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CIRCUIT AND CRIMINAL COURTS  
MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY  
INTERMEDIATE REFORMATORY  
MEDIUM SECURITY PRISON  
WOMEN'S PENITENTIARY

STATE OF MISSOURI  
BOARD OF PROBATION AND PAROLE

December 20, 1966

*R 12/71*

Board of Probation and Parole  
Box 267  
Jefferson City, Missouri

Re: RAY, James Earl  
#00416-J

Gentlemen:

This 38 year old white male was seen for psychiatric evaluation on December 13, 1966. He was admitted here in March of 1960, to serve a twenty year sentence for armed robbery. This is his first admission to this institution. In 1952, he served a year and one half in an Illinois Penal Institution for robbery and in 1955, he served two and one half years in Leavenworth for transporting stolen goods across the state line.

He is presently charged with an escape attempt in March of 1966 and has recently been returned after an evaluation at the Fulton State Hospital. He has requested an independent psychiatric evaluation following their evaluation. This examiner only recently received this request from the Cole County Circuit Court signed by Judge Riley requesting such an evaluation. However, the inmate expressed his desire to have someone conduct an independent "psychiatric evaluation who was not connected with the administration." We informed him that we would communicate his wishes to the court and possibly someone else might be found.

Ray is an interesting and rather complicated individual. He reports that within the last year, he has had considerable difficulties from a physical point of view, involving a number of somatic complaints such as pain in the "solar plexes," tachycardia and "intracranial tension." When we commented that these were rather large words, he reported that he had been reading up in the medical literature. He then stated that he thought at times that he had cancer or heart trouble but that he no longer feels this way. On certain days, he has rather severe head pains but this is only intermittent. He is now on librium and works intermittently on a construction job.

Ray was born in Alton, Illinois, where his father worked for the railroad. Both parents are now deceased. He has two younger sisters. He reached

44-760-557

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| SEARCHED.....     | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED.....   | FILED.....   |
| APR 29 1968       |              |
| FBI — KANSAS CITY |              |

Copied to Bureau  
4/17/68 [initials]

(2)

the second year in high school, worked eighteen months at the International Shoe Company, entered the service in 1943 and remained there for three years. His highest rank was that of PFC. He has never been married although he has lived for brief periods of time with women. This man's basic problem revolves around what appears to be an increasingly severe obsessive compulsive trend. He states that at the age of ten, he awoke one night and thought he had lost his eye sight. He became quite fearful. These various fears confront him from time to time and in a typical obsessive compulsive way, he feels that he must do certain things in order to undo what he feels is going to occur and might result in harm to him. For instance, he describes a feeling of fear which can be alleviated if he takes his glass of water which he is drinking and sets it on the table and moving it back and forth several times. He also describes at length some rather marked obsessive compulsive features but is reluctant to go into them in detail. Indeed, he just started to discuss this with the people at Fulton prior to his being sent here. He appears worried and his brow is creased. It is evident that this man does have an underlying obsessive compulsive personality. He is of the opinion that his escape attempt was the result of undue anxiety and tension with the need to actually do something. He is fearful that this might lead into more serious difficulties.

At the present time, there is no evidence of delusions, hallucinations or paranoid ideas. There is evidence of a rather deep underlying obsessive compulsive personality trend which he has really never discussed at any length with anyone. This is not psychotic in nature but severely neurotic. Within the last year or so, there is evidence that he has become overly concerned about his physical health and some of his obsessive compulsive concerns have moved in this direction. We would not deny the fact that there may be some physical difficulties although he reports that this was the primary focus of his work-up at the state hospital as well as here and that very little has been found.

At the present time, it is doubtful that he is in a position to be considered for parole. His psychiatric condition must be evaluated by an independent psychiatrist and according to the court, he has the right to have this done. Where they will find this independent psychiatrist is somewhat difficult to determine in this area although they might order him to the University and have it done there. It is felt that he is in need of psychiatric help and that should any serious parole consideration be given, some type of psychiatric help should be considered, that is help, which he can receive on the outside during his parole period. He is becoming increasingly concerned about himself. We question whether or not he is beginning to be a bit depressed although he denies this. We hesitate to go into this to any greater degree at the present time until the court decides what action it will take in regards to assigning an independent psychiatrist for evaluation.

Sincerely yours,

Henry V. Guhleman, Jr., M. D.  
Psychiatric Consultant

H.G.H.

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name RAY, James Earl

Reg. No. 72498-L

Date 9-10-57

RE:

CONSIDER FOR TRANSFER TO THE HONOR FARM

Ray is serving an aggregate sentence of 3 Years and 9 Months, which he received on 7-1-55 in the U. S. District Court at Kansas City, Mo., for forging postal money orders. He was committed to this institution on 7-7-55 and became eligible for parole consideration on 9-30-55. He declined to file for parole. Ray is in Medium Custody, has no detainers lodged against him and, since commitment to this institution, has received one disciplinary report. That occurred on 9-13-55 for being not dependable, lack of interest in his job. On this occasion he was given 30 days restriction and a job change. His conditional release date of 5-20-58 has been advanced to 4-30-58, by his having earned 20 days of AOT on his Bakery assignment as of 8-31-57.

Ray has been working in the Bakery since 3-8-56. He is assigned as a bench hand, working nights, and has consistently earned outstanding work reports. He is a vocational trainee in the Bakery and has been receiving MPT on this assignment since 11-1-56. He also receives a \$10 per month monetary grant, which was effective 4-1-57, to continue through January 1958. He will be eligible for certification on his vocational training program on 9-4-57. Ray is a Catholic and the Chaplain reports that he is negligent and indifferent toward his religious duties. The records of the Education Department indicate that Ray has completed courses in Spanish, Constitutional Government and Typing. He is also enrolled in courses in Baking Theory, Related Training, and in Applied English and Elementary Vocabulary.

Ray is 29 years old. He is serving his second institutional sentence. He has no escape record. During a previous sentence at the Pontiac Branch of the Illinois State Prison, he was assigned to their honor farm, where he worked as a cook in the farm dormitory and as a helper in the officers' quarters. He was considered an average worker and had no punishment reports. He was discharged by expiration of sentence 3-12-54, after completing a 1- to 2-year sentence for robbery. Ray has requested assignment to our Honor Farm. Although his parents are deceased, he indicates he maintains correspondence with an aunt, a Lucille Ryan, residing in Quincy, Ill., his place of legal residence.

The Medical Dept. reports that Ray has not been referred for formal psychiatric examination to date, that he is physically fit for transfer to the Honor Farm, and that he has not been critically ill and is working regularly.

RESIDENCE: Quincy, Illinois

9-10-57 AMH/eg

USPO : SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

RECOMMENDATION: On November 1, 1956, Ray was approved for meritorious good time and on March 18, 1957, he was given \$10.00 a month April thru January. When the Classification Committee recommended his transfer to the Farm it was also recommended that he retain the monetary portion of the award. Inmate has completed Vocational Training. He has had only one conduct violation which occurred within two months after his arrival here July 7, 1955.

Report of Disciplinary Committee  
Missouri State Penitentiary

To Warden: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Charges: \_\_\_\_\_

Findings: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

Prison Classification Director

Associate Warden - Custody, Chairman

Copies: Associate Warden - Custody  
Associate Warden - Treatment  
Record Office  
Parole Office  
Classification File

Approved and Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_  
Warden

P. S. Form No. 237-Z

Department of Corrections  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. E. J. Elliott  
From: *Lefty*  
Central Prison and - ... ..

Date: April 23, 1967

Subject: Inmate #16, ... ..  
... ..

On the above date the above named inmate was missing at the 5:00 P.M. Count. He was not at his assigned job, nor was he in his cell house.

A thorough search was made of the Penitentiary, and is still in progress as this report is being written. It is not known whether inmate #16 has successfully gotten outside the Penitentiary.

The following named officials were made aware of the search:  
Mr. Earl C. Horn, Warden; Mr. Elliott, Mr. ... .. and Mr. Carl White, who was the Duty Officer. Major ... .. and the officers and ... .. from the Day Watch stayed over to also help conduct the search.

At 7:00 P.M. another head count was taken and inmate #16 was still missing.

All activities for the evening of April 23, 1967 were cancelled due to the extensive search for inmate #16.

Another I.O.C. will follow as to the results of the search for inmate #16.

All local law officials have been alerted of the possible escape.

cc: Mr. Willingham  
Mr. Horn Warden  
Mr. White Mr. Magness  
Major ... ..

