

MM 44-1854

XXI. CHECKING VIN FOR RE-REGISTRATION
FOR 1967 WHITE MUSTANG

94

MM 44-1854

THS:cmp

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On April 10, 1968, the Birmingham Office advised that the white 1967 Mustang, Vehicle Identification Number 6T07C190647 registered to ERIC STARVO GALT could possibly be re-registered in another state.

95

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/12/68

Det. Sgt. JACK RUCKER, Miami, Florida Police Department, Auto Theft Squad, on April 11, 1968, caused records of his department's Communication Division, which contains listings of all vehicles registered in Dade County, Miami, Florida, to be searched under the description of a 1966 Mustang automobile, VIN 6T07C190647, 1968 Alabama license 1-38993.

Sergeant RUCKER advised as of April 11, 1968, no record identifiable with the aforementioned 1966 Mustang automobile was located in the files of the Miami, Florida Police Department Communication Division.

Detective RUCKER advised no reference was located which would indicate as of April 11, 1968, the Mustang automobile is presently or has ever been registered in Dade County, Miami, Florida.

On 4/11/68 at Miami, Florida File # Miami 44-1854
 by SA IRVIN B. BRUCE:vc Date dictated 4/11/68

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96

MM 44-1854

XXII. CONTACTS WITH SALVATION ARMY AND WELFARE
AGENCIES, MIAMI DIVISION

MM 44-1854

The following investigation was conducted in the Miami Division on May 22, 1968:

All Salvation Army Centers, county, city and local welfare agencies in the Miami Division were contacted, with regard to JAMES EARL RAY. All of these agencies were furnished with Identification Orders and Wanted Flyers of RAY, and none were able to identify him.

All church welfare agencies were also contacted and furnished with Identification Orders and Wanted Flyers of JAMES EARL RAY.

98

MM 44-1854

XXIII. LOOK-ALIKES

MM 44-1854

THS/jgj

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On April 22, 1968, the New York Office advised that THEODORE SULLIVAN, Bethpage, New York, and his wife had observed an individual at the Sea Ranch Hotel, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Florida, whose name was GALLAHER. According to Mr. SULLIVAN, GALLAHER arrived at this hotel on April 16, 1968, and departed on April 19, 1968, and GALLAHER resembled a photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT.

On April 23, 1968, RICHARD OSEN, Manager, Sea Ranch Hotel, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, advised SA ROGER B. COLTON that Mr. and Mrs. G. J. GALLAHER, 5505 Briar Drive, Houston, Texas, stayed at the hotel from April 16, 1968, to April 19, 1968.

Upon viewing a photograph of GALT, Mr. OSEN advised that there was no resemblance between GALLAHER and GALT. Mr. OSEN advised that the GALLAHERs may still be vacationing in the Miami area; however, their whereabouts were unknown to him.

100

MM 44-1854

THS/jgj

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On April 21, 1968, Mr. SAMUEL RIVERO, 1450 N.W. 11th Street, Miami, telephone number 688-6044, furnished the following information.

Around 3:00 p.m. on April 21, 1968, while working at his place of employment, Hudson Service Station, 85th Street and N.W. 7th Avenue, Miami, he observed two white males, one of whom fitted the description of subject, driving a 1952 or 1953 blue Dodge bearing Alabama license number 312-9188. Mr. RIVERO advised that one of the occupants of this vehicle inquired of him if he knew of a way to bypass the city to make connections with U. S. Highway 41.

Mr. RIVERO further advised that he conjectured that possibly these two individuals may have been en route to Tampa, Florida.

101

MM 44-1854

THS/jgj

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On April 23, 1968, the San Francisco Office advised that DAVID MC DONALD, Ticket Agent, National Airlines (NAL), Houston, Texas, had observed around Noon, April 21, 1968, an individual resembling subject boarding a flight to the West Coast en route to either San Francisco or Los Angeles, California. This individual was described as a white male, 6 feet 1 inch, brown hair, cowboy straw hat, horned rimmed glasses with dark shaded lenses, wearing beige Levi jacket and having a neatly trimmed goatee.

The following investigation was conducted by SA STUART GODWIN:

On April 23, 1968, NAL stewardesses MONA LEVINE, SUSAN CARBONE, JOANN HARRINGTON and JOANNE MC CLAIN were interviewed upon arrival of NAL Flight 48 at Miami, Florida.

These stewardesses advised that they had been aboard NAL Flight 47 on April 21, 1968, and they all stated that they had not seen or noticed any person on NAL Flight 47 that fitted the above described individual.

Photographs of subject and WALTER T. RIFE, were exhibited to each of the above mentioned stewardesses and they advised that no one on NAL Flight 47 on April 21, 1968, resembled either photograph to the best of their recollection.

MM 44-1854

THS/jgj

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On April 18, 1968, the El Paso Office advised that an individual named DAVID (NMI) HAWKINS was reportedly "on the run" and that he had left New Orleans the morning of April 18, 1968. It was further reported that HAWKINS allegedly fitted the description of the subject.

