter named MELBA, who was in a mental hospital in Jacksonville, Illinois; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a daughter named SUSAN, who was in a Catholic orphanage located at Alton, Illinois; and a son named JOHN (JACK), who was serving a sentence in the Illinois State Penitentiary, Menard, Illinois.

GAWRON, allegedly involved in a burglary at Quincy, Illinois, in 1956, had his parole revoked and was returned to the Illinois State Penitentiary, but in 1959 he escaped from this institution. After a few days, he went to the home of LUCILLE RYAN (RAYNES) where her mother, MARY MAHGR, was operating a rooming house, and GAWRON resided with LUCILLE at 1913 Hickory, St. Louis, Missouri.

During a period of several months in 1959, he was closely associated with JAMES EARL RAY and taught him to be a burglar and they went together on a number of burglaries, estimated to be twelve. They were committed outside St. Louis in the northern part of Missouri, in Iowa, and in Illinois. GAWRON taught JIMMY (JAMES EARL RAY) to always wear gloves on any kind of a job, and he was surprised that he would now go on any job without wearing gloves at the risk of leaving fingerprints.

Together they spent a great deal of time, and in St. Louis they frequented a tavern known as Ruby's Bar, later known as the Haven Bar, Lafayette Street, just west of 18th.

RAY generally drank bourbon, which he mixed with sweet soda. He did not drink beer or smoke. When meeting any girl for the first time, he (RAY) had a tendency to lisp or stutter in his speech. When RAY wanted a girl, GAWRON usually found a girl for him and on such occasions, his relationship with the girl was only brief and temporary at some second or third rate hotel room.

RAY dresses extremely well when he has money, likes good food, and buys expensive clothes, but he always chooses a second or third rate hotel or a cheap rooming house in which to live.

GAWRON, RAY, and JAMES OWENS, with whom RAY was arrested and sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary, cased the Kroger Store in East St. Louis, Illinois, for a robbery. GAWRON declined to participate because of the danger involved.

The following day RAY and OWENS were arrested and subsequently RAY was transferred to the Missouri State Penitentiary. GAWRON has not seen RAY since that time.

In 1961, GAWRON, ALBERT PEPPER, and JOHN RAY, brother-in-law and brother of JAMES EARL RAY, respectively, were arrested at Louisiana, Missouri, and while his parole was revoked, the other two persons received sentences of ten days in jail. He does not believe that JAMES EARL RAY knows ALBERT PEPPER, who is married to RAY's sister.

GAWRON is on friendly terms with JERRY RAY and CAROL RAY PEPPER. All of RAY's family referred to him as "Uncle JACK," although he has no family relationship. The PEPPERS have two young sons, the youngest being named [REDACTED] reportedly named for [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The PEPPERS operate the Grapevine Tavern, and JOHN RAY is active in the operation of this tavern at St. Louis, Missouri.

GAWRON stated that insofar as he knows, the subject has not been in St. Louis since his escape from the

ME 44-1987

3

Missouri State Penitentiary in view of the fact he is too well known. GAWRON has not seen JAMES EARL RAY since 1959.

GAWRON believes JAMES EARL RAY trafficked in drugs or barbiturates at the Missouri State Penitentiary and also had a loan shark business there. On three different occasions, he made purchases of inhalers, normally used for colds, at the request of RAY. His request, though originating from RAY in prison, was relayed to him by CAROL PEPPER. On each of these occasions, GAWRON purchased a gross of these inhalers (probably Benzedrine) and on three separate occasions, he was contacted by a guard from the prison at Jefferson City, Missouri, who would pick up the inhalers and take them to RAY at the prison. Reportedly, the guard told GAWRON that each trip was worth a "C" to the guard.

GAWRON recalls being told by JOHN RAY that JAMES EARL RAY was in Omaha, Nebraska, during well, making good money as some sort of a salesman. This was in June, 1967. Shortly thereafter, JOHN RAY told GAWRON that JAMES was now in Los Angeles, California. GAWRON had no knowledge as to how JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER would have come into possession of information relative to the location of JAMES EARL RAY in June, 1967.