*Mr. Lauf - ... ..*

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: RAY, James, #00416-J

Date April 24, 1967

To: B.J. POIRY, MAJOR  
SENIOR GUARD CAPTAIN

FROM: *D.H. Steele*  
DARTON G. STEELE, CAPT.  
ACTING SENIOR GUARD CAPT.

At approximately 3:25 P.M. Sunday April 23, 1967 Lieutenant William R. Turner, Control Center Desk Officer, was advised that there had been an escape from the institution. He was advised that if security was not alerted there would be another. Subsequent checking and 5:00 P.M. formal count revealed that Inmate James E. Ray #00416, assigned to the Main Kitchen 11:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M. Shift, had not reported for work at 11:00 A.M. and was missing from the 5:00 P.M. count. A search of the grounds and inspection of the walls from both inside and out was conducted without any results. It was assumed and still is as of this date that Inmate Ray is either concealed somewhere in the institution or made good his escape without leaving any visible signs of the mechanics.

This date I interviewed most of the officers involved to try to pin-point the breakdown in security. My findings are inconclusive but do point directly to the old "bug-a-boo" of too much inmate control.

Guard Officer Johnnie Petree, Kitchen Gate

Officer Petree stated that Inmate Ray came to the Kitchen to eat breakfast sometime between 6:30 A.M. and 7:30 A.M. After eating, Inmate Ray sliced some bread (one of his duties for the day) and left the kitchen presumably for the recreation yard. Officer Petree was on duty at the Kitchen Gate 4:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and stated he let Inmate Ray out of the Kitchen as Mainline was going to the yard and that was the last time he saw him.

Officer Petree stated that Inmate Ray was missing when the 11:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M. workers reported for work at 11:00 A.M. but that he thought he was on the yard and did not try to locate him nor report his absence from duty. He also did not report the absence to his relief officer Harold Schaffer.

Guard Officer Harold Schaffer, Kitchen Gate

Officer Schaffer stated that he did not miss Inmate Ray until around 12:30 P.M. He then called K Hall and asked if Inmate Ray was in his cell. The officer does not know who answered the phone but he was told that Inmate Ray was not in the Hall and was probably on the yard. He did not call Control Center because he found out Inmate Ray was in the kitchen during the morning and had his work done. It is customary to allow the inmates to go to the recreation yard after their work

# COMMITMENT REPORT 00416

This official Version of the circumstances of the crime and other significant information concerning the commitment of the prisoner to Missouri State Penitentiary, prepared in duplicate for the Classification Committee and the Board of Probation and Parole.

Committed Name JAMES E. RAY True Name JAMES EARL RAY  
 Legal Address 2023 Park Ave., Rm. 3, City  
 Ct. Nos. 1428-H & 1429-H Sept. Term 1959 (born           )  
 Term of Court Sept. 1959 Court Number 1427-H Age last Birthday 31 yrs.  
 This prisoner was sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary from ST. LOUIS CITY, MO.  
 Jan. 6, 1960 on Plea of Guilty, - - - - - 5 x 7 yrs., Cond. with sentence in  
 County, on the 1959 day of February, 1960, for a term of TWENTY YEARS.  
 Ct. No. 1427-H (2) - Robbery 1 Deg b/m of D.D.W. &  
 for the crime of Operating Auto without Consent of Owner.  
 In Ct. Nos. 1428 & 1429-H: Hon. James F. Nangle, Div. #1, Circuit Ct. for Criminal Causes.  
 Sentencing Judge Ct. #1427- Hon. John C. Casey, Div. No. 12, Circuit Court for Criminal Causes.  
 (1) Kroger Stores, Inc., 3417 Ohio St., City; Gene Hejna, 5166 Oregon St., City;  
 Complainant Vincent's IGA Store, 1102 Park Ave., City; American Express Co., Inc., St. Louis, Mo.  
 Co-Defendants JAMES LOAMA OWENS (Ct. #1427-H, 1-4-60 - 7 yrs. MSP.)  
 Other Cases Pending or Dismissed None

## CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CRIME AND OF PRISONER'S COMMITMENT

The State's evidence in the trial of James E. Ray, showed the following:  
 Ct. No. 1427-H:

That Ray and one James Loama Owens left Ray's rooming house about 8:00 or 8:15 AM on 10-10-59 in a '58 Plymouth, the property of Owens, and proceeded to steal a '50 Ford near the Kroger Store at 3417 Ohio Ave. The Two men then proceeded to the Kroger Store in this '50 Ford, parked a short distance from the front door and both men entered. Ray went to the cashier's office and held an automatic on the cashier and demanded that the safe be opened. After some discussion back and forth to the effect that it took two people to open the safe, Ray became nervous when he saw a second man approach the cashier's cage and he turned and started out of the store, stopping at a check-out counter where he displayed the pistol and demanded that the cashier at this counter open the drawer, which she did. Ray then took about \$120 from the drawer.

During this time, Owens stood inside the front door acting, by his own admission, as the look-out. Owens also had a pistol, but kept it in his suitcoat pocket. After Ray took the money from the cashier's drawer, the two men fled from the store, re-entered the '50 Ford and drove about four blocks where they abandoned the Ford and got back into Owens' Plymouth and proceeded back to Ray's rooming house.

After the two bandits left the store, the manager and one customer got the license number of the '50 Ford, followed the Ford, and saw the switch of cars take place after the robbery, and one of these men obtained the license number of the Plymouth at the time of the 'switch'.

About 30 minutes after the robbery, the police 'spotted' the Plymouth in front of Ray's rooming house, and a short time later arrested Owens while he was getting into the Plymouth, and Ray was arrested in the rooming house after he gave the officers considerable resistance. The two guns, the money and the clothing were recovered in the rooming house.

Both defendants were ident. by the people in the store, and by the two men who pursued them from the scene.

Ray and Owens gave police signed statements admitting their guilt in this holdup.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

|                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| usual occupation, education, family background, if known, and recommendations as to training and parole                  |                                                                                                                  |
| Record:                                                                                                                  | 306-443-A                                                                                                        |
| Address:                                                                                                                 | 2023 Park Ave. Rm. 3.                                                                                            |
| Occupations:                                                                                                             | Laborer; baker                                                                                                   |
| Race:                                                                                                                    | White                                                                                                            |
| Marital Status:                                                                                                          | Single                                                                                                           |
| Activity:                                                                                                                | Illinois (3-10-28)                                                                                               |
| Education:                                                                                                               | 10th Grade                                                                                                       |
| Parents:                                                                                                                 | Geo. & Mary Ray (both deceased)                                                                                  |
| Prior arrests, etc.:                                                                                                     | Los Angeles, Cal.-10-11-49 Burglary; 90 days Jail; 2 yrs. probation.                                             |
|                                                                                                                          | Cedar Rapids, Ia.-4-18-50 Vag.; No disp shown                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                          | Alton, Ill.-7-23-51-No Oper., City or State Lic.; Rel. to pay later.                                             |
|                                                                                                                          | Chgo, Ill.-6-13-52 Rob w/DDW; 1-2 yrs. Ill.S.P., Joilet #32419; 7-7-52 Trsf'd to Pontiac #19121; Disch. 3-12-54. |
|                                                                                                                          | Edwardsville, Ill.-8-30-54 B&L; No disp shown                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                          | Hannibal, Mo.-3-28-55-Forgery US Govt M.O.; 1-5 yrs Leavenworth #72498-L; Cond. Rel. 4-5-58                      |
| B. Sgt. Francis Burke of Fug. Div. at Pol. Hq. reported he has 'Hold' on James Ray by the Alton, Ill. Police Department. |                                                                                                                  |

*Robert Kingsland*  
 Asst. Circuit  
 Prosecuting Attorney

Date 1-6-59

- Use back if necessary -

Mail to the Classification Office, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri

00416

Ct. No. 1429-H:

On 8-7-59 about 8:45 PM while the victim, Vincent Hromadka, several clerks and customers were in Vincent's IGA Food Market, 1102 Park Ave., two men, later ident. as James Earl Ray and an elderly man who wore sunglasses, entered the store. Ray's accomplice went behind the liquor counter, pointed his revolver at the victim and said, "This is a holdup, keep cool and give him (Ray) the big money," and Ray then walked up to the right of his accomplice, and the victim opened the safe. Hromadka emptied the money from a canvas bag into a large IGA carry-out paper bag while Ray went into the office and took about \$150 from a desk drawer. Ray then went to another cash register from which he took only currency of large denominations, at which time the check-out clerk saw Ray's gun while he was putting the money in his trouser pocket. Ray and his accomplice then deliberately walked out of the store.