The following investigation was conducted by SAs WILLIAM B. PULLEN and DENNIS J. O'SHEA:

Mrs. EVA HAWKINS, 1098 N.E. 34th Court, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, advised that her son, DAVID HAWKINS, resides with another son, BERNARD HAWKINS, Box 18, Wellborn, Florida. Mrs. HAWKINS said that DAVID has resided with BERNARD for the past four years and that DAVID helps out on BERNARD's farm and does 4-H work.

Mrs. HAWKINS advised she last saw DAVID just before Christmas, 1967. She said that DAVID was very thin at that time and in no way did he look similar to the photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT which was displayed to her. Mrs. HAWKINS displayed a photograph of DAVID noting that this photograph did not resemble the subject.

Mrs. HAWKINS stated that DAVID was formerly in the U. S. Army for about ten years; however, he was discharged about ten years ago. She described him as a white male, born [redacted] at Suwannee County, Florida. She said that DAVID was about 5 feet 9 inches, weighed 130-135 pounds, had sandy hair and very thin features.

103

MM 44-1854

THS/jgj

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The following investigation was conducted by SA DAVID N. JELLISON concerning an individual who placed a note in some stationery destined for the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Miami, Florida, regarding anonymous note that stated, "_____ KING will be dead by 4/4/68"; which note was subsequently determined to be authored by GEORGE CHARLES GRAY, Ashland, Ohio.

On April 10, 1968, KATHRIN HOBSON, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company (PPGC), 17851 N.W. Miami Court, Miami, Florida, advised she had ordered some stationery supplies from the A. L. Garber Company, Printers, Ashland, Ohio, through the PPGC and that this stationery arrived at PPGC, Miami, Florida on April 10, 1968.

Mrs. HOBSON advised she opened the outer package and removed one inner package and started to remove a second inner package when she noted a 3" x 1/2" piece of paper which had been ripped from the package copy of the shipping bill. Written on this slip of paper was "Dr. Rev. MARTIN L. KING will be dead by 4/4/68." This slip of paper together with the shipping bill was taped with cellophane tape to a package of paper pads.

Mrs. HOBSON advised that the Garber shipping number was 52360 and that this package was picked up by the United Parcel Service on April 5, 1968, and delivered on April 10, 1968.

The above described items were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory in Washington, D. C. for comparison and examination purposes.

104

MM 44-1854

THS/jgj

1

On April 12, 1968, the New York Office advised that it had been reported that an individual named THOMAS D. ROOD, JR., who resided in Vero Beach, Florida, allegedly resembled the subject.

105

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/19/68

THOMAS ROOD, 1827 South U. S. #1, Vero Beach, Florida; mailing address, Post Office Box 1913, Vero Beach, Florida, was interviewed at his residence. He furnished the following information:

He is not currently employed and has not been employed since he resigned his position with the Hartford Insurance Group with whom he worked as an insurance adjustor from October, 1966, through April, 1967.

ROOD broke a rib shortly following his resignation and was "laid up" for four weeks. He then became involved in marital difficulties with his wife, RITA NOE ROOD from whom he separated in July, 1967, and who divorced him in August, 1967. Following his divorce he was unable to find a suitable position and remained unemployed until December 1, 1967, when he entered the Veterans Administration Hospital on Montrose, New York. He was treated at the hospital for his general physical run down condition and for his condition due to a nervous disorder. He was released from the hospital on January 3, 1968. He straightened up his personal affairs in New York State, including the sale of his former residence at 7 Jervin Drive, Stony Point, New York, and he came to Vero Beach, Florida, at the end of January to reside with his mother and stepfather.

He has resided with his mother and stepfather since the end of January, 1968, and has taken no trips out of Vero Beach, which have lasted more than one day.

ROOD advised that he had not been outside the State of Florida, since the end of January, 1968. He did not recall his activities on March 29 and 30, 1968, but he did recall that on April 4, 1968, he slept until

On 4/12/68 at Vero Beach, Florida File # Miami 44-1854 -198
 by SAS DAVID C. CALLAN & RONALD TODD Date dictated 4/16/68

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MM 44-1854

about noon. He spent the afternoon out at either the beach or the public library, and he believed that he rented an adding machine for his mother from O'Hare's Business Machine Company in Vero Beach, Florida. He was home for dinner and stayed at his residence on the evening on April 4, 1968.

