

DIAGNOSTIC DEPOT
ILLINOIS STATE PENITENTIARY
JOLIET

F 489

CLASSIFICATION REPORT

June 10, 1940

JDD No.:	Name:	GAWRON, John	Age:	40	Admitted:	11/2/34
Crime:	Burglary				Sentence:	1-Life

- 1. Transfer.
- 2. Classification.
- 3. Recommendations

RECLASSIFICATION

1. Stateville Division.
2. Group III: Without psychosis or mental defect. Doubtfully improvable. Inadequate personality. High average intelligence (C plus 104, Army Alpha score - 1934). Alcoholic tendency. Partial deafness.

This inmate was classified as a doubtfully improvable offender with delinquent attitudes and lack of initiative and ambition. His criminality appeared to be related to his alcoholic tendency. He was recently examined when he wrote a request for transfer to Stateville because of problems of ill health. He claimed that he was disabled in the World War and that his ear drums were ruptured. He now complains of head pains and discharging ears. He feels, rather vaguely, that larger, dryer cells at Stateville would be more conducive to good health. His conduct within the Old Prison has been satisfactory. He has been punished on only two or three occasions. He has a fairly good attitude toward his employment. He shows no evidence of mental disease. Under the new policy he should be classified for Stateville since it is likely he will have to serve a number of years within the institution. In the interests of his general health and to further the present classification policy, resegregation is recommended.

3. Continued medical treatment for the ear condition and work in a dry, inside place is suggested.


R. G. Barrick, M.D.
Chairman
Classification Board.

KEH*HB

PREVIOUS NOS:
#P-489 (Joliet)
#1542-Pontiac

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF THE CRIMINOLOGIST
MENARD D. D. UNIT

CLASSIFICATION REPORT

#25261-Menard

September 2, 1956

Name: GAWRON, John

Age: 57

Admitted: 11-19-34-J

Crime: Burglary

Sentence: 1-Life

Sentence: 6-7-46-J(PV)
7-25-56-M(JPV)

RECLASSIFICATION

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BEHAVIOR ON PAROLE:

This 57 year old white man was paroled from Joliet for the second time on 9-21-54 to placement at the Soldier's and Sailor's Home in Quincy. He remained there until March 1956, then left because he learned the police were looking for him in connection with investigation of an Armed Robbery at LaGrange, Missouri. Reports indicate that inmate had been drinking considerably while at the Soldier's and Sailor's Home, and had also been keeping company with a Mrs. Lucille Ryan, the mother of a Menard parolee, #23737 Ryan. This parolee was also arrested in connection with the armed robbery at LaGrange, Missouri, and is apparently now incarcerated in that state. Records indicate that another parolee, Menard #23686 Cain, was also arrested for questioning in connection with that investigation, but was released. Inmate says he left the home when he learned that police were looking for him, moved to a room in Quincy, and he evidently eluded investigation at that time. Although he refused to reveal where he was living, other information indicates that he was later living with Mrs. Ryan. According to his own story, he obtained employment with a road construction company after he left the home, and it would appear that his whereabouts might have been traced in this manner, had there been sufficient interest. Records indicate that a violation warrant was issued late in March 1956, and that he was then arrested by Quincy police on 6-28-56 as a burglary suspect. Cain, Menard #23686, had been arrested a few days earlier in connection with two burglaries in which inmate does not appear to have been directly implicated, although the loot was apparently taken to Mrs. Ryan's home, where inmate was staying. Cain then admitted some earlier burglaries, and implicated inmate as an associate in at least one of them. Inmate now professes rather naive innocence of any knowledge of these offenses, professes that he did not understand much of the questioning to which he was subjected following his arrest, and is evidently decided on a policy of admitting as little as possible. He does admit considerable drinking while on parole, and his technical violation in failure to send in a few reports. From present information, it would appear that there was a concerted and calculated series of criminal episodes in which two Menard parolees, Cain and Ryan, as well as at least one other associate were involved, and in which inmate was also implicated on the basis of Cain's statements.