While the holdup was in progress a customer ran to his place of business and reported this holdup to the police, and after the robbers left the scene the victim pressed the button on the 'holdup alarm', grabbed his rifle, ran out of the store and after being told by a boy who had seen the robbers run to their auto which was parked in the alley, he fired several shots at the car while it was being driven away.

The victim reported his loss as \$484.66, and \$310.34 which was the property of the Am. Exp. Co., derived from the sale of money orders.

The victim while standing about a foot from Ray while at the check-out register, described him as wearing a Panama hat, dark beard, coal black hair, blue eyes, a Roman-type nose, about 35, 150# 5'9"

After Ray's arrest, the victim and one of the clerk viewed him at the station, and both agreed that Ray was one of the robbers. Ray would make no statement, and the police officers reported he sat there with a silly grin on his face and said, "I cannot deny it and I won't admit it."

Investigating officers found Ray's Panama hat lying in the alley behind the store.

\* \* \*

Ct. No. 1428-H:

On 10-9-59 about 5:45 PM the victim, Gene Hejna, parked his '50 Ford in front of his home at 3166 Oregon St. (The victim stated his car could not be locked, but he had removed the keys from the ignition) The victim was unaware that his car had been stolen until about 9:30 the following morning when the police arrived to tell him his car was found parked at Indiana and Potomac Sts. He went there, and noted that a jumper had been applied to the ignition.

The victim viewed Ray at the station after his arrest, and he refused to say anything.

This automobile was used by Ray and James Laoma Owens as the get-away-car in the Kroger Store holdup (Ct. No. 1427-H), and two witnesses from the Kroger store ident. Ray as the driver of the car while leaving the scene of the holdup, as they had followed them in an auto, saw them park and get out of the '50 Ford and enter Owens' Plymouth.

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At the time of Ray's arrest in his room #5 at 2023 Park Ave. where the two guns were recovered, Ray admitted ownership of the two guns, and said, "I guess you want me for that Kroger store stick-up."

Five witnesses in the Kroger holdup positively identified Ray as one of the holdup men, as did a nother man who saw Ray and Owens when they came out of the store.

The owner of the rooming house viewed Ray and Owens at the station, and identified Ray as the occupant of Room #5 in her rooming house, and Owens as one of Ray's visitors.

Owens had six \$10 bills in his trouser pocket when arrested, and admitted this money had been given him by Ray as his share of the Kroger holdup.

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In connection with the holdup of Mr. Hromadka's IGA Store, police reports reflect that Hromadka took a series of photos of the two bandits during the holdup and while they were leaving, by means of a camera leased to him by Dave Nathan of the Dubl-Check System, and the following day Mr. Nathan turned over to police officers several views of the bandits in operation of the holdup. Subsequently one JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN, (W-M-60 yrs.) was arrested by Alton, Ill. police after a ~~super market~~ super market holdup in that city on 8-21-59. Several photos of Austin were positively ident. by Hromadka and his clerk. Austin was later ident. by H. and his clerk while in custody in Alton, Ill. In connection with the robbery of the Alton super market on 8-11-59, Lt. C.A. Roberts of Alton brought three witnesses to St. L. to view Ray, and two of them positively ident. him as Austin's accomplice in the Alton, Ill. holdup. (This accounts for the 'hold' the Alton, Ill. Police Department have on James Earl Ray.)

Report of Disciplinary Committee

Missouri State Penitentiary

To Warden: MAY, 1966

Date: November 22, 1967

Charges: ATTEMPT TO LEAVE CELL

Findings: According to the violation report of M. L. D. indicated this inmate attempted to escape the cell. He was placed in D-hall to await court action.

Subject admits trying to escape.

Recommendations: To administrative department for 6 months.

Prison Classification Director

Associate Warden - Custody, Chairman

Copies: Associate Warden - Custody  
Associate Warden - Treatment  
Record Office  
Parole Office  
Classification File

Approved and Ordered

Warden

P. S. Form No. 237-Z

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
BUREAU OF PRISONS

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

RELEASE PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name: RAY, James Earl Reg. No. 74350-1 Date April 1, 1958

Released by Conditional Release April 1, 1958. Supervision ends 10-2-58.  
Remained 15 Days AGI (mit B)  
FBI No: 305 443 A.

Ray is being released from this institution by means of Conditional Release. He was sentenced in the U. S. District Court at St. Louis, Mo. on Aug. 2, 1955 in Kansas City, Missouri. He was sentenced at this institution on Sept. 7, 1955. Ray became eligible for parole consideration on Sept. 30, 1955. On Oct. 1, 1955 he was recommended for a parole interview. At the time of initial consideration, Ray was placed under medium custody and assigned to the First Department. He worked on such assignment until Sept. 13, 1955 when he was assigned to the First Shop. On Sept. 12, 1955, Ray was reported for our House Team but was not actually transferred to such assignment due to the fact that he did not feel he could live in an House Team Sanitary because they are integrated. Due to this fact, he was never placed under such status. He was assigned to our House Team but remained until released on Oct. 1. Ray has no delinquency on file against him and has received a total of one disciplinary report. This report occurred on Sept. 13, 1955 when he was reported for lack of interest in his job. For this report, he was placed under thirty days restriction and given a job change.

On Nov. 1, 1956 Ray was reported for AGI only and remained under such status until his release. He was also granted a monetary award of \$10 per month for April of 1957 thru June, 1958 on a 1/75 basis.

Release plans call for Ray to return to his place of conviction in Kansas City, Missouri where he will reside. He was referred to our Employment Placement Service who in turn referred him to Mr. Robert L. Lutz, Employment Consultant, Mo. State Employment Service, 1211 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

Ray is being released with a total of \$33.33 in his personal account, \$64.70 is being given to him in cash. The remaining \$33.63 is being forwarded to the USPO, Kansas City, Missouri. Ray was also given a \$1.00 bus fare to Kansas City.

He will be under supervision until Oct. 2, 1958.

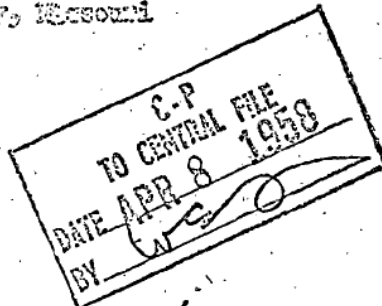
DESTINATION:

Kansas City, Missouri

U. S. P. C.:

Kansas City, Missouri

4/3/58  
RHC/epa



—CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET—

| DATE     | NAME                                                                     | NO. & INST. | PAGE |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------|
|          | RAY, James E.<br>(LAST NAME FIRST)                                       | W-00416     | 1    |
| 4/11/60  | to Cleaning Plant; Reclassification in March, 1962.                      |             |      |
| 4/12/60  | B-24                                                                     |             |      |
| 4/12/60  | Cleaning plant; #2717 CC                                                 |             |      |
| 7/28/60  | K-178                                                                    |             |      |
| 3/13/61  | K-118                                                                    |             |      |
| 11/22/61 | Attempting to escape walls; To Admn. Seg. for 6 months.                  |             |      |
| 11/22/61 | E-3rd. floor, Seg. #2996 Disc. Comm.                                     |             |      |
| 11/22/61 | E-2244                                                                   |             |      |
| 1/31/62  | The Board has set your case for a hearing in November, 1963.             |             |      |
| 5/24/62  | to State; no plans for reclassification.                                 |             |      |
| 5/25/62  | State #3125 CC                                                           |             |      |
| 5/25/62  | B-16                                                                     |             |      |
| 6/7/62   | to Vegetable Room; reclassification June, 1963.                          |             |      |
| 6/8/62   | Veg. Room #3135 CC                                                       |             |      |
| 6/8/62   | E-66                                                                     |             |      |
| 7/23/62  | Refusng to work; Yard and show priv. denied 1 month; Transfer to Bakery. |             |      |
| 7/23/62  | K-15                                                                     |             |      |
| 7/23/62  | Bakery #3167 Disc. Comm.                                                 |             |      |
| 8/10/62  | K-161                                                                    |             |      |
| 8/15/62  | K-168                                                                    |             |      |
| 3/8/63   | K-172                                                                    |             |      |
| 9-6-63   | Delivered to U.S. District Court, Jefferson City, Missouri.              |             |      |
| 10-1-63  | Denied parole by the Board.                                              |             |      |