ME 44-1987

V. IDENTIFICATION RECORD AND DESCRIPTION

ME 44-1987

The following is subject's identification record as furnished by the FBI Identification Division on April 23, 1968, under FBI # 405 942 G:

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Army	James Earl Ray #16 163 129	2/19/46		
Sheriff's Office Los Angeles, Calif.	James Earl Ray #E-119908	10/11/49	suspicion of burglary	
PD, Los Angeles Calif	James Earl Ray #139648	10/11/49	suspicion 459 Penal (burglary)	8 months County Jail suspended; 2 years proba- tion served; first 90 days County Jail; 146 12/30/49 Cs129438
SO Cedar Rapids, Iowa	James E. Ray #5937	4/18/50	vagrancy	
PD Alton, Ill.	James Earl Ray #7514	7/23/51	no opera- tor's lic- ense - no City License	released to pay later
PD Chicago Ill	James Ray #D90696	5/6/52	robbery (Gun)	Grand Jury \$3000
Cook County Jail Chicago Ill	James Ray #131165	5/9/52	robbery	6/13/52 sen- tenced to peni- tentiary 1 to 2 years
State Peni- tentiary, Joliet, Ill.	James E. Ray #32419	6/13/52	robbery	1 to 2 years

ME 44-1987

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
State Peni- tentiary Pontiac, Ill.	James E. Ray #19121	7/7/52 1952 in transfer from Joliet	robbery	1 to 2 years 3/12/54 discharged
SO Edwards- ville, Ill.	James Earl Ray #2640	8/30/54	burglary & larceny	
PD Hannibal Missouri	James E. Ray #40714	3/23/55	investigation of breaking & entering Post Office	
State High- way Patrol Macon, Mo.	James Earl Ray #B-3376	3/23/55	cashing stolen pos- tal money orders	released to Postal Inspec- tor Kansas City Mo., 3/24/55
USM Kansas City, Mo.	James Earl Ray #12018	3/28/55	forgery U.S. Postal Money Order	sentenced to 15 months custody Attorney General
SO Kansas City Mo.	James Earl Ray #29637	3/28/55	forgery - Government	3/7/55, 3 years and 9 months
U. S. Peni- tentiary Leavenworth, Kan.	James Earl Ray #72498-L	7/7/55	Post Office Laws Forge Money Orders	3 years and 9 months 5/20/58, conditional re- lease 3/31/59, maximum 4/5/58, conditional re- lease on charge of Post Office forgery Post Office Money Orders
PD St. Louis, Mo.	James Earl Ray #81071	10/10/59	suspicion of robbery	

ME 44-1987

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD St. Louis Mo.	James Earl Ray #81071	10/16/59	suspicion of robbery stealing & fugitive other authorities	
State Peni- tentiary Jefferson City, Mo.	James Earl Ray #00416	3/17/60	"TC" operating motor vehi- cle without permission of owner robbery first "b/m DDW" (2 charges)	20 years (20, 7, 5, con- current)

ME 44-1987

The following is a description of the subject obtained from sources set out elsewhere in this report:

Name:	JAMES EARL RAY, aka
Sex:	Male
Race:	White
Date of Birth:	March 10, 1928
Place of Birth:	Alton, Illinois
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	163 - 174 pounds
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Blue
Social Security No.:	[REDACTED]
Army Serial Number:	16 163 129
FBI Number:	405 942 G

ME 44-1987

INDEX

ACORD, JOHN	20
ADAMS, JOSEPH	48
AEBY, BILLY BROWN	47
AEBY, NEIL	57, 68, 69, 70
AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY	30
ALABAMA DRIVERS LICENSE	12
ALONZO, CLOVINA	84
AMERICAN - SOUTHERN AFRICA COUNCIL	20
ANDERSON, PATRICIA	25, 26
ASHE, BOBBY FRED	69
ATLANTA, GEORGIA ADDRESSES	29, 30, 31
AUSTIN, BLACKY	61
AUSTIN, JOSEPH ELMER	69
AUTOMOBILE PURCHASE	11
AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION	13
AVALON CLEANERS & LAUNDRY, INC.	18, 19, 37
BANK OF AMERICA MONEY ORDERS	20, 23, 24, 26, 27
BANK, SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX	11
BARNETT, LEO	48
BARTENDING, INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF	21, 28