REVIEW OF SOCIAL FACTORS:

Subject was born in Chicago on 7-12-99 as the sixth of seven children of a native-born mother of Polish descent and a German immigrant father. During inmate's youth the family lived in a disorderly and delinquent area on the near northwest side in Chicago. He says his father "had a political job" with the Chicago street department, and the family was evidently of limited socio-economic status. He now says his father died in 1930 and his mother

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-- 2 --

also died in 1951. Inmate says he now has two living brothers, but has had no contact with either of them for a considerable time. He claims to have completed eighth grade in public school. In February 1915 he was committed to St. Charles for stealing auto tires, apparently escaped twice, and it seems to have been during an escape from that institution that he enlisted in the Marines in May 1916. He was medically discharged from the Marines in May 1917. In April 1918 he was committed to Pontiac under one year sentence for larceny. In June 1921 he was committed to Leavenworth under 5 year sentence for altering and passing government obligations. In September 1927 he was sentenced to a six month term in the Chicago House of Correction for burglary. In June 1929 he was sentenced to a 1-15 year term at Folsom for burglary, and was paroled in December 1931. As records indicate, it was in November 1934 that he was originally committed to Joliet under his present 1-Life sentence, and his only period in the free community since have been his recent parole period and one earlier parole from December 1944 until June 1946, during which he worked at the Hines VA Hospital part of the time and was eventually involved in another burglary. His civilian work history has thus been extremely irregular and casual. In previous interviews inmate has stated that he was married in 1932 and was later divorced, but he now denies that he was ever married and says this was a common-law attachment. Leisure activities have centered primarily around drinking. Inmate now has no effective community attachments.

PERSONALITY:

Physically inmate is an aging individual who is apparently somewhat hard of hearing, and he gives a history of chronic ear trouble dating from his Marine service in 1916-17. He has received partial disability compensation for a considerable number of years, and apparently is fearful of giving a history of too satisfactory health because he feels that this might possibly be reduced or cut off. Previous psychometric tests have indicated superior intelligence, but his present reactions suggest that he is functioning on a considerably lower level. Temperamentally he is a rather beaten, prisonized individual who has been incarcerated much of his life and who has no goals or constructive motivations. He has been inclined toward heavy drinking when not incarcerated, and apparently this was a problem during his recent parole period even before he became involved in more serious violations. In present interview he attempts to create as much sympathy for himself as possible, professes innocence of any serious wrong-doing, and claims to know nothing of the various new criminal charges for which he was under investigation. He now impresses us as an essentially dependent, institutionalized person who is unable to avoid involvement in criminal activity in the free community, and for whom any hope of satisfactory adjustment now seems remote.

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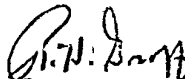
RECLASSIFICATION

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" 3 "

CLASSIFICATION: Group III. Without psychosis or mental defect. Adult unimprovable offender. Superior intelligence. Inadequate personality with alcoholic tendencies. Highly guarded prognosis.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Menard general division. Maximum security seems advisable for the present. Light routine unskilled work assignment.


R. H. Groff (Member)
Classification Board.

RHG/bh

File No. 44-361-1A50

Date Received 5-8-68

From W/R
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By SWL
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes
☒ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes
☒ No

Description:

*photo of James Earl
Ray*



JAMES EARL RAY
FBI No. 405,942 G

3F-~~78~~ 44-561-1150

JAMES EARL RAY

FBI No. 405,942 G

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ROBBERY

F.P.C.: 16 M 9 U 000 12

M 4 W 101

Photographs on left taken 1960, other taken 1968

DESCRIPTION

AGE: 40, born March 10, 1928, Alton, Illinois

HEIGHT: 5' 10"

EYES: blue

WEIGHT: 163 to 174 pounds

COMPLEXION: medium

BUILD: medium

RACE: white

HAIR: brown, possibly cut short

NATIONALITY: American

OCCUPATIONS: baker, color matcher, laborer

SCARS AND MARKS: small scar on center of forehead and small scar on
palm of right hand

REMARKS: noticeably protruding left ear; reportedly is a lone wolf;
allegedly attended dance instruction school; has reportedly
completed course in bartending