11/2/64 Wrote info. memo. OK when submitted in [unclear] [unclear]  
12/2/64 Wrote info. memo. OK when submitted in [unclear] [unclear]

—CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET—

| DATE     | NAME | RAY, James Earl                                                                                                                        | NO. & INST. | W-00416-1 | PAGE | 1 |
|----------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|------|---|
|          |      | (LAST NAME FIRST)                                                                                                                      |             |           |      |   |
| 6-3-65   |      | Reassigned to Bakery; reclassification in June, 1967.                                                                                  |             |           |      |   |
| 6-17-65  |      | Trying to smuggle contraband into hospital. 3 days in P.S.; 6 days loss.                                                               |             |           |      |   |
| 8-30-65  |      | Parole Notice: The Board has set case for a hearing in November, 1965.                                                                 |             |           |      |   |
| 10-21-65 |      | to K-Hall as Cleaner; reclassification in June, 1967.                                                                                  |             |           |      |   |
| 10-22-65 |      | K-Cleaner; #3982-Class. Comm.                                                                                                          |             |           |      |   |
| 10-22-65 |      | K-2                                                                                                                                    |             |           |      |   |
| 11-5-65  |      | Parole Notice: Scheduled for review in November, 1966.                                                                                 |             |           |      |   |
| 12-16-65 |      | K-10                                                                                                                                   |             |           |      |   |
| 3-7-66   |      | Wants outside assignment. Not at this time, Jan.                                                                                       |             |           |      |   |
| 3-4-66   |      | J-42                                                                                                                                   |             |           |      |   |
| 3-14-66  |      | Max. Security; # 4076 - Class. Comm.                                                                                                   |             |           |      |   |
| 3-14-66  |      | CB-6                                                                                                                                   |             |           |      |   |
| 4-12-66  |      | To be delivered before the Magistrate Court, Cole County, Jefferson City, Missouri on April 14, 1966 to be arraigned on escape charge. |             |           |      |   |
| 6-11-66  |      | BB-9                                                                                                                                   |             |           |      |   |
| 7-14-66  |      | S- ADVISED WILL REMAIN IN MAX. SEC. PENDING OUTCOME OF TRIAL. P.D.K.                                                                   |             |           |      |   |
| 8-23-66  |      | To be delivered before Cole County Circuit Court on Sept. 6, 1966.                                                                     |             |           |      |   |
| 9-8-66   |      | By order of Circuit Court of Cole County this inmate has been taken to the State Hospital No. 1, Fulton, Missouri on an Out-Count.     |             |           |      |   |
| 10-21-66 |      | Went from Fulton to Inside Construction; reclassification in June, 1967.                                                               |             |           |      |   |
| 11-16-66 |      |                                                                                                                                        |             |           |      |   |
| 11-17-66 |      | Inside Const.; # 4247 - Class. Comm.                                                                                                   |             |           |      |   |
| 11-17-66 |      | C-17                                                                                                                                   |             |           |      |   |
| 12-28-66 |      | Parole Notice: Scheduled for review in November, 1967.                                                                                 |             |           |      |   |

## —CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET—

[illegible]

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

TRANSCRIPT OF SERIAL RECORD

W/32/s

00416  
 Register Number 00416 Name James Earl Ray  
 Age 32 Height 5 ft. 11 ins. Weight 163 Length of Foot 12 Inches  
 Hair Dr Brn Eyes Blue Complexion Medium Nativity Ill.  
 Trade Baker Religion Catholic Education 10th  
Under Same Name 45 Mos. 1955  
 Former Imprisonment Leavenworth Fed P., Kansas, Trns stolen Property across state  
Line,  
 Emergency Address MOTHER: Lucille Ryan, 1913 Hickory St, St Louis, Mo.

PRESENT SENTENCE

Operating a Motor Vehicle w/o the Permission of the Owner;  
 Offense XX- TC Robbery 1st Deg. b/m of D & DW: (2 chgs.)  
(20, 7, 5, Conc.)  
 County St. Louis City Sentence 20 Yrs. Feb. 19, 1960 Term of Court February 1960  
 Received 3-17-1960 Jail Time 27 days  
 Expiration Date 3-16-1980 Full Time 3-16-1980 3/4 Time 3-16-1975

Alias \_\_\_\_\_  
 True Name \_\_\_\_\_ Race White  
 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth Alton, Ill.  
City State  
 Build Medium Marks, Scars, Tatoos Clear

Martial Status Single Probation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Escapes \_\_\_\_\_ AWOL \_\_\_\_\_ Draft Board Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Military Service ARMY Service Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type Military Discharge General Social Security Number Unknown

Remarks:

## —CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET—

DATE NAME RAY, James E. NO. &amp; INST. W-00416 PAGE 1

(LAST NAME FIRST)

4-11-60 To Cleaning Plant; reclassification in March, 1962.  
 4-12-60 B-24  
 4-12-60 Cleaning Plant; #2717-CC  
 7-28-60 K-178  
 3-13-61 K-118  
 11-22-61 Attempting to escape walls; To Admn. Segr. for 6 months.  
 11-22-61 E-3rd floor, Segr. #3996-Disc. Comm.  
 11-22-61 E-224  
 1-31-62 The Board has set your case for a hearing in November, 1963.  
 5-24-62 To State; no plans for reclassification.  
 5-25-62 State; #3125-CC  
 5-25-62 B-16  
 6-7-62 To Vegetable Room; reclassification June, 1963.  
 6-8-62 Veg. Room; #3135-CC  
 6-8-62 E-66  
 7-23-62 Refusing to work; Yard and show privileges denied 1 month.  
 Transfer to Bakery.  
 7-23-62 K-15  
 7-23-62 Bakery; #3167-Disc. Comm.  
 8-10-62 K-161  
 8-15-62 K-168  
 3-8-63 K-172  
 9-6-63 Delivered to U.S. District Court, Jefferson City, Missouri.  
 10-1-63 Denied parole by the Board.  
 11-2-64 Wants job change. O.K. when replacement is found. SJL.  
 12-22-64 Wants Moberly; Placed in file. WN.  
 6-3-65 Reassigned to Bakery; reclassification in June, 1967.  
 6-17-65 Trying to smuggle contraband into hospital. 3 days in P.S.;  
 6 days loss.  
 8-30-65 Parole Notice: The Board has set case for a hearing in  
 November, 1965.

10-8-65

## PRE-PAROLE PROGRESS REPORT

SJL:nh

Social Data: The subject states he is in fairly good health.

Institutional Adjustment: He was received March 17, 1960. He is assigned to the Bakery where he has received good to excellent ratings on his work and training reports. He received only one conduct violation in the last 3 years. In 1961 he did attempt to escape.

Family Relations: His brother, Jerry, corresponds regularly and visits occasionally. He sometimes hears from his brother, John.

## POST RELEASE PLANS

He prefers to live with his brother, Jerry Ray, Box 22, Wheeling Illinois. Another home possibility would be with his brother, John Ray, in St. Louis, Missouri. He would accept almost any type of employment. He claims three years experience in bakeries

## —CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET—

DATE

NAME RAY, James E.

NO. &amp; INST.

W-00416

PAGE 2

(LAST NAME FIRST)

and kitchens.

## SUMMARY

This is a 37 year old single white man from St. Louis, serving 20, and 5 years concurrently for operating a motor vehicle without the permission of the owner, and robbery first degree by means of a dangerous and deadly weapon (2 charges). He has now completed about 5 1/2 years of his sentence on this third incarceration. Institutionally he has done well enough to merit consideration for parole. He denies use of narcotics and claims to be a light drinker. His record of arrests dates over a 16 year period. He seems to be pretty well established in this type of anti-social behavior. He will probably continue to make a fair institutional adjustment. Prognosis for making a successful adjustment in society is considered marginal at best. He may be able to serve a short parole without too much difficulty.

*Carl White*  
Associate Warden-Treatment

RECEIVED

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF ST. LOUIS  
April 23rd, 1967

Complaint #138,550

FILE No. \_\_\_\_\_

WARDEN'S OFFICE

STATE PENITENTIARY

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY

Method of Communication  
(Designate With Check Mark)

Radiogram  
Telegram  
Telephone  
Teletype (LETS) ✓  
Letter  
Post Card  
Verbal Instructions

Person from Warden (Missouri Penitentiary)  
Place from Jefferson City, Mo.  
Where Assigned Third District  
Date Assigned 4-23-67 Returned 4-23-67

Police Department  
Rules

Requests for arrests, records, photographs, investigations, locations of persons, broadcast service, etc., to receive attention, must come direct from a chief of police, sheriff or other peace officer.