ME 44-1987

BEDSPREAD	35, 37
BEER, SCHLITZ CAN	35
BEMAN, RICHARD	47
BINOCULARS, BANNER BY BUSHNELL	33, 34
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA ADDRESS	11, 19
BLOCK, JULIUS	47
BOND, JAMES	49
BOOKMAN, CHARLES CALVIN	76
BRADLEY, JAMES H.	49
BRADLEY, JIMMY Z.	49
BRITTON, THOMAS	50
BROWN, JAMES W.	51
BURNS, BOBBY	74, 75
CALLAWAY, LORRAINE	80
CANADIAN POSTAL MONEY ORDERS	8, 9, 10
CANADIAN RESIDENCE	8, 11
CAPITOL HOMES	36
CARPENTER, JEROME	50
CARPENTER, JIMMY	55, 57
CARPENTER, RUBY	40, 44
CONTINENTAL DANCE CLUB STUDIO	12
CORT FOX FORD COMPANY	25
COX, EVERETT WAYNE	52

ME 44-1987

CREWS, THOMAS B.	53
CURTIS, RAY LOUIS	53, 54, 66
DAY, GINGER	79
DANCING LESSONS	12, 17, 18
DeGRASSE, MARIAN	29
DENNINO, MARIE	79
DENNIS, DYRELL	78, 86
DONIAN, MICHAEL	44
DONIAN, SUSAN	44
DOWDA, LEWIE	54, 55, 69, 70
DRAKE, CARL BENTON	50, 60, 71
DYKEMA, DALE LEROY	22
EDMONDSON, GEORGE	54
FLETCHER, JAMES C.	70
FORMULA, E. Z.	10
FREEMAN, DR. MARK O.	16
FRIENDSHIP CLUB	12
FULLER, MABLE	45
FUTURA BOOKS, INC.	8, 26
GALT, ERIC	8, 10, 12, 22, 23, 24, 33, 37
GALT, ERIC S.	8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38

ME 44-1987

GANN, ORVILLE EARNEST	71
GARCIA, MATEO LOPEZ	56
GARNER, JIMMY DELTON	29, 32
GAWRON, JOHN EUGENE	61, 87, 89
GOODIN, BEN	54
GRIDLEY, MELVIN O.	54
GUINAN, FRANK JOSEPH	57
H. BECKMAN CHEVRON SERVICE STATION	24
HARRIS, SUE	79, 83
HEDGPETH, C. M.	23, 24
HILL, FLOYD EVANS	58
HILL, STERLING JUNIOR	57
HOME SERVICE LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANING COMPANY	21, 36
HOTEL, REBEL MOTOR	33, 34
HURTT, JOHN K.	72
JAPANESE HANDCUFFS	28
JOHNSON, DONALD	64, 72
JOHNSON, JOHN E.	59
KATZWINKEL, ANITA LOUISE	79, 83
KELLER, JOHN R.	77
KING, DR. MARTIN LUTHER, JR. - SHOOTING	22, 34
KLEMP, HAROLD DEAN	66
LAIL, PAUL ALVIN	55

ME 44-1987

LAMPHERE, JACK	55
LARSON, ERIC	52
LAUNDRY & CLEANERS	18, 21, 33, 36
LAUNDRY MARKS	18, 21, 22, 35, 36, 37
LEE, MARIE	85
LEEHY, JIM	83
LILLIBRIDGE, CECIL	56
LOCAL SWINGER	25, 26
LOCKSMITH LEDGER	27
LOCKSMITHING INSTITUTE	9, 10, 20, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31
LOMAX, LOUIS	84, 86
LOPEZ, MATEO GARCIA	56
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, ADDRESSES	15, 22
LOWMEYER, HARVEY	30, 31, 38
MAHER, MILDRED	45
MAHER, WILLIAM E.	45
MAIL FORWARDING SERVICE	23
MAP OF MEXICO	32
MARTIN, MARIE	29, 79, 80, 81, 84
MARTIN, RUSSELL LEE	57
MARTINELLO, MARIE	79