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SI - 44 - 561 - 1B50

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SI - 44-561-1750

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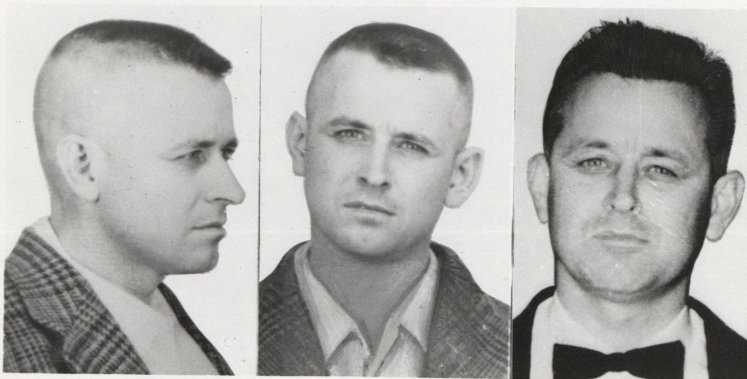
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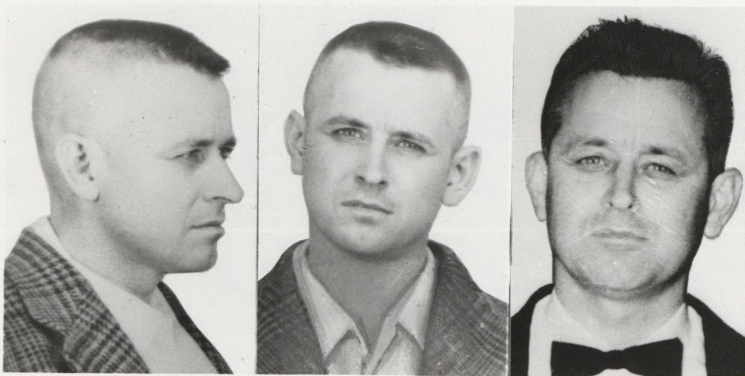
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SI- 44-561- 1A 50

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File No.

44-561-1A 51

Date Received

5-10-68

From

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes☒ NoReceipt given ☐ Yes☒ No

Description:

One photo of
Susan Jane Ryan,
aka, sister of James
EARL Ray.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

SUSAN JANE RYAN,
AKA SUSAN JONIAN

SI - 44 - 561 - 1751

File No. 44-561-1A52

Date Received 5-14-68

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By WA Serial 495
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes
☒ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes
☒ No

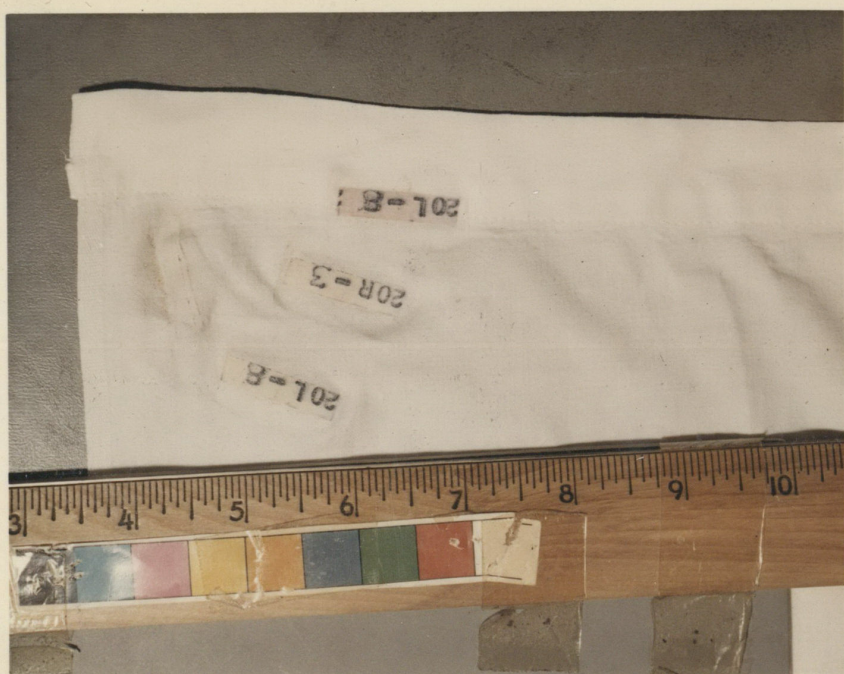
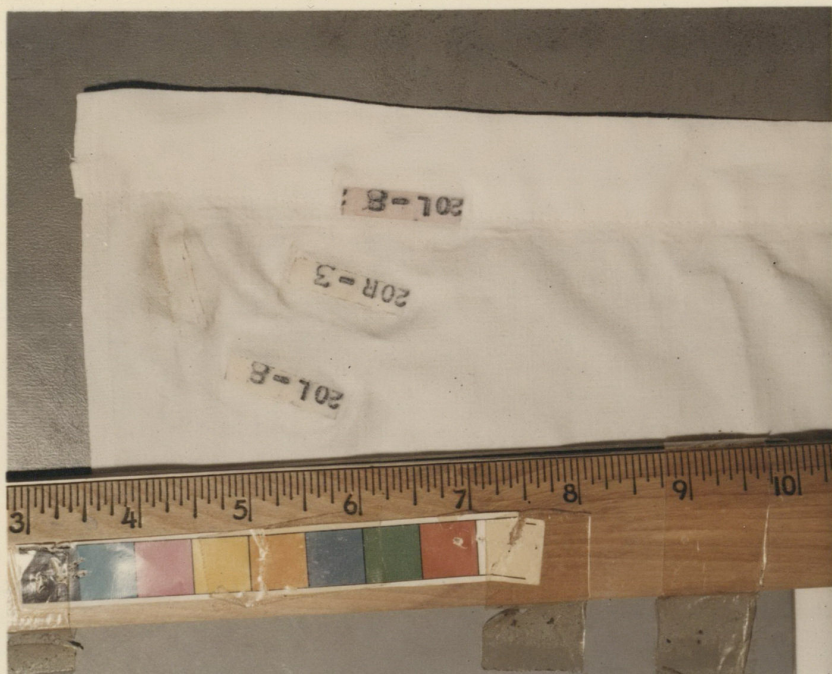
Description:

*photo of laundry marks
on Subject's shirt
and bed linen.*



SI - 44-561-1A52

SI - 44-561-1A52



SI - 44-561-1A 52

SI - 44-561-1A 52

File No. 44-561-1A-53

Date Received 5-16-68

From WFA
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

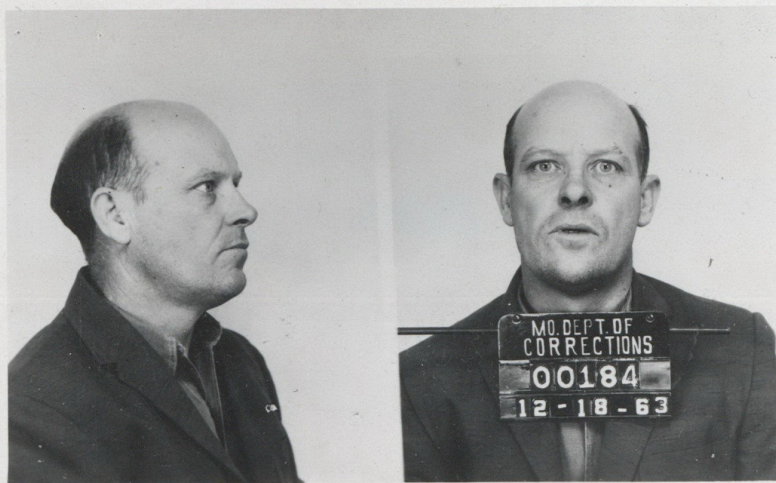
By Mail serial 528
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes
☒ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes
☒ No

Description:

photo of James L.
Owens



James Leona Owens

KC 44-760

44-561-1A 53

File No. KK-561-1A54

Date Received 4-22-68

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By Robert B
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes
☒ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes
☒ No

Description:

Photo of James
Earl Ray



44-561-1454

File No. 44-561-1A 55

Date Received 4/19/68

From Acton PD
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Acton, Del
(CITY AND STATE)

