

1
SL 44-775
RLB/ral

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Re: ALLEGED ASSOCIATION OF JAMES D. DAILEY
AND JAMES EARL RAY

On April 23, 1968, Mr. LEO J. SPINO, owner and operator of the shoe repair store located at 1547 Jefferson was interviewed by SA SPURGEON J. PETERSON and SA ROBERT L. BENDER. Mr. SPINO identified JAMES DAVID DAILEY as a person with whom he is acquainted through his (SPINO's) knowledge that DAILEY ran the Halfway Cafe, located nextdoor to his shoe store. The wanted flier of JAMES EARL RAY was displayed to Mr. SPINO, at which time he stated that to his knowledge RAY was unknown to him. SPINO said he has never heard that DAILEY owned or had a farm. DAILEY did tell him, prior to his moving from the Halfway Cafe, that he (DAILEY) thought he had a good deal running a restaurant down in the country near Portageville, that he had a friend who owned a tavern and a restaurant there and this friend had offered him the opportunity to run the restaurant if he cared to move to that area.

SPINO advised that DAILEY had told him that the reason he had decided to move from Jefferson Avenue was because of the fact that the City of St. Louis would not approve of the wiring in the restaurant and it would have cost him (DAILEY) approximately \$600 to make the necessary repairs to the wiring. SPINO said that to the best of his recollection DAILEY had moved to the country approximately five or six weeks ago. He has not heard from him since. The only friend he knew about of DAILEY was a man who came to the Halfway Cafe two or three times and sometimes more a week and participated in cardgames with DAILEY. SPINO explained that DAILEY apparently had a little gambling going on at the restaurant, and this friend of DAILEY would participate in the game and work with DAILEY. Actually the friend would be playing for the house. SPINO said he did not know this person's name, but the man was a white, male American, 45 to 50 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches, 165 to 170 pounds, medium build, grey hair - thinning on top, very well dressed with fine clothes, married - had a wife and teenage daughter. SPINO said that this individual when he first came to the restaurant drove a Chrysler automobile which had Illinois license plates on it, thought to be about a 1964 model. This car was apparently sold and the man appeared in a new 1967 Buick automobile, a "real dark brown bottom and black vinyl top". This Buick had Missouri license plates on it.

2
SL 44-775
RLB/ral

SPINO said that frequently when this man visited the Halfway Cafe he would come into the shoe repair shop and have his shoes shined. SPINO noted that he no longer has a shoeshine boy and had no idea where his old shoeshine boy could be located. SPINO further stated that this individual must have been quite close to DAILEY as he appeared there very frequently over the entire period of time that DAILEY had the restaurant. DAILEY's wife left DAILEY on at least one occasion and went to California after putting out the work that she was in Arkansas. SPINO said apparently they have mended their differences and are again together.

212

1

SL 44-775
JRM/leh

RAY ASSOCIATES - JAMES D. DAILEY

The following investigation was conducted by SA J. ROBERT MEIGS on April 23, 1968, at St. Louis, Missouri:

CATHERINE SKILES, Clerk in the Electrical Inspection Division of the Department of Public Safety, St. Louis City Hall, advised that her records show that on March 1, 1968, a letter was sent to KERMIT SIEGFRIED, 1637a South Jefferson Avenue, with regard to the premises at 1549 South Jefferson, which he owned. According to this letter, there was overload service and defective wiring at 1549 South Jefferson which must be corrected by a licensed electrical contractor to comply with city ordinances.

On March 12, 1968, a similar letter was sent to Mr. SIEGFRIED in which it was pointed out that this was the second and the last notice which Mr. SIEGFRIED would receive until further action would be taken.

KERMIT SIEGFRIED, 1637a South Jefferson Avenue, advised that he owns the premises at 1549 South Jefferson. He stated that the premises are vacant at the present time but that it had been operated as a restaurant known as Half Way Restaurant operated by JAMES D. DAILEY. He stated that DAILEY operated a restaurant at this address for something over four years and remained operating a restaurant at this address through the month of February, 1968.

SIEGFRIED stated that DAILEY had added equipment to his restaurant which needed large amounts of electricity which the old wiring in the building could not cope with. He stated that the building was subsequently examined by inspectors for the City of St. Louis and they found that the wiring was defective and must be replaced. SIEGFRIED stated that he does not know the exact cost to rewire the building but he did learn that to rewire from the pole outside of the building at the building it would cost \$240. He said the inside wiring, of course, would be in addition to this. SIEGFRIED stated that he offered DAILEY three months free rent however he, DAILEY, would bear the cost of wiring.

2

SL 44-775

SIEGFRIED stated that DAILEY moved out in the early part of March without informing him that he was moving. He stated that he moved over night possibly due to the fact that the building would have to be rewired. He said that he understands that DAILEY now operates a tavern or eating place of some kind around Portageville, Missouri. SIEGFRIED advised that he is not acquainted with any of DAILEY's associates and knows nothing about his background or activities while in St. Louis. He said he is not acquainted with anyone named JAMES EARL RAY and the photographs of RAY are not likenesses of anyone he has ever known.

214

1
SL 44-775
RLB/ral

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Re: ALLEGED ASSOCIATION OF JAMES D. DAILEY
AND JAMES EARL RAY

On April 24, 1968, JUNIOR RAY CONAWAY was interviewed at his residence, Route 5, Salem, Missouri, by SA EARL E. BROWN and SA ROBERT L. BENDER. CONAWAY stated that he was well acquainted with JAMES DAVID DAILEY, but on observing the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY he stated that he did not know this man and had never seen him prior to observing RAY's photograph on television. He said that he would be glad to provide any information that he might have regarding DAILEY, inasmuch as DAILEY was the cause of his being paralyzed from the waist down and confined to a wheel chair. He stated that in September, 1965, he had been shot by DAILEY in front of DAILEY's Halfway Cafe located on Jefferson Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri. He said that from approximately 1960 to 1965 he had lived and bummed around the Jefferson-Lafayette-Park area and had become involved in several fights during that period of time. He said one of these fights was between he and DAILEY, who he had been told by someone had been hired to shoot him. He said as a result of this fight with DAILEY, DAILEY had his jaw broken and he (CONAWAY) was sentenced to the Workhouse. J. D. DAILEY