ROOD is described from observation and interview as follows:

Name:	THOMAS ROOD
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
DOB:	<input type="text"/>
POB:	Colchester, Vermont
Height:	5'8"
Weight:	130 pounds
Hair:	Reddish brown
Eyes:	Hazel
Scars and Marks:	None
Occupation:	Insurance adjustor
Residence:	1827 South U. S. #1 Vero Beach, Florida
Former residence:	7 Jerven Drive, Stony Point, New York
Former Employment:	Hartford Insurance Group, New York, N. Y.
Relatives:	
Mother:	Mrs. MARGARET SARGENT same address
Stepfather:	Mr. MURRAY SARGENT, same address
Former wife:	RITA NOE ROOD, 183 Rice Avenue, Staten Island, New York
Daughter:	<input type="text"/> age 8, same as above

MM 44-1854

Daughter: [REDACTED], age 5
same as above
Grandmother: DOROTHY NOURSE,
Colchester, Vermont
Brother: GEORGE MILO ROOD,
37 Madison Avenue,
New York City, New York
Arrest Record: He admitted being arrested
in 5/66 on a Driving
While Intoxicated
Charge at West Harvestraw,
New York
Military
Service: Formerly in U. S. Army,
had U. S. Army SN [REDACTED]

3.

108

On April 12, 1968, Mrs. MARGARET SARGENT, ROOD's mother, and Mr. MURRAY SARGENT, ROOD's stepfather, both of whom reside at 1827 South U. S. 1, Vero Beach, Florida, were interviewed separately. Each advised that THOMAS ROOD had spent every night at the above residence since he first came to live with them in late January, 1968. They recalled that he had slept late on the morning of April 4, 1968, and that he had eaten dinner with them on the evening of April 4, 1968. They also recalled that he had spent the evening of April 4, 1968, watching television in his room.

On April 15, 1968, Mrs. BETTY ROGERS, Librarian, Vero Beach Public Library, advised that she is acquainted with THOMAS ROOD. She stated that in recent weeks he has frequently visited the library. She advised that she does not recall whether or not he was in the library on April 4, 1968. She stated that he did not withdraw any books on April 4, 1968, but that he frequently came to the library without withdrawing books.

She further advised that it was very possible that he may have been at the library on the day in question.

On April 15, 1968, JACK O'HARE, Manager, O'Hare's Office Machine Store, 1422 20th Street, Vero Beach, Florida, advised that he had rented an adding machine to Mrs. MARGARET SARGENT, the manager of Sargent's Antiques, which is an antique store on Highway 1, south of Vero Beach. He advised that Mrs. SAREENT's son had picked up the rented machine and to the best of his recollection this had been on April 4, 1968. He stated that he could not be sure of the exact date because of the fact that no written record was made of the transaction.

MM 44-1854

THS/jgj

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On April 18, 1968, Mr. JAMES PARISH, 11225 Washington Boulevard, Richmond Heights, Dade County, Florida, telephonically advised that he is employed as a mailman and a part-time service station attendant at Zayre's Service Center, 136th Street and South Dixie Highway, Miami, Florida. Mr. PARISH stated that while servicing a 1967 red Mustang on the evening of April 17, 1968, he recalls that the driver of this vehicle closely resembled the photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT which appeared in the "Miami Herald" newspaper of April 18, 1968.

Mr. PARISH stated that the driver would not leave this vehicle and that the individual had a "funny look on his face". He said that this individual purchased \$1.00 worth of gasoline and noted that this individual had the windows of the automobile rolled up even though it was warm outside.

Mr. PARISH stated that this individual had sandy brown hair and was wearing a recently grown "CLARK GABLE style" mustache.

Mr. PARISH advised that the above mentioned Mustang bore 1967 Iowa license plate number 8/9-3681.

The following investigation was conducted by SA HENRY E. WILSON:

On April 19, 1968, Mr. W. A. MEABE, Manager, Universal CIT, 485 N.W. 42nd Avenue, Miami, Florida, advised the writer that the 1967 Ford Mustang bearing 1967 Iowa license 8/9-3681 was sold on January 29, 1968, to L. E. Caskey Motor Company, 1368 N.W. 36th Street, Miami, Florida. He has no idea as to who CASKEY might have sold this automobile.

110

MM 44-1854

2

On April 19, 1968, Mr. L. E. CASKEY was contacted at his place of business, 1362 N.W. 36th Street, Miami, Florida. CASKEY stated he sold the 1967 Ford Mustang bearing 1967 Iowa license 8/9-3681 on April 15, 1968, to South Miami Motors, 16540 South Dixie Highway, Miami, Florida.

On April 19, 1968, Mr. ROBERT PLUMLEE, 7160 S.W. 21st Street, Miami, Florida, was contacted at South Miami Motors, 16540 South Dixie Highway, Miami, Florida. PLUMLEE advised he was driving the 1967 red Ford Mustang bearing 1967 Iowa license 8/9-3681 on the evening of April 17, 1968. Further, he advised that he is the son of the owner of South Miami Motors. PLUMLEE denied having been in Memphis, Tennessee except when he was a small child, about twenty years ago. He further advised that he had no involvement in the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

The following description of PLUMLEE was obtained by observation and interrogation:

Name	<u>ROBERT L. PLUMLEE</u>
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Suffolk, Virginia
Height	6 feet 2 inches
Weight	145 pounds
Hair	Brown, curly
Eyes	Light brown
Military	Florida National Guard
Peculiarities	Extremely high cheek bones

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MM 44-1854

THS/jgj

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The following investigation pertains to information relating to a J. CONRAD MORGAN, Memphis, Tennessee.