ME 44-1987

MAYBERRY, FRANK	66
McBRIDE, WILLIARD J.	77
MEDRANO, MANUELA AGUIRRE	15
MENNEN AFTA SHAVING LOTION BOTTLE	35
MEXICAN ADDRESSES	14, 15
MILES, BILLY EDWARD	48, 60
MODERN PHOTO BOOK STORE	12
MORALES, IRMA	15
MOTEL, PROVINCIAL	19
NANCE, GINGER	79, 83
NATIONAL DANCE STUDIO	17
NEW ORLEANS TRIP	19
NEWSPAPER, COMMERCIAL APPEAL	34
NEWSPAPER, FREE PRESS	23, 26
NOLAN, WALTER E.	60
NUNN, HOWARD	61
O'CONNOR, JIM	61
OWENS, JAMES COAMA	61, 66, 67, 68, 68
PEPPER, ALBERT BENNY	43, 88
PEPPER, CAROL RAY	40, 43, 89
PIEDMONT LAUNDRY	33, 37
PORTER, ROBERT DALE	56

ME 44-1987

POWELL, ROBERT LYNN	63, 65
PRUETT, RAY	63, 74, 75
PSYCHOLOGIST	16
RADIO, CHANNEL MASTER	35
RAY, EARL E.	45
RAY, JAMES EARL	8, 13, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38
RAY, JERRY	42, 50, 88
RAY, JOHN LARRY	40
RAY, LUCILLE MARY	40, 87
RAYNES, JERRY	40
RENTRO, RALPH	67
RHODESIA	20
RICHARDSON, JAMES EDWARD	64, 71
RIFE, VERNON ELMO	77
RIFE, WALTER TERRY	77
RIFLE, REMINGTON GAME MASTER	30, 34, 36
RIGGER, DONALD DEAN	64
ROSE, ORLAN EUGENE	65
RUSSELL, GEORGE WILLIAM	65
RUSSELL, JAMES R.	65
RYAN, FRANK DELANO	43
[REDACTED]	43

ME 44-1987

RYAN, MELBA MARIE	44
SARTAIN, CAROL	42
SARTAIN, MICHAEL	42
SARTAIN, WILLARD	42
SCHUBERT, PATRICIA	25, 26
SERO, HARRY	66
SERVICE STATIONS	24, 25
SHURNICK, GLEN	74, 75
STEIN, CHARLES J.	19, 29, 79, 81, 83, 86
STEIN, RITA	19, 79, 81, 84, 85
STONE, THERESA	29
STREET, GJERDIS	42
SUPERIOR BULK FILM COMPANY	13, 14, 15, 16
T-SHIRT	35
TIFFANY ENTERPRISES	27, 28
TOMASO, MYRIAL	79
UNDERSHORTS	35
UNDERWOOD, IVAN DALE	67
U. S. POSTAL MONEY ORDERS	28, 29, 30
VALENTI, JOHN	51, 52, 74
VERNON, JEROME WALLIS	21, 81
WADE, KENNETH LEE	74, 75

ME 44-1987

WALLACE, JAMES D,	67, 68
WHITE, JERRY WAYNE	68
WILLARD, JOHN	33
YORK ARMS COMPANY	33
ZAVALOFSKI, MILTON	51, 76

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MEMPHIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 6/5/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/4 - 5/31/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James O'Conner, James Walton, James Walyon, John Willard, Jim - FUGITIVE IO #4182, WF #442-A; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA JOE C. HESTER	TYPED BY mnr
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY	

NON-PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY

REFERENCES:

Reports of SA JOE C. HESTER dated 4/17/68 and 4/30/68 at Memphis.

- P -

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ME 44-1987

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Additional copies of this report have been designated for the Bureau in order that dissemination may be made to Legats, Ottawa and Mexico City.

It should be noted that during interviews with certain of the subject's associates and former prison mates, their stories have varied from time to time. Some of their stories may have varied after this report was prepared. This is recognized but could not be avoided. Any more recent information obtained from them will be set out in subsequent reports.