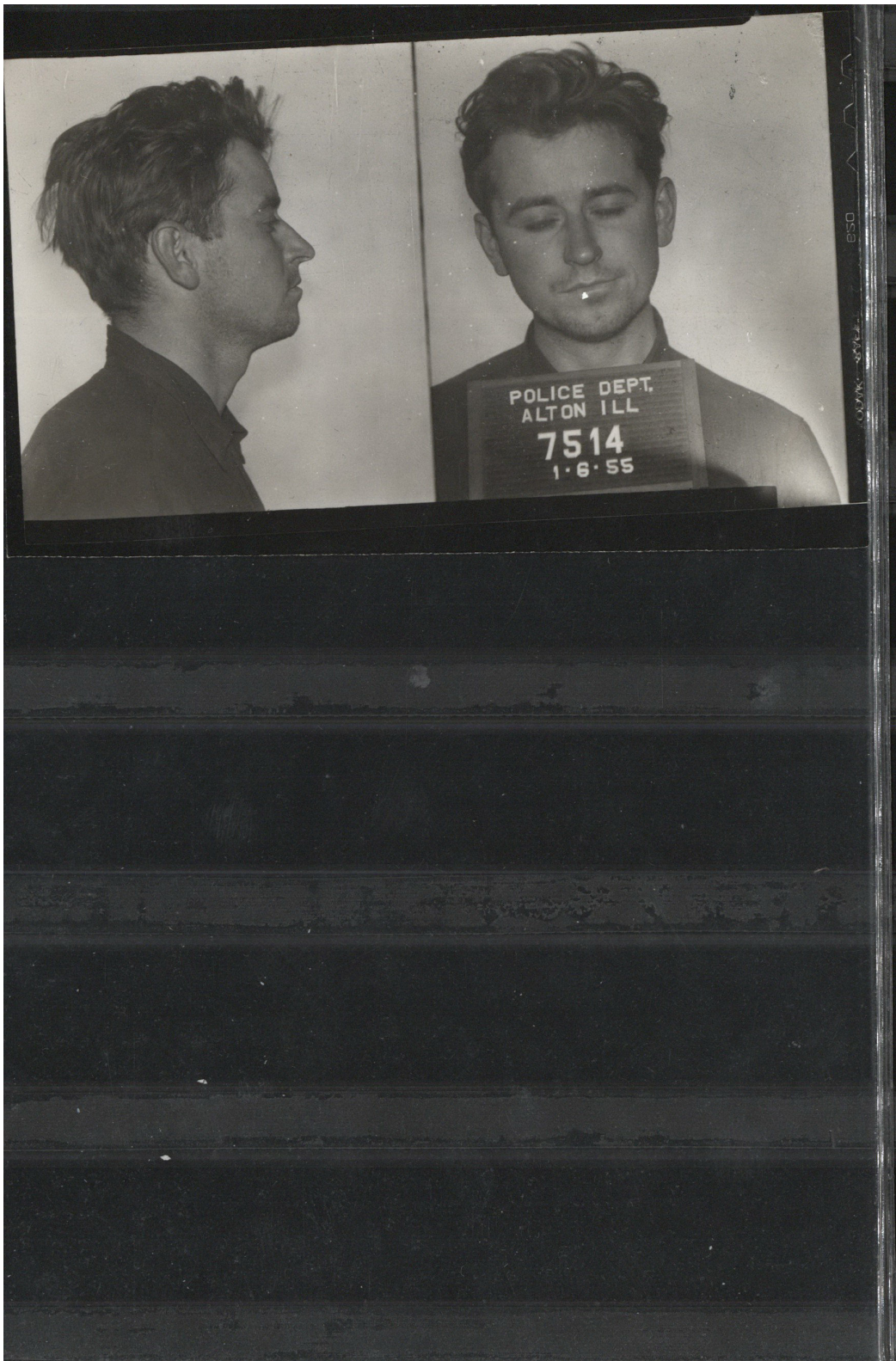
By Haines
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes
☒ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes
☒ No

Description:

1 photo of James
Earl Ray.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

SI - 44-561-55

NAME RAY, JAMES EARL NO. 7514

ALIAS

CRIME

MODUS-OPERANDI

F. P. CLASS REF.

ADDRESS

CITY STATE

AGE	HT.	WGHT.	BUILT	COMP.	EYES	HAIR	SOCIAL
	5'11	157	sm	RDY	BLUE	BLACK	

DATE OF BIRTH	CITY	STATE
	ALTON	ILL

WHERE ARRESTED DATE OFFICERS

PREVIOUS RECORD

File No. 44-561-1A56

Date Received 4-22-68

From Quincy Ill. PD
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By Robert As
(CITY AND STATE)
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes

☒ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes

☒ No

Description:

Photos of MELBA TANE
Ryan, sister of James
Earl Ray



POLICE DEPT.

QUINCY, ILL.

SI-44-56-1A56

Name MELBA JANE RYAN

Alias

Crime

Age Height Weight

Build Hair Eyes

Comp. Occupation

Born Place of Birth

Date of Arrest F.B.I. #

Ill. B. of I. # F. P. C.

Marks and scars

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