On April 9, 1968, Florida Highway Trooper JOSEPH CHANCY, Miami, furnished the following information:

CHANCY's brother-in-law, JOHN EDWARDS, who presently resides at Hollywood, Florida, and who is employed as a firearms salesman, informed Trooper CHANCY on the evening of April 8, 1968, that during October, 1967, he (EDWARDS) had an occasion to occupy a booth at a firearms show in Memphis, Tennessee. According to EDWARDS, on October 29, 1967, one J. CONRAD MORGAN, 1018 North Watkins, Apartment Number 4, Memphis, Tennessee, appeared at the firearms show and at his booth purchased a .22 caliber rifle. During the course of this sale, MORGAN commented that he owned a 30.06 caliber automatic rifle.

Trooper CHANCY stated that EDWARDS recalled that MORGAN fitted the general description of the man that was seen running from the building from which the shot was fired that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING.

EDWARDS had informed Trooper CHANCY that MORGAN was employed at a Burger Chef located at 3701 Lamar Street, Memphis, Tennessee. EDWARDS described MORGAN as a "weird and funny talking" individual.

112

MM 44-1854

THS/jgj

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The following investigation pertains to TOMMY NASH, JR., LaGrange, Georgia.

On April 9, 1968, an anonymous note scribbled on a scrap of paper was received at the Miami Office of the FBI in an airmail envelope addressed to the FBI, Miami, Florida, which bore the postmarking of Miami Beach, P. M., April 7, 1968.

This note stated as follows: "Get TOMMY NASH, JR., in LaGrange, Ga. You will have KING's killer".

This anonymous note was furnished to the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D. C. for comparison purposes.

113

MM 44-1854

THS/jgj

1

The following investigation was conducted regarding an individual observed at Eatonville and Orlando, Florida, on April 7 and 8, 1968, as furnished by the Tampa Office on April 15, 1968.

On April 15, 1968, Mr. A. J. STROUDMIER, Greyhound Bus Driver, 11780 S.W. 188th Street, South Miami Heights, Florida, advised SA FRANCIS J. MC CARRON that on April 8, 1968, he made Greyhound run number 311 from Orlando to Miami, Florida, departing Orlando at 8:15 a.m.

Mr. STROUDMIER was unable to identify anyone resembling subject as being a passenger on his Greyhound Bus on the above mentioned date.

On April 16, 1968, Mr. CHARLES TITUS, 17621 N.W. 10th Court, Miami, advised SA DAVID N. JELLISON that he is a Greyhound Bus Driver. Mr. TITUS advised that he made Greyhound run number 363 from Orlando, Florida to Miami, Florida on April 8, 1968, noting that the Greyhound Bus departed Orlando at 9:20 a.m. Mr. TITUS was unable to recall seeing anyone who fitted the description of the subject as being a passenger on the above mentioned Greyhound Bus.

An artist's conception of the subject was shown to both of the above mentioned Greyhound Bus Drivers without effecting an identification as such.

114

MM 44-1854

THS/jgj

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The following investigation relates to an individual seen by a Mrs. MABEL SCHRAY, St. Louis, Missouri, at the lobby of the Miami International Airport.

On April 18, 1968, St. Louis Office advised that a Mrs. MABEL SCHRAY, St. Louis, Missouri, had observed an individual resembling the subject seated in the lobby of the Miami International Airport Hotel, Miami, Florida, on April 11, 1968.

The following investigation was conducted by SA DAVID N. JELLISON:

On April 18, 1968, photographs of ERIC STARVO GALT were exhibited to employees of the Miami International Airport Hotel, Miami, Florida. These employees stated that they had no recollection of observing anyone who looked like the individual in the photographs or anyone fitting the description of GALT at the Miami International Airport Hotel in the past several days.

115

MM 44-1854

THS:cmp

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The following investigation was conducted by SA RICHARD D. KELLOGG regarding information furnished by MARY ELLIOTT, Tilford Flying Service, West Palm Beach, Florida, concerning JOHN C. PRICE, JR.:

116

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/10/68

MARY ELLIOTT, Tilford Flying Service, Palm Beach International Airport, West Palm Beach, Florida, advised persons identifying themselves as JOHN C. PRICE, JR., and his wife, MARY PRICE, arrived at that airport during the late afternoon of April 5, 1968, in a private Beechcraft Debonair, Number 653V, from Memphis, Tennessee, en route to the Bahamas. They returned from the Bahamas during the afternoon of April 8, 1968, intending to return to Memphis that date, but learned the Memphis airport was closed. They did depart West Palm Beach in the above aircraft, which Mr. PRICE was piloting, to go on towards Memphis, but did not file a flight plan, which is not required, so their exact immediate destination was not known.