LEADS:

All offices will continue to conduct investigation in this matter and will set out all leads which appear to be appropriate.

COVER PAGE
B*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JOE C. HESTER

Office: MEMPHIS

Date: JUNE 5, 1968

Field Office File No.: 44-1987

Bureau File No.: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G, escaped Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) 4/23/67, and on 7/20/67 a complaint was filed before USC W. C. SHELEY, Jefferson City, Mo., charging RAY with unlawful flight to avoid confinement in violation of Title 18, USC, Section 1073. On 4/17/68 an authorized complaint was filed against ERIC STARVO GALT for violation of Title 18, USC, Section 241, charging that he did conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in the free exercise and enjoyment of his rights secured by the Constitution of the United States. Complaint was filed before USC, Birmingham, Ala., by SAC JOSEPH H. GAMBLE, and a warrant was issued for the arrest of GALT. Recommended bond is \$50,000. On 5/7/68 Shelby County GJ, Memphis, returned a secret indictment charging JAMES EARL RAY with murder in the first degree. Chronological listing of subject's activities from 4/67 to 4/68 set forth and reflects he resided briefly at Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada. He traveled to Birmingham, Ala., purchased a 1966 Ford Mustang, then traveled to Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico, for a brief residence, and then to Los Angeles, Calif. Subject made 2 round trips by automobile from Los Angeles to New Orleans and in 3/68 established residence in Atlanta, Ga. Using the name HARVEY LOWMEYER, a Remington, Model 760, rifle was purchased 3/30/68 Birmingham, Ala. At 6:00 P.M., 4/4/68 Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was shot and killed by a single bullet fired from the bathroom of a nearby rooming house while he was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, Memphis. Same Remington rifle identified above recovered at scene along with other items and personal belongings of the subject. Results of Laboratory examinations of all evidence described herein. Interviews of relatives of JAMES EARL RAY, fellow prisoners, and associates set forth. Subject is described as a loner with no close associates, reportedly on amphetamine, and selling drugs at MSP while incarcerated there. Identification record and description also set forth. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

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T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
I. Crimes Committed for Which Federal Process Outstanding	3
II. Chronological Listing of Known Activities of James Earl Ray Since His Escape and Laboratory Examination of Evidence Attendant Thereto	7
III. Relatives of James Earl Ray	39
IV. Prison Inmates and Associates	46
V. Identification Record and Description	90
VI. Index	95

ME 44-1987

I. CRIMES COMMITTED FOR WHICH
FEDERAL PROCESS OUTSTANDING

The subject, JAMES EARL RAY, was received at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri, March 17, 1960, from the St. Louis City Circuit Court to serve a sentence of 20 years after conviction for robbery first degree by means of a dangerous and deadly weapon (2 counts) and for operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner. He was given sentences of 20, 7, and 5 years, all to run concurrently.

The subject, who was MSP inmate #00416, was assigned to the Bakery Unit of the Food Service Department. Just prior to the 5:00 P.M. count on April 23, 1967, he was discovered missing and could not be found within the penitentiary. It was not until some 10 days later that prison officials determined that the subject had escaped by being concealed in a large bread box being taken by open truck from the main prison to Renz Farm, a prison farm that lies outside the prison walls and about 5 miles north of the main prison. This method of escape has not been positively verified and remains largely a matter of conjecture.

Federal assistance was requested to locate the subject, and on July 20, 1967, a complaint was filed before U. S. Commissioner W. C. SHELEY at Jefferson City, Missouri, charging the subject with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement following a conviction for robbery first degree, this being in violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 1073.

On April 24, 1968, an amended complaint was filed by SA ROWEN B. AYERS before U. S. Commissioner SHELEY.

At about 6:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968, while standing on the second floor balcony outside Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was struck in the right side of the face by a single bullet. Investigation disclosed that this shot was fired from the bathroom of a rooming house located at 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, which bathroom was located at the rear of the rooming house and which had a window overlooking the Lorraine Motel. It is 207 feet from the bathroom window to the spot where KING was shot.