Warrants must accompany arrest requests wherever possible.

Apply to Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., for information re standing of individuals or firms.

Complaints re business transactions conducted by mail go to postal authorities.

For birth and death certificates apply to Bureau of Vital Statistics.

We do not make recommendations for people wanting doctors, lawyers, or bondsmen. We don't collect debts or bills, or furnish copies of reports.

Investigated above and report as follows:

Relative to the here-to attached communication (LAW ENFORCEMENT TELETYPE SYSTEM) from the warden, Missouri State Penitentiary - Jefferson City, Mo. ordering the arrest of the following:

RAY, JAMES EARL - @ JAMES O'CONNOR - White; Male, 32, D.O.B. [redacted], Ill., 5'11", 165, Blue eyes, Black hair, address unknown

for missing and possibly escaping from the Missouri State Penitentiary - Jefferson City, Mo. where he was presently serving a sentence for "ROBBERY 1ST" from St. Louis, Mo.

About 9:30 P.M. this date, Detectives Charles Billings, DSN 163 and Francis Auer, DSN 3659 assigned to the Third District Detective Bureau conducted an investigation at the following last known addresses of (RAY).

Officer's checked 1918 Park Avenue, which was given as the address of his brother JOHN RAY, however upon investigation found to be the France's Used Furniture Store, same being all locked up and no one around.

Officer's checked 2015 Park Avenue, which was given as an address by (RAY) on previous arrests, however upon investigation the officers talked to one: REBEN CRAFT who states that he has lived at that address for the past year and does not know anyone by the name of (RAY).

Officer's checked 1913 Hickory, which was given as the address of his mother LUCILLE RYAN, however upon investigation the officers talked to one: LORA BROOKS who states that she has lived at that address for the past year and does not know anyone by the name of (RAY) or (RYAN). Officers also checked 1915 Hickory, talking to one: DOROTHY CREAMER who states that she has lived at that address for the past six years and does not know anyone by the name of (RAY), (O'CONNOR) or (RYAN) nor of anyone by that name every living

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - CITY OF ST. LOUIS  
CONTINUATION REPORT

FILE NO. - FOR RECORDS SECTION

PAGE NO. Two

COMPLAINT NO. 138,550

in the 1900 block of Hickory.

(RAY) has LB #81071, in this departments record files.

An arrest order was placed on teletype, per message #307B of this date, for JAMES EARL RAY - @ JAMES O'CONNOR for " MISSING AND POSSIBLY ESCAPING FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY - JEFFERSON CITY, MO. ".

Det. Charles Billings 163  
Det. Charles Billings, DSN 163

Det. Francis Auer 3659  
Det. Francis Auer, DSN 3659

Respectfully,

Sgt. Frank Kavanaugh  
(Det. Lt.) Sgt. Frank Kavanaugh,  
DSN 1096 Watch Commander

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, USE ANOTHER CONTINUATION REPORT

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: PRISON SEARCH  
To: H. R. SWENSON, WARDEN  
FROM: B.J. Poiry, Major

Date APRIL 27, 1967

The following civil and custodial employees helped in the search inside the prison on April 26, 1967 starting at 7:30 P.M. and ending at 10:00 P.M., the search being conducted under the direction of Mr. M.J. Elliott, Associate Warden Custody and Major B.J. Poiry, Senior Custodial Officer.

|                  |                 |                                   |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Capt. L. Casey   | Guard J. Kirsch | Guard D. Storie                   |
| " D. Steele      | " H. Daniels    | " J. Sidebottom                   |
| Lt. G. Golden    | " R. Hendrix    | " L. Curty                        |
| " J. Stewart     | " J. Smith      | " C. Wheeler                      |
| " W. Hedrick     | " G. Anagost    | " L. Slone                        |
| " H. Atkinson    | " C. Jennings   | " G. Rogers                       |
| Sgt. W. Smith    | " A. Looten     | " J. Coale                        |
| " J. Hayes       | " A. Luecke     | " W. Allen                        |
| " N. Hendloy     | " H. Walther    | " D. Tilton                       |
| " R. Legg        | " B. Kenney     | " B. Bruce                        |
| " G. McDowell    | " J. Phillips   | " L. Gove                         |
| " C. McDaniel    | " C. Armstrong  | Mr. W. Waggoner                   |
| " R. Weeden      | " P. Hedges     | Mr. R. Hogg                       |
| " U. Lock        | " C. Evans      | Mr. B. Acree                      |
| " C. Garnett     | " J. Reed       | Mr. R. Bates                      |
| " K. Bemberger   | " B. Isaak      | Mr. P. Pealer                     |
| " R. Borghardt   | " C. Hopkins    | Mr. A. Dake (New Guard)           |
| Guard A. Kreig   | " L. Flaughner  | Mr. K. Dake " "                   |
| " E. Shelden     | " G. Bond       |                                   |
| " A. Schanzmeyer | " E.L. Scott    | <del>Mr. Carl White, A.M.T.</del> |

Your help, loyalty and interest is grately appreciated.

*B.J. Poiry*  
B.J. Poiry, Major  
Senior Guard Captain

cc: Mr. Elliott, AWC  
Capt. L. Casey  
Capt. D. Steele  
File

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. M. J. Elliot  
Associate Warden - Custody  
From: *Sgt. A. M. Gross*  
Sgt. A. M. Gross  
Control Center Desk - Evening Watch

Date: April 23, 1967

Subject: INMATE RAY, JAMES E. #W-00416  
MISSING AT THE FIVE (5:00) P.M. COUNT

On the above date the above named inmate was missing at the 5:00 P.M. Count. He was not at his assigned job, nor was he in his cell house.

A thorough search was made of the Penitentiary, and is still in progress as this I.O.C. is being written. It is not now known whether inmate RAY #W-00416 has successfully gotten outside the Penitentiary.

The following named Officials were inside helping conduct the search: Mr. Ward G. Kern, Warden Swenson, Mr. Elliot, Mr. Waggoner and Mr. Carl White, who was the Duty Officer. Major Poiry and the Officers and Sgts. from the Day Watch stayed over to also help conduct the search.

At 7:00 P.M. another Head Count was taken and inmate RAY #W-00416 was still missing.

All activities for the evening of April 23, 1967 were cancelled due to the extensive search for inmate RAY.

Another I.O.C. will follow as to the results of the search for inmate RAY #W-00416.

All local Law Officials have been alerted of the possible escape.

cc: Mr. Wilkinson  
Mr. Kern      Warden Swenson  
Mr. White     Mr. Waggoner  
Major Poiry

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: RAY, James, #00416-J

Date April 24, 1967

To: B.J. POIRY, MAJOR

PAGE II. *DE*

Guard Sergeant David Ekstan, J & K Hall Sgt.

Guard Sergeant Ekstan stated that he was in the Hall from 12:05 P.M. until the end of his duty tour and received several calls from the kitchen inquiring about other inmates but did not receive the call about Inmate Ray. He said however that the call could have been made while he was busy elsewhere in the hall. Inmate James Esson #73789, Hall Clerk stated that he did not take any call concerning Inmate Ray.

Sergeant Ekstan said that he did see Inmate Ray during the day but could not remember for sure if it was after Mainline A.M. or Mainline noon. He said Inmate Ray came to the hall and went to his cell, then later left the hall, presumably for the yard.

Guard Officer Ezra Shelden, Truck Tunnel

Guard Officer Shelden stated that the Garbage Truck made two trips through the Truck Tunnel 9:15 A.M. - 9:45 A.M. and 1:45 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. The Trash Truck made one trip 1:45 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

He stated that he thoroughly searched both trucks, all trips, using the probing rod and did not feel he could have missed an inmate if he had been aboard. He relieved Sergeant Ekstan, J & K Hall for lunch but did not receive a telephone inquiry about Inmate Ray.

Guard Officer Raymond Morgan, Trash Truck

Guard Officer Morgan stated that it was raining while he was inside picking up trash but that he stayed outside the truck and observed the loading of the trash and he was certain that no one boarded the truck while it was being loaded. He said he did have two big cardboard boxes on the truck but that he watched Officer Shelden probe the boxes and his load in the Truck Tunnel and he doesn't believe anyone was in the truck. He said when he got to the dump the cage was still latched and he dumped his load and watched it burn.