Mrs. ELLIOTT said PRICE was using a credit card in the name of J. CARY PRICE, JR., Post Office Box 11243, Memphis, Tennessee, which is the address of Argromauts, Inc., Memphis. She described Mr. PRICE as about 40 years of age, 5'10" tall, 185 pounds, with a fair complexion and brown or sandy-colored hair. She said his hairline was somewhat receded and thinner in front than in back, making it appear somewhat sandy in front and more brown in back. The hair was combed straight back. He is built wider in the hips than in the shoulders, and appeared to be slightly knock kneed and had a slight paunch. Mrs. PRICE was described as about 27 years of age, 5'8" tall, 145 pounds, with brown hair. Mrs. ELLIOTT noted neither Mr. nor Mrs. PRICE were wearing wedding rings.

Mrs. ELLIOTT said when Mr. PRICE first arrived at the terminal in West Palm Beach and she learned he was from Memphis, she mentioned what a nasty thing the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING was. PRICE took an attitude of no remorse about this, and indicated KING got just what he deserved; that he was just making things bad in Memphis, and that was the reason they got out of Memphis for a while. Mrs. ELLIOTT then said she would not want to shoot anyone or have anyone shoot her, and no response was made to this, but Mrs. PRICE gave her a very "dirty look." On learning on his return trip that the Memphis airport was closed, apparently because of the KING matter, Mr. PRICE again voiced disgust, indicating

On 4/9/68 at West Palm Beach, Florida File # Miami 44-1854
 by SA RICHARD B. KELLOGG:plm RBN Date dictated 4/9/68

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MM 44-1854

KING was the fault of this, and such actions following the death of KING are not justified.

Mrs. ELLIOTT said after she first saw PRICE, she observed in a local newspaper an artist's conception of the person who killed KING, which drawing she believed was attributed to a newspaper in Memphis. When she saw this drawing she was struck by the resemblance with PRICE. She said a combination of all these things made her believe the matter should be reported for what it was worth.

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118

MM 44-1854

THS:cmp

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT SCHACHNER at West Palm Beach, Florida regarding an individual resembling subject in "Jet Magazine":

On April 16, 1968, ELDER S. BARROW, 434 $\frac{1}{2}$ 20th Street, Apartment 1, West Palm Beach, Florida, furnished the following information:

BARROW stated he had just seen the current issue of "Jet Magazine". On Page 43 was a photograph of the composite of the suspect in the assassination of Reverend Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. Mr. BARROW stated that on Page 47 of this magazine was a photograph of a man who had previously made an attempt against Dr. KING in Selma, Alabama.

Mr. BARROW stated, in his opinion, there was a definite resemblance between the two photographs.

MM 44-1854

THS:cmp

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On April 19, 1968, the Jacksonville Office advised that North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper HARRY L. WILLIAMS, Catawba County, North Carolina, had observed an individual resembling subject on the night of April 9, 1968 at Newton, North Carolina driving a 1955 or 1956 Dodge four-door with an off white top, dark green on sides, hood and trunk and with an off white bottom bearing 1968 Florida License #10W followed by four or five digits.

The following investigation was conducted by SA DENNIS J. O'SHEA:

On April 19, 1968, the Broward County Auto Tag Agency, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, advised that Florida licenses with the number prefix 10W are assigned to Broward County, Florida.

The Broward County Tag Agency advised that since they are not computerized, it would require physically pulling and observing over 150,000 registration cards in order to segregate the 1955 and 1956 Dodge automobile registered in Broward County, Florida. Further that since these records are located in five different agencies, the task of pulling these registration cards in this regard would be an overwhelming task.

The Broward County Tag Agency advised that since the State Automobile Registration Bureau in Tallahassee, Florida is computerized, the possibility exists that the state agency could possibly obtain a "read out" of all such automobiles for the entire state of Florida; and that in this matter, the 10W tags could then be obtained from this "read out".

120

MM 44-1854

DNJ:vc

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On April 20, 1968, the Milwaukee Office of the FBI advised that Mr. DANIEL S. KELLY telephonically furnished the following information to the Milwaukee FBI Office:

Mr. KELLY stated he and his wife had recently returned from a vacation in Florida. They stayed at the Sun Castle Club, 1380 South Ocean Boulevard, Pompano, Florida, which Mr. KELLY stated was operated by an ERNEST CASTLE.

Mr. KELLY stated after seeing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY that a bellboy at the Sun Castle Club closely resembled RAY both in looks and general description. He stated that this bellboy's name was EARL and that he had told people at the club he was leaving to work as an electrician in Tennessee.

The following investigation was conducted by SA EUGENE L. PAYNE at Pompano Beach, Florida from April 23, 1968, to April 29, 1968:

HERB BLONSTRUM, Assistant Manager, Sun Castle Motel, 1380 South Ocean Boulevard, Pompano Beach, Florida, advised that the individual named EARL was probably EARL B. SHIELDS of 15 Almond Drive, Randolph, Massachusetts. His Social Security Number was listed as

After an exhaustive search for pertinent records, BLONSTRUM determined SHIELDS was employed from March 28, 1968, to April 1, 1968, as a bellboy. He remembered that SHIELDS mentioned going to Tennessee but could not remember the name of the city.