It was determined that on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, a man using the name JOHN WILLARD rented Room 5B at 422½ South Main Street, paying one week's rent. After hearing the rifle shot at about 6:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968, other tenants in the rooming house observed the man known as WILLARD fleeing from the rooming house carrying a large package which was subsequently abandoned by him on the sidewalk in front of 424 South Main Street. Further investigation disclosed that WILLARD fled from the scene in a white Mustang parked a few feet south of 424 South Main Street.

Found abandoned in front of 424 South Main was a 30-06 Remington, Model 760, rifle, a small plastic suitcase containing numerous toilet articles, undershorts, a T-shirt, binoculars, a newspaper, an after shave lotion bottle, 2 cans of Schlitz beer, and a brown and green bedspread in which all of these items were partially wrapped.

Investigation at motels in the vicinity of Memphis, Tennessee, to identify persons who might be driving a white Mustang automobile disclosed that ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, had spent the night of April 3, 1968, at the Rebel Motel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, and was driving a Mustang with Alabama license 1-38993. Subsequent investigation at Birmingham, set out in more detail elsewhere in this report, indicated that ERIC STARVO GALT was responsible for the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and on April 17, 1968, Assistant U. S. Attorney R. MACEY TAYLOR, Birmingham, Alabama, authorized the filing of a complaint against ERIC STARVO GALT for violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241, charging that GALT did conspire to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in the free exercise and enjoyment of his rights secured by the Constitution of the United States, namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. Assistant U. S. Attorney TAYLOR recommended bond be set in the amount of \$50,000.

This complaint was filed by SAC JOSEPH H. GAMBLE before U. S. Commissioner MILDRED F. SPRAGUE, Birmingham, on April 17, 1968, and Mrs. SPRAGUE issued a warrant of arrest for ERIC STARVO GALT.

ME 44-1987

On May 7, 1968, a Shelby County Grand Jury, Memphis, Tennessee, returned a secret indictment charging the subject, JAMES EARL RAY, with murder in the first degree. While this indictment has not been made public, the local press is aware of its existence and has commented on it.

ME 44-1987

II. CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF KNOWN
ACTIVITIES OF JAMES EARL RAY SINCE
HIS ESCAPE AND LABORATORY EXAMINATION
OF EVIDENCE ATTENDANT THERETO

ME 44-1987

4/23/67

JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G, escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri.

7/18/67

A man using the name ERIC S. GALT signed a lease for an apartment in the Harkay Apartments, 2589 Notre Dame East, Montreal, Canada. The apartment was to rent for \$75 monthly, and one month's rent was to be forfeited in the event the lease was terminated prior to January 18, 1968.

GALT is not known to have made any telephone calls from the telephone in the hall, #532-0094, and interviews have been unproductive with other tenants, nearby stores, garages, parking lots, and other places where GALT might have parked his car.

An employee at the apartment house has reported that during GALT's stay he was visited on one occasion by 2 women, both described as being aged 40 to 42, one woman had black hair, the other had reddish brown hair. They reportedly stayed overnight, one left the following day, and the other stayed for a few days.

7/24/67

ERIC GALT purchased a Canadian Postal Money Order #C31,600,648, from Station "C," Montreal, Canada. This money order was in the amount of \$9 and was made payable to Futura Books, Inc., 4533 Lennox, Inglewood, California.

On July 26, 1967, a Canadian Money Order in the amount of \$9 was received at Futura Books, Inc., Inglewood, California, from ERIC GALT, 2589 Notre Dame East, Montreal, Canada, as payment for three books entitled "Sexual Anatomy," "Unusual Female Sex Practices," and "Sex Feeling in Men and Women." Futura Books is able to state that the ad answered by GALT had appeared in "Men's Real Adventure" magazine. This order was received and mailed on the same date, July 26, 1967.

7/28/67

ERIC GALT purchased a Canadian Postal Money Order #C31,600,868 at Station "C," Montreal, Canada. This money order was in the amount of \$17.50 and was made payable to Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey.

A photostat copy of this money order was examined by the FBI Laboratory. The FBI Laboratory reported that the photostat copy of this money order lacks the quality necessary for a satisfactory comparison; however, some differences were noted between the writing appearing on the face of this item when compared with writing appearing on other specimens submitted in this case under the name of ERIC GALT.