Guard Officer Lefe Gove, Round Gate

There is an inmate rumor that Inmate Ray walked out the Front Door with some civilian visitors just before 3:30 P.M. Guard Officer Lefe Gove stated that the civilians did come through the Round Gate about 3:15 P.M. but that he checked their passes before allowing them to go through the Round Gate and there were no inmates with them. Officer Gove is the type of officer that is very strict in enforcing Round Gate regulations.

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. Harold R. Swenson, Warden  
From: *[Signature]*  
G. J. Peery, Major  
Senior Guard Captain

Date: July 10, 1967

Subject: ESCAPEE: RAY, JAMES EARL # W-00416

Per orders of Mr. Harold R. Swenson, Warden, the above named inmate is to be dropped  
the R.S.P. count as an escapee.

Inmate RAY, James Earl #W-00416 was discovered absent prior to the 5:00 P.M. Count  
on April 23, 1967. After a thorough search inmate RAY, James Earl #W-00416 could  
not be found.

RECORD AS FOLLOWS: RAY, JAMES EARL # W-00416. Received from St. Louis City on  
March 17, 1960 to serve a term of Twenty (20) years for the crimes of Robbery 1st,  
b/m DDV and operating a M.V. w/c permission of the owner. He had been assigned to  
the Bakery unit of the Food Service Dept.

cc: Mr. Elliott, A.W.C.  
Record Office  
Classification  
Control Center  
File

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. Harold R. Swanson, Warden

Date: July 13, 1967

From: *B. J. Polry*  
B. J. Polry, Major  
Senior Guard Captain

Subject: ESCAPE: RAY, JAMES EARL # W-00416

Per orders of Mr. Harold R. Swanson, Warden, the above named inmate is to be dropped from the M.S.P. count as an escapee.

Inmate RAY, James Earl #W-00416 was discovered absent prior to the 5:00 P.M. Count on April 23, 1967. After a thorough search inmate RAY, James Earl #W-00416 could not be found.

RECORD AS FOLLOWS: RAY, JAMES EARL # W-00416. Received from St. Louis City on March 17, 1960 to serve a term of twenty (20) years for the crimes of Robbery 1st, b/m DDW and operating a M.V. w/o permission of the owner. He had been assigned to the Bakery unit of the Food Service Dept.

cc: Mr. Elliott, A.W.C.  
Record Office  
Classification(✓)  
Control Center  
File

Department of Corrections  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. Harold R. Swenson, Warden  
From: B. J. Poiry, Major  
Senior Guard Captain

Date: July 10, 1967

Subject: ESCAPEE: RAY, JAMES EARL # W-00416

Per orders of Mr. Harold R. Swenson, Warden, the above named inmate is to be dropped from the M.S.P. count, *as an escapee. as it is assumed that he escaped.*

Inmate RAY, James Earl #W-00416 was discovered absent prior to the 5:00 P.M. Count on April 23, 1967. After a thorough search inmate RAY, James Earl #W-00416 could not be found.

RECORD AS FOLLOWS: RAY, JAMES EARL # W-00416. Received from St. Louis City on March 17, 1960 to serve a term of Twenty (20) years for the crimes of Robbery 1st, b/m DDW and operating a M.V. w/o permission of the owner. He had been assigned to the Bakery unit of the Food Service Dept.

cc: Mr. Elliott, A.W.C.  
Record Office  
Classification  
Control Center  
File

7-10-67  
Noted  
JRS

November 30, 1967

Mr. Clarence M. Kelley  
Chief of Police  
Police Department  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Att: Gerald L. Lovell

Re: James Earl Ray  
MSP Reg. No. 00416

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Find enclosed a final copy of the escape notice on the above named escapee. The prints on the original escape notice were not Ray's. Somehow these notices were printed with another inmate's prints instead of Ray's. This was corrected later, but apparently you failed to receive the corrected copy.

We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE WARDEN

H. F. Lauf  
Records Office

Enclosure

POLICE DEPARTMENT

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106



CLARENCE M. KELLEY  
Chief of Police

RECEIVED

NOV 30 1967

November 29, 1967

RECORD OFFICE  
MO. STATE PENITENTIARY

Harry F. Lauf  
Identification & Records  
Missouri Department of Corrections  
P.O. Box 900  
Jefferson City, Missouri - 65101

Dear Sir:

Our files indicate that James Earl RAY, W/M, DOB:   
MDC#00416, FBI#306 443 A, is wanted for escape from the Mo. Dept.  
of Corr., on 4-23-67.

Along with the escape notice we also received fingerprints.  
We have prints on a subject by the same name & description and  
FBI number, but the prints are not identical.

We would appreciate receiving a copy of prints on the above  
subject and also please advise if still wanted.

Subjects whereabouts are unknown to us and is not in custody.

Thanking you for your attention in this matter and assuring  
you of continued cooperation in matters of mutual interest, I  
remain

Very truly yours,

Gerald L. Lovell  
Identification Unit

GLL:tm

August 16, 1967

Mr. Byron L. Kinder  
Prosecuting Attorney  
Cole County Court House  
Jefferson City, Missouri

Re: James Earl Ray  
Reg. #00416

Dear Sir:

The above inmate escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary on April 23, 1967.

Attached hereto are reports concerning his escape together with Certified Transcript of Serial Record.

It is the request of this office that the above inmate be prosecuted for having escaped custody when apprehended.

Very truly yours,

H. R. Swenson, Warden

Enclosures

2

3/17/60

| Name                                      | Address                        | Relationship |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 Mary Maher                              | 1913 Hickory<br>St. Louis, Mo. | Grandmother  |
| 2 John Ray, 1913 Hickory, St. Louis, Mo.  |                                | Brother      |
| 3 Jerry Ray, 1913 Hickory, St. Louis, Mo. |                                | Brother      |
| 4                                         |                                |              |
| 5                                         |                                |              |
| 6                                         |                                |              |
| 7                                         |                                |              |
| 8                                         |                                |              |
| 9                                         |                                |              |
| 10                                        |                                |              |

Name  
(20) RAY, James Earl

W-00416-5

Signature of Visitor \_\_\_\_\_

Jerry W. Ray

# SVENSK FÖRSÄKRING

Relation      Brother

## Relation

Signature

7/60  
Registration No. W- 00416

Inmate RAY, James Earl

(20)

Name of Visitor Mary Maher

Address 1913 Hickory,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Relation Grandmother

Signature of Visitor

Name of Visitor (James) John Ray (R) 1/9/62 Relation Brother R 9-14-61

Address 1913 Hickory, St. Louis, Mo. 1918 Park Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.

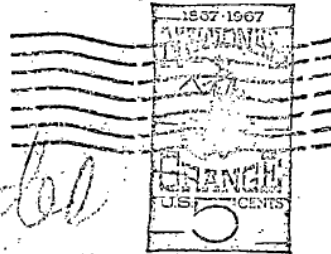
Signature

John Ray

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

*Jerry Ray*  
*Box 22*  
*Wheeling, Ill.*

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_



*Unrecorded*  
*Mr James E. Ray # 00416 For*  
*Box 900*  
*Jefferson City, Missouri.*  
*65102*

June 8, 1967

Mr. E. Russell Millin  
United States Attorney  
Western District  
United States Court House Building  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

Re: James Earl Ray  
MSP Reg. No. 60416  
F.B.I. No. 306 443 A

Dear Mr. Millin:

The indicated subject was missing, from inside the walls of the main Penitentiary on April 23, 1967 and since that date information has been discovered giving us reasons to believe that he has escaped. We also have reasons to believe Ray has fled the state, to avoid prosecution, as all efforts to locate him have failed.

This inmate is described as a white male, age 39, DOB [redacted] height 5'11", dark brown hair, blue eyes, weight 163, medium complexion and medium build. He was received here March 17, 1960, from the St. Louis City Circuit Court, to serve 20 years for Robbery First Degree by means of a Dangerous & Deadly Weapon (2 chgs.); Operating a Motor Vehicle without permission of the Owner (20,7,5 Concurrent).

We should appreciate it if your office would cause a Federal warrant to be issued against this individual. If he is apprehended, outside of the state of Missouri, the Department of Corrections will extradite him and pay the expenses thereof.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE WARDEN

H. F. Lauf  
Identification & Records

cc: Local FBI

al

Dear Sir:  
I am writing for a Visiting pass so that I can  
visit my Brother whenever I get the chance.  
Your office sent me one about three years ago but  
I lost my wallet and everything that was in it  
about one month ago. So I would be most  
thankful if you would send me another.