BLONSTRUM was unable to locate the employment application for SHIELDS and admitted his records were extremely disorganized. His motel has highly transient help and in fact the supervisor of SHIELDS had since departed.

BLONSTRUM viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and said he did not believe this photograph was identical

121

MM 44-1854

DNJ:vc

2.

with SHIELDS. He indicated SHIELDS has more shallow checks and a wider nose.

Credit and criminal checks at Pompano Beach and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, regarding SHIELDS met with negative results.

122

MM 44-1854

DNJ/dmc

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On April 24, 1968, the Savannah, Georgia Office of the FBI advised as follows:

Investigation on April 24, 1968, at Darien, Georgia, had determined that on April 9, 1968, an individual identifying himself as JOSEPH LUNCEFORD who closely resembled artist's conception of the assassin of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was seen in Darien, Georgia. LUNCEFORD had made inquiries at Darien, Georgia concerning a money order which was to be forwarded to him at New Smyrna, Florida.

The following investigation was conducted at Boca Raton, Florida by SA ROBERT SCHACHNER on April 25, 1968:

Mrs. MONNIE PETERSON LEONE, Apartment 26A, Garden Apartments, advised she has been living at this address about two weeks and comes from Clinton, North Carolina. She advised she met JOSEPH LUNCEFORD in Clinton, North Carolina, about the last week in March, 1968. She stated since that time she has been with LUNCEFORD every day both in Clinton, North Carolina and in Boca Raton, Florida. She advised they came to Florida together and plan on getting married when she is divorced from her separated husband. She advised LUNCEFORD was definitely in Clinton, North Carolina, with her on April 3, 4, 5, 1968.

She advised LUNCEFORD is working at the Palms Gulf Station.

JOSEPH LUNCEFORD was located at the Palms Gulf Station and eliminated as being subject by fingerprint comparison.

123

MM 44-1854

DNJ:vc

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On April 24, 1968, the Tampa Office of the FBI advised that DAVID O. CONGER, III, of North Largo, Florida, had furnished information to the effect that on April 8, 1968, he had flown from Miami, Florida, to St. Croix, Virgin Islands. He flew on Pan American Airways (PAA) Flight 429 and believes he saw a person identical to JAMES EARL RAY sitting in Seat 7F or Seat 9F.

The following investigation was conducted at Miami, Florida, by SA DAVID N. JELLISON at PAA, Miami International Airport, Miami, Florida, from April 25 to April 29, 1968:

FRANK WARFIELD, Assistant Passenger Manager, PAA, advised his records indicate that Seat 7F on Flight 429 from Miami to St. Croix, Virgin Islands, was occupied by CARL NULL on April 8, 1968. WARFIELD further advised that it would take approximately two or three days to determine where NULL was residing at the time he made his reservation. Seat 9F on this flight was not occupied.

On April 29, 1968; FRANK WARFIELD advised that CARL NULL left as a contact point telephone number 933-5561 at Pompano Beach, Florida, which number is listed to Adapt-O-Core Precast Co.

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROGER B. COLTON at Pompano Beach, Florida, on April 29, 1968:

Mr. LAWRENCE FITZSIMONS, Personnel Manager, Adapt-O-Core Company, Pompano Beach, Florida, advised that CARL T. NULL was employed on a job in Pompano Beach, Florida, on April 4 and April 5, 1968, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

FITZSIMONS described NULL as a white male, 6' tall, slender build, who has two fingers missing on one hand and one finger missing on the other as a result of a 1963 accident. He stated that there was a possibility that NULL resembled JAMES EARL RAY, however, he positively stated that NULL is not identical to JAMES EARL RAY.

124

MM 44-1854

DNJ/dmc

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On April 25, 1968, the Atlanta Office of the FBI advised that a WILLARD F. RAY previously resided at 225 Kinsey Court, NE, Atlanta.

Investigation indicated that RAY had since moved to 1251 Dickenson, Apartment 332, Coral Gables, Florida.

The following investigation was conducted by SA DAVID N. JELLISON and SA LEONARD C. PETERSON at Miami, Florida, on April 26, 1968:

Attempts to locate WILLARD F. RAY at 1251 Dickenson Drive, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, met with negative results. It was determined that WILLARD F. RAY resides at Apartment 33L, 1252 Dickenson Drive. RAY was contacted and was eliminated as a suspect through a check of his fingerprints.

125

MM 44-1854

DNJ/dmc

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On May 6, 1968, CAROL YVONNE CROWLEY advised the Tampa Office of the FBI that she and her husband had stayed at the Buena Vista Hotel, 409 North Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, from approximately April 18, 1968, to April 25, 1968. She further stated that while residing at the Buena Vista Hotel, an individual known to her only as JESSE, was also staying at the Buena Vista Hotel and resembled pictures of JAMES EARL RAY.