ERIC S. GALT, 2589 Notre Dame East, Montreal, Canada, enrolled in the Locksmithing Institute, 1500 Cardinal Drive, Little Falls, New Jersey, a correspondence school whose records reflect that his first payment was received July 31, 1967, and the last payment was by money order dated March 28, 1968. During the period of his enrollment, GALT showed in addition to the Canadian address the following addresses:

1535 South Serrano
Los Angeles, California

2608 Highland Avenue
Birmingham, Alabama

113 14th Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

The enrollment form of Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, dated July 31, 1967, in the name of ERIC S. GALT; the confidential information form of the Locksmithing Institute bearing the signature ERIC S. GALT; and the white envelope postmarked Montreal P.Q., VII, 1967, bearing the return address ERIC S. GALT, 2589 Rue Notre Dame Est., Montreal, Canada, Quebec, and handprinted address "Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, USA 07424" were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory.

The FBI Laboratory reported that the signature appearing on the confidential information form was prepared by the writer of the signatures in this name appearing on items submitted in this case. It was determined that the handprinting appearing on the enrollment form and white envelope was prepared by the same individual who prepared handprinting on other items submitted attributed to ERIC S. GALT.

8/9/67.

ERIC GALT purchased a Canadian Postal Money Order #C35,273,307 from Station "C," Montreal, Canada. This money order was in the amount of \$1 payable to E. Z. Formula, Hollywood, California. E. Z. Formula, 6311 Yucca Street, Hollywood, California, is a subsidiary of Barnett and Hersh and concerns only a magazine mail order business selling a single formula for making glass into a 2-way mirror. They maintain no receipt or record of shipment and are therefore unable to further verify receipt of an order from GALT.

ME 44-1987

8/26/67

Personnel at the Harkay Apartments, Montreal, Canada, are not certain as to the date ERIC S. GALT moved from that address; however, they are in agreement that it was shortly before Labor Day of 1967. Investigation at Birmingham, Alabama, has disclosed that on August 26, 1967, ERIC S. GALT registered in a rooming house known as Economy Rooms at 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama.

8/28/67

ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, rented a safe deposit box #5517 at the Main Office, Birmingham Trust National Bank, Birmingham, Alabama. GALT surrendered this box by notification to the bank by undated, handwritten letter wherein he stated he was moving to the state of Louisiana. The record of access to the safe deposit box, contract for box, ledger card for box, and the undated, handwritten letter from GALT were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory. The FBI Laboratory concluded that the signature of ERIC S. GALT appearing on these items was prepared by the same individual who prepared the writing in the same name appearing on other items attributed to ERIC S. GALT.

8/29-30/67

ERIC GALT, in answer to an ad appearing in a local newspaper, contacted Mr. WILLIAM D. PAISLEY, 701 48th Street South, Birmingham, Alabama, regarding PAISLEY's offer to sell a 1966 white Mustang. On August 30, 1967, GALT met PAISLEY at the First National Bank Building, Birmingham, where GALT paid PAISLEY \$1995 in cash. A bill of sale was prepared indicating the car was sold to ERIC GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, telephone #323-9487.

9/6/67

Records of the Drivers License Division, Department of Public Safety, State of Alabama, Montgomery, revealed that Alabama driver's license #2848947 was issued to ERIC STARVO GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama.

The FBI Laboratory concluded that the signature of ERIC STARVO GALT appearing on his application for Alabama driver's license was prepared by the same individual who prepared other signatures in the same name attributed to ERIC S. GALT.

9/12/67

ERIC GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, enrolled for 5 weekly classes in dance instruction at Continental Dance Club Studios, also known as the Friendship Club, Birmingham, Alabama. GALT attended classes on 4 consecutive Tuesday evenings but did not appear for the fifth class.