My Brother's name is James Earl Ray. 00416  
My name is Jerry William Ray  
I'll close for now and hope to hear from you soon.

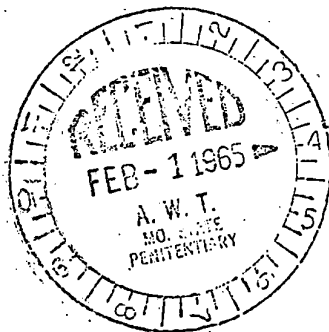
Respectfully yours

Jerry W. Ray

Box 82

Wheeling, W. Va.

2-1-65  
Vins  
G(R) Jan  
W



REPLACEMENT PASS ISSUED 2-1-65 VCQ

MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY

(Inside Mail Only)

James E. Ray Number 00416J Date JUNE 3  
B- Cell 24 Assignment Cleaning plant  
JECT mail

Dear Sir;

My brother mailed the enclosed  
inquiring to me I believe it was  
supposed to go to official for  
approval for mailing & visiting privileges

Fold, seal and address on reverse side.

MAY 5 1960

## VISITING AND CORRESPONDENCE INQUIRY

Your name has been submitted by RAY, James E., Reg. No. 00416  
an inmate of the Missouri State Penitentiary for consideration of ( ☒ ) visiting or ( ☒ ) correspon-  
dence privileges. Please complete the following questionnaire and return to the Classification  
Office, Box 900, Jefferson City, Missouri, not later than August 1, 1956. All spaces must be  
completed and verified by local law enforcement officer.

Name Jerry Ray Relationship to inmate Brother

Address 1913 Hickory Town St. Louis State Mo

Age 24 Sex M Marital Status: ( ) Married ( ☒ ) Single ( ) Divorced

How long have you known the inmate 24 years In what way did you meet the  
inmate? When he first opened my eyes

Have you ever been arrested? No If yes, what charge? \_\_\_\_\_

In what County and State \_\_\_\_\_

Your occupation Painter Are you now employed Not Regularly

Employer's name and address \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, declare that the above answers are true and understand that any misrepre-  
sentation in answering the questions will automatically result in the removal of my name from  
the inmate's visiting list or correspondence list, if such is approved.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

If married, signature of husband's  
approval is necessary.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

This statement of facts and signature to be witnessed by a local law enforcement officer as  
verification:

I, Frank A. [unclear], Police [unclear] am  
Name Title

acquainted with the above signer and to the best of my knowledge believe the answers as given  
to be true.

The contents of this form will be submitted for approval and if such approval is granted, you  
will receive by return mail notice that correspondence has been approved and correspondence  
regulations, and /or visiting pass and a list of visiting regulations.

Failure to receive such approval by return mail will be indication to you that you will not be  
privileged to visit or write to the inmate above.

E. V. NASH  
Warden  
Missouri State Penitentiary

sept 12, 1961

Dear Mrs. Nash.

I am writing for a visiting pass in order to visit  
my Brother in November I received one from you last  
year when I was living at 1913 Hickory St. in St. Louis  
but I've lost it. I hate to bother you over my mistakes  
as I know you have a lot of things to do so I hope  
you'll forgive my bothering you any consideration will be  
appreciated. His Name & number is as follows:

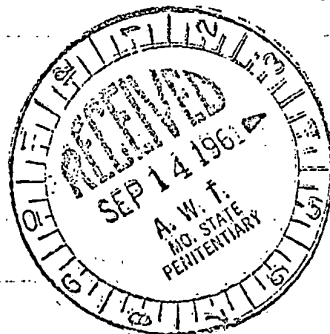
Jones Ray # 00416-J.

K-118

(OK)

P.  
Bass  
MAILED  
SEP 14 1961

as ever  
Jerry Ray  
Box 182  
Prospect Heights, Ill



RECEIVED

SEP 13 1961

WARDEN'S OFFICE  
MO. STATE PENITENTIARY

Department of Corrections  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: Ray - MSP 00416-9  
To: Records

Date Nov. 20, 1961

In view of this inmates attempted escape over the walls of the institution the evening of November 19, 1961 the following will affect his service on his present sentence:

All merit time earned prior to November 19, 1961 is denied, he will be held in solitary for a period of six (6) months, and, eighteen months from November 19, 1961 may be eligible to start earning merit time.

*E. J. Nash*

E. J. Nash, Warden

cc: Mr. Steinhauser, AIC

Classification

File

Department of Corrections  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

RECEIVED

Subject: Attempted Escape of Ray, W-00416-J

Date: November 19, 1961

To: Mr. W. P. Steinhauser  
Associate Warden - Custody

WARDEN'S OFFICE  
MO. STATE PENITENTIARY

Subject Ray, W-00416-J, who works in the Cleaning Plant, was missed on the 7:00 p.m. K-Hall count. On checking it was learned that Ray, 00416 was in the lobby of J & K Hall at 5:20 p.m., and left with men eating on Greasy Line.

I called #6 tower, Sr. Guard Embra Scott, and asked him if he had seen anyone around the Cleaning Plant. He stated that he had not seen anyone. At about 7:15 p.m. Scott reported to Control Center that he could see someone in the Cleaning Plant.

Sr. Guard Norbert Garzend and I went to the Cleaning Plant and found Ray, 00416, inside. Inmate had mud and blood on his clothing and blood on his face and head. There was several pieces of 1/2-inch pipe sticking under the Cleaning Plant fence Gate, a coil of wire, 1 pr pliers and an A-frame made from 2 X 4 lumber. Inside the building there were several pieces of boards as well as pipe, a carpenter's hand saw and other tools.

On questioning inmate Ray, 00416, he stated that he had attempted to go over the wall between #6 Tower and #7 Tower, in the area between the Tag Plant and the Tailor Shop. We went to this area and found a step-ladder about 8 feet long and 4 pieces of 1/2 inch pipe about 10 feet long as well as several shorter pieces and 2 pipe wrenches. There was also 2 pieces of 2 X 6 lumber about 8 feet long that were fastened together and had steps fastened on it with screws.

Inmate stated further that he had the pipe fastened together and had it hooked on the wall and was at least half way up the wall when the pipe broke and he fell, either landing on his head or was hit with a piece of the pipe. Anyhow he was knocked unconscious for a while. After he was able to get back on his feet he used the pipe wrenches to take the pipe apart and had taken part of the stuff he had used back to the Cleaning Plant.

The pipe was obtained by taking down the pipe racks used as Clothes Racks in the Cleaning Plant.

Ray, 00416, freely admitted that he had intended to go over the wall and believed that he would have made it had the pipe not broken.

Ray was taken to the Hospital for first-aid and later placed in O-Hall.

A search of the Cleaning Plant and the inmate's cell was made. Items picked up were brought to Control Center.

When questioning Ray, 00416, he said that he had tried it at the darkest place on the wall. In talking to Sr. Guard Fred Stock on #7 Tower and Sr. Guard Embra Scott they stated that in this area it was so dark that they could not see anyone in this area unless they had a light.

From my own inspection of this area it is very dark and by all means there should be lights put on the corner of the Tag Plant or the Tailor Shop to light this area.

*J. B. D. Lockwood*

Lt. B. D. Lockwood  
3 - 11 Shift

Department of Corrections  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: James Earl Ray - 00416-J

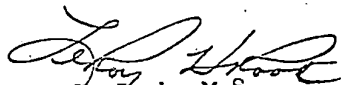
Date: May 28, 1962

To: Mr. T. P. Lock  
Director of Classification  
Missouri State Penitentiary

In response to your IOC of May 25, 1962 the above named 34-year-old white inmate was seen briefly on the morning of May 28, 1962. He arrived at MSP March 1960 with a 20 year sentence for robbery, first degree. He recently finished six months on E-3 for an attempted escape to go over the walls here in the main prison, he says. He claims two years of high school and a hitch in the United States Army.

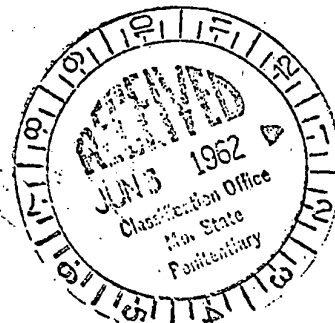
The subject appears to be a rather simple, inadequate, unspontaneous individual of a rather passive sort. His abortive attempt to scale the walls is characteristic of the kind of judgment (one perhaps should say misjudgment) which may be expected from this individual. He smiles in an inappropriate and embarrassing manner at times and gives one the feeling that they are communicating with a rather simple sort of soul.