The following investigation was conducted at West Palm Beach, Florida by SA RICHARD B. KELLOGG on May 6, 1968:

WILLIAM COCKRIN, Manager, Buena Vista Hotel, West Palm Beach, Florida, stated that a RUDY JESSE SMITH registered there on April 19, 1968, and departed the following day. COCKRIN stated that SMITH was definitely not identical with JAMES EARL RAY. He further stated that SMITH was at least six feet tall, was less than 30 years old, had a very crooked "Dick Tracy" type nose, and a large prominent chin.

COCKRIN advised that SMITH was quite obviously of a very low mentality.

MM 44-1854

DNJ/dmc

1

On April 24, 1968, the San Francisco Office of the FBI advised that they had received information to the effect that witnesses at Douglas, Georgia believed JAMES EARL RAY hitchhiked through Douglas, Georgia on April 20, 1968.

He allegedly stayed overnight at the Ivy Manor Hotel using the name WILLIAM R. STEKLY and gave his address as Lupin Lane, Carmel Valley, California.

His parents were contacted by the San Francisco Office and they advised their son WILLIAM RAYMOND STEKLY was currently employed at the Boca Raton Hotel Club, Boca Raton, Florida and furnished a photograph of their son.

The following investigation was conducted at Boca Raton, Florida by SA ROBERT SCHACHNER on April 24, 1968:

Mrs. NAOMI CAMPBELL, Personnel Director, Boca Raton Club and Hotel, advised her records reflect WILLIAM RAYMOND STEKLY went to work for the hotel April 3, 1968, as a houseman. He worked until April 19, 1968, when he left, leaving a forwarding address of, in care of WANDA JEAN STEKLY, Lupin Lane, Carmel Valley, California, a sister. She advised his supervisor was Mrs. HILDA FENNEY. She stated he is described as a white male, born [redacted] 5'11" tall, 182 pounds, brown hair and brown eyes. His Social Security Number is [redacted].

Mrs. HILDA FENNEY, Supervisor, Boca Raton Club, advised after viewing a photograph of RAY, that STEKLY was not similar in appearance to RAY. She stated STEKLY was definitely at the Boca Raton Club and working for her on April 3, 4, 5, 1968, and through April 19, 1968, when he left to return to California.

MM 44-1854

DNJ/dmc

1

The Baltimore Office of the FBI advised on May 5, 1968, that NATALIE MAZZOLLA, while traveling through the State of Georgia on February 12, 1968, met three men in a restaurant, name and location not recalled.

MAZZOLLA saw these men at intervals while traveling along the highway. When they stopped at a gasoline station somewhere in Florida, MAZZOLLA advised that one of these men identified himself as JAMES CRAIG and stated that he was traveling to Naples, Florida. MAZZOLLA furnished a description and address for CRAIG at Naples, Florida.

The following investigation was conducted by SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR. at Naples, Florida:

On May 8, 1968, Mrs. MACK RICHARDS, 2364 Bayside Street, advised she has known JIM CRAIG for over eight years. She stated he recently visited her and her husband and left about a month ago. He was alone and was traveling by bus back to his home in Alliance, Ohio.

She described JIM CRAIG as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	About 35 years
Height	5'8" tall
Weight	160 pounds
Hair	Light blond, straight
Teeth	Two front teeth missing
Marital Status	Married
Brothers	None

Mrs. RICHARDS stated CRAIG in no way resembles JAMES EARL RAY. She produced two snapshots she stated were taken of CRAIG and the person on the snapshots did not resemble RAY.

128

MM 44-1854

DNJ:vc

1.

On April 30, 1968, the Minneapolis Office of the FBI received information from JAMES L. THOMAS that an unidentified individual delivered a variety of seafood to Michael's Restaurant, Minneapolis, on April 30, 1968. THOMAS advised that this individual appeared to be identical with JAMES EARL RAY and that the seafood was delivered from an Alterman Transport Lines, Inc. truck with home offices in Miami, Florida.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents DAVID N. JELLISON and LEONARD C. PETERSON at Miami, Florida, on May 1, 1968:

DAVID ALTERMAN, proprietor, Alterman Transport Lines, Inc., 2424 N. W. 46th Street, Miami, Florida, advised that the truck bearing 1967 Florida license 1-0-614 left Miami for Minneapolis dated April 27, 1968, and was driven by DONALD EUGENE ABPLANALP. GLENN HECTOR BOWCOTT accompanied ABPLANALP on this trip as a helper.

It was determined from company records that both these individuals were working for Alterman Transport Lines in the greater Miami, Florida area on April 4, 1968.

MM 44-1854

DNJ:vc

1.

On April 25, 1968, the Buffalo Office of the FBI advised that Mrs. GLADYS D. MEEHAM has advised their office that she and her family had recently visited Eleuthera, Bahamas. While there, she observed a man in the Rock Sound Club who bore a remarkable resemblance to JAMES EARL RAY.

On April 26, 1968, this information was furnished by SA FRANK J. SMITH by telephone to STANLEY R. MOIR, Assistant Commissioner, Bahamas Police Force, Nassau, Bahamas. MOIR had previously been furnished with several copies of wanted flyers and identification orders pertaining to JAMES EARL RAY.