9/26/67

In September 1967 the Order Department - Modern Photo Book Store, Division of American Photographic Book Publishing Company, Inc., 166 Fifth Avenue, New York City, New York, received a coupon clipped from "Modern Photography Magazine," which coupon requested that Book #633 be sent to ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham. Book #633 referred to above is "Focal Encyclopedia of Photography." This department also received a letter dated September 26, 1967, signed ERIC S. GALT, with the same Birmingham, Alabama, address wherein GALT refers to his order for Book #633 and requested that the book not be sent as he was moving shortly and would send a corrected address later. Officials of the Modern Photo Book Store advised that they have received no further communications from GALT subsequent to the letter dated September 26, 1967.

The FBI Laboratory reported that the handwriting appearing on this coupon and letter was identical with the handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G. The FBI Identification Division advised that one latent fingerprint of value was developed on the coupon and that this latent fingerprint is identical with the left thumb print of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G.

9/28/67

ERIC S. GALT purchased Bank Draft #04012FPS from the Exchange Security Bank, 5 Points South Branch Office, Birmingham, Alabama, dated September 28, 1967, payable to Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, Illinois, in the amount of \$337.24.

10/2/67

ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, was issued 1968 Alabama license 1-38993 for a 1966 Ford Mustang, VIN 6T07C190647.

The FBI Laboratory concluded that the signature of ERIC S. GALT on the application for the Alabama license was prepared by the same individual who prepared other items under the same name attributed to ERIC S. GALT.

10/3/67

The Superior Bulk Film Company, 442-450 North Wells, Chicago, Illinois, received an order from ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, for one Kodak Super 8 camera, Model M8; one Kodak Dual Projector, Model M95Z; one HPI Combination Splicer; and one 20 foot remote control cable for a total price of \$337.24. A bank draft was received with the order, and on October 3, 1967, a package was mailed to him via parcel post under invoice #179530. Since the Kodak Model M8 camera was not in stock, a Crestline Super 8 camera was substituted.

The FBI Laboratory concluded that the handprinting appearing on this Superior Bulk Film Company order blank was prepared by the same individual who prepared other items submitted under the same name and attributed to ERIC S. GALT.

10/5/67

ERIC S. GALT sent a typewritten note dated October 5, 1967, to Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, acknowledging receipt of items ordered from them and by which he returned the Crestline Super 8 camera. He indicated the camera ordered by him was a four speed camera while the substituted one was a one film speed camera. GALT indicated he was leaving for Mexico on October 7, 1967, but would later send his Mexican address to that company.

The FBI Laboratory concluded that the signature ERIC S. GALT appearing on this letter dated October 5, 1967, was prepared by the writer of the signatures in this name appearing on other items submitted in this case and attributed to ERIC S. GALT.

10/18/67

Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, Illinois, mailed to ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, via parcel post a Kodak Super 8, Model D38, camera, under invoice #179530.

10/19/67

On this date ERIC GALT registered in Room 212 of the Hotel Rio, Morelos 86, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico.

The Document Section of the FBI Laboratory examined 2 photostat copies of the registration card of the Hotel Rio in the name of ERIC S. GALT and concluded that the questioned writings appearing on the registration card were prepared by the writer of other specimens received in this matter which have been attributed to ERIC S. GALT.

ME 44-1987

10/22/67

A typewritten letter dated October 22, 1967, signed ERIC S. GALT was addressed to Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, Illinois, indicating that he could not wait for the originally ordered Kodak camera and requesting that his refund be mailed to the Hotel Rio, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico.

The FBI Laboratory concluded that the ERIC S. GALT signature appearing on the typewritten letter dated October 22, 1967, was prepared by the writer of the signatures in this name appearing on items previously submitted in this case and attributed to ERIC S. GALT.

11/6/67

ERIC GALT checked out of the Hotel Rio, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico.

11/7-13/67

ERIC GALT during this period of time was registered in Room 417 of the Hotel Tropicano, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico.

During most of the period that he was in Puerto Vallarta, GALT associated with a prostitute, IRMA MORALES, true name MANUELA AGUIRRE MEDRANO. She was located and interviewed, and she furnished a photograph of GALT taken in Puerto Vallarta about November 3, 1967. She claims not to have seen GALT nor to have heard from him since November 9, 1967.

11/19/67

On this date ERIC GALT rented Apartment #6 at 1535 North Serrano, Los Angeles, California.