Subject states that he would prefer to work at "whatever they give me--I don't have any choice." He states that he was previously working in the cleaning plant when he was apprehended in his escape episode. I have no specific recommendations as to work assignment for this individual.

  
LeRoy H. Mook, M.S.  
Clinical Psychologist

cc: Dr. Maxey  
file

/fh



12 July 1962

Mr. John Ray  
Box 92  
Highwood, Illinois

Re: James Ray 00416-J

Dear Sir:

No visits are permitted at the institution on Mondays.

All visitors must have in their possession the visiting pass which is issued from the institution at the request of the man confined. We do not transmit visiting passes which have been requested by letter or telephone.

Attached is the reverse side of our institutional stationery, which bears some of the various regulations on visiting and correspondence.

Very truly yours,

E. V. NASH, Warden

July 10, 62.

Dear Mr Nash;

I understand you cant visit and inmate on monday, i was wondering if there was any way of aggetting special permission to do so, as my Brother and i only get off one day per week, and that is monday.

If there is anything you can do to help us out i would appreciate it.

In case you can do us some good make the pass out 703 to John # Jerry Ray, as we both would like to visit him either July 23 or July 30.

any kind of consideration will be appreciated.

As Ever

*John Ray.*

P.S. my Brother name & number is "James Ray #00416-J"

RECEIVED

JUL 12 1962

WARDEN'S OFFICE  
MO. STATE PENITENTIARY

TO: Mr. W. P. Steinhauser  
Associate Warden Custody;

March 11, 1966

SUBJECT: Inmate RAY, James Earl # 00416

On the above date at approximately 9:35 P. M. Guard Officer Clifford B. Story, Keeper of J & K Halls called control Center and stated that while making his rounds he noticed that inmate RAY # 00416 was not passing out his milk to the Ulcer men who are on extra feedings. Going to subject's cell J-42 to see if inmate was in his cell he discovered a dummy made up of a pillow and blankets under the cover on the bed.

A search was started immediately by Capt. Leroy Casey and Guard Officers Edward Slauson, Officer Harry Eosson, and Guard Officer Elmer Wankun throughout the upper recreation Area, and all towers were alerted.

Capt. Casey and Officers Slauson, Eosson and Wankun returned to the Control Center with an inmate found hiding out in the T. V. Room.

Upon investigation they found the inmate was Seibert, Joseph #09111 from K-90. Officer Story was called to make a check on cell 90 in K-Hall.

Officer Story called Control Center a few minutes later stating he found a dummy in bed, made up from blankets and a water bucket under the sheets.

Inmate RAY, #00416 was still at large at this time.

*[Signature]*  
Sgt. James Whitworth  
C.C. Desk. 3 to 11 Shift

*Class*

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: Inmate RAY, James Earl # 04116

Date March 13, 1966

To: W. P. Steinhäuser  
Associate Warden of Custody

At approximately 12:15 A.M. Guard Officer Locket called me at Control Center informing me of the capture of Inmate RAY # 04116 on the tunnel roof that leads to Major Poiry's Office.

The inmate was brought to the Control Center and searched. Articles found were:

- (1) One Canteen book with 0 \$1.15 cents within
- (2) One Container with Schick Stainless Steel razor blades.
- (3) One piece broken mirror
- (4) 1 nail clippers
- (5) Two Ozark tobacco sticks filled with Black Pepper
- (6) One Pair Glasses and glass case
- (7) One plastic bag with assortment of pills
- (8) One pair Pliers with tape wrapped handles
- (9) One piece broken comb.
- (10) Three (3) one dollar bills

Upon completion of search inmate RAY was taken to hospital for treatment of injury to arm that inmate stated he received when he slipped and fell.

While inmate was at Control Center I informed the Officer of the Day Mr. Carl White that Inmate Ray had been apprehended and was in custody at Control Center.

Warden Swenson came to the Control Center and interviewed Inmate RAY, and at completion of interview RAY was placed in C-Cell.

Guard Officer Henry Locket was placed in Major Poiry's Office to watch for any movement of missing inmate on the roofs.

*Gene Williams*  
Sgt. Gene Williams  
Sgt. Control Center Work  
11 to 7 Shift

*Class*  
*File*



Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: Capture of Inmate RAY : 00115

Date March 11, 1966

To: W. P. Steinhauser  
Associate Warden Custody

At 11:00 P.M. I was told by Sgt. Williams at Control Center that I was to go to Major Peirys Office and relieve Officer Bond. My orders were to have no lights of any kind on and no smoking while I was on duty.

At approximately 12:10 A.M. I saw inmate RAY come up over the west wall of the tunnel. I waited till inmate was on top of the roof and went out and put him under custody, and shook him down. Then I called Sgt Williams at Control Center and informed him I had apprehended inmate RAY. I then proceeded to take him to Control Center.

He was interviewed by Warden Swenson and placed in O-Hall.

H. L. Lockett  
Harry Lockett  
Officer

Class

File



March 15, 1966

Mr. Byron L. Kinder  
Prosecuting Attorney  
Cole County Court House  
Jefferson City, Missouri

Re: James Earl Ray  
MSP, Reg.#W-00416

Dear Mr. Kinder:

Attached are a number of reports regarding the attempted escape of the above inmate at or about 9:00 P.M., March 11, 1966, and the search made for him until approximately 12:10 A.M., March 13, 1966.

I am recommending that you prosecute this inmate under Section 557.351, Missouri R.S., for the escape attempt, as I think we have ample evidence for a successful prosecution.

This inmate did place a dummy in his bed in an attempt to "cover up" for his absence at the 9:00 P.M. count on March 11, 1966. He did cut a hole through a security screen on a window at the west end of J-Hall and was able to hide out from search parties on various areas of the roof. He took a 14 foot iron rod with him that is used to ventilate the windows in J-Hall. He attached a metal hook to the end of this rod and was able to hang the rod from the eave of the ventilator shaft of the Administration Building. This was made possible by him scaling several feet up the walls in a corner between the Administration Building and the ventilator shaft immediately above the Officer's Dining Room.

He proceeded to climb up the rod in an effort to reach the roof of the Administration Building where he undoubtedly planned to follow the roof line of the front building and then make his escape from this location.

You will note in the report of Sgt. Williams, dated March 13, 1966, that inmate Ray had items of contraband on his person that would contribute toward an escape, especially the pliers which he used to cut the security

Mr. Kinder

- 2 -

screen and \$3.00 in cash. These items are in addition to the iron rod with the hook attached to it.

I feel that we have an ample number of witnesses to testify in this case if they be needed.

Very truly yours,

H. R. Swenson, Warden

HRS:lw

Enclosures

Department of Corrections  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. Harold R. Swenson, Warden

Date: March 15, 1966

From: *B. J. Poiry*  
B. J. Poiry, Major  
Senior Guard Captain

Subject: Cell Location of Inmate James Ray #W-00416 *file*

In reporting the escape of Inmate Ray #W-00416, he was reported to be celling in K-10 rather than J-42.

He was transferred to J Hall Cleaner on March 4th by the Classification Committee, thus having him moved from K-10 to J-42. This move was not recorded in the Commitment Record in the Control Center.

Sgt James Whitworth was taking his place of celling from this record in the Control Center. I don't feel he is responsible for the error as well as Guard Clifford Story.

All count and summary records were correct, therefore still having Inmates record correct in the hall counts.

cc: A.W.C.  
File  
1 Extra Copy

*3-15-66*

Department of Corrections

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: Inmate RAY, James Earl # 00416 *file*

Date March 13, 1966

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Associate Warden of Custody

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Guard Officer Henry Locket was placed in Major Poiry's Office to watch for any movement of missing inmate on the roofs.

*Gene Williams*

Sgt. Gene Williams  
Sgt. Control Center Desk  
11 to 7 Shift

*Warden*

TO: Mr. W. P. Steinhauser  
Associate Warden Custody;

March 11, 1966

SUBJECT: Inmate RAY, James Earl # 00416

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Inmate RAY, #00416 was still at large at this time.

*Sgt James Whitworth*  
Sgt. James Whitworth  
C.C. Desk. 3 to 11 Shift

*W. A. A. A.*