MOIR contacted the officials at the Rock Sound Club, Eleuthera, and none were able to identify photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as being those of any guest at the club.

MM 44-1854

DNJ:vc

1.

On April 23, 1968, the Chicago Office of the FBI advised that they had received an anonymous telephone call in which the caller stated that JAMES EARL RAY was staying at Perrine, Florida, using an assumed name and wearing a disguise. The caller advised he would call back at a later time and furnish the alias RAY was using. However, the caller never called back.

On the same date, the following investigation was conducted by SA CHARLES W. KELLY:

Dade County authorities, Perrine Sub-Station #4, were contacted and advised there were no hotels, motels or flop houses in the Perrine area wherein individuals of RAY's description would stay. There is no agency in Perrine, Florida, that maintains records of new arrivals in the Perrine area.

All detectives and police officers at the sub-station of the Dade County Department of Public Safety, Perrine, Florida, were furnished with copies of wanted flyers and identification orders and 64 identification orders were furnished to businesses and restaurants in the Perrine, Florida area. No positive information was developed regarding RAY as a result of this investigation.

MM 44-1854

DNJ/pmg

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On April 19, 1968, BILL MARTIN, 922 14th Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee, advised the Nashville Office of the FBI that he observed a 1965 or 1967 blue Mustang bearing Florida license 6-75466. A passenger in this vehicle looked very much like JAMES EARL RAY.

Investigation by the Jacksonville Office at Tallahassee, Florida, on April 24, 1968, indicated that 1967 Florida license 6-47566 was issued to RAY MORRIS, 2052 Lake Osborne Drive, Lake Worth, Florida, for use on a 1965 Ford Mustang.

1967 Florida license 6-75466 is a non-existent number.

MARTIN advised the possibility existed that the 754 in the Florida license could be mixed up.

132

MM 44-1854

DNJ/pmg

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT SCHACHNER at Lake Worth, Florida, May 7, 1968:

Mrs. RAY MORRIS, 2052 Lake Osborne Drive, Lake Worth, Florida, advised that her husband owns a 1965 Ford Mustang, navy blue in color, bearing a Florida license, number not recalled.

Mrs. MORRIS advised her husband is a former teacher at Lake Worth High School, Lake Worth, Florida, but recently changed position. She advised her husband is now employed at a Career Academy, Nashville, Tennessee, and stated that they were now in the process of moving the family to Nashville. She advised her husband moved to Nashville on about April 2, 1968, and believes he is residing in a room at 115 Blue Hills Court, Nashville, Tennessee.

133 *

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE EL PASO	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 5/24/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/16/68
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY SA DAVID J. REID	TYPED BY sl
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCES

NO airtel to ME, 5/7/68;
 NO airtel to EP, 5/13/68;
 EP airtel to ME, 5/17/68.

-P-

A* COVER PAGE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:						44-1987-Sub-A-692 SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED <i>5</i> FILED <i>5</i> MAY 27 1968 FBI - MEMPHIS <i>[Signature]</i>			
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations			
Agency	<i>1cc Ford (Phil) Conale, Atty. General Shelby Co, Tenn.</i>								
Request Recd.	<i>10/1/68 reg ed</i>								
Date Fwd.									
How Fwd.									
By									

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA DAVID J. REID Office: EL PASO
Date: May 24, 1968
Field Office File #: EP 157-186 Bureau File #: 44-38861
Title: MURKIN

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: On 5/16/68, Captain and Mrs. HENRY J. SHERRILL, 2500 Nations Avenue, El Paso, Texas, advised that they stayed at the Provincial Motel in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 12/67, but did not recall seeing anyone who resembled subject JAMES EARL RAY. SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH DEADLY WEAPON, HAS BEEN CONFINED IN STATE HOSPITAL, FULTON, MISSOURI IN 1966, AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

DETAILS:

Information was received from the New Orleans Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that Mrs. HENRY J. SHERRILL, 301 Woodland Avenue, Mobile, Alabama, had registered on December 17, 1967 at the Provincial Hotel, 1024 Chartres Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

AT MOBILE, ALABAMA:

On May 10, 1968, Mr. ELMORE SONNIER, 301 Woodland Avenue, Mobile, advised that his daughter and son-in-law, Captain and Mrs. HENRY J. SHERRILL, stayed at the Provincial Hotel in New Orleans during December, 1967, and were currently residing at 2500 Nations Avenue, El Paso, Texas.

AT EL PASO, TEXAS:

The following investigation was conducted by SA PAUL S. PULLEN:

EP 157-186

On May 16, 1968, Captain and Mrs. HENRY J. SHERRILL, 2500 Nations Avenue, El Paso, advised that they stayed at the Provincial Hotel in New Orleans in December, 1967, exact date not recalled. After viewing a photograph of subject JAMES EARL RAY, they advised that they did not recall seeing anyone who resembled RAY during the time that they stayed at the Provincial Hotel.

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See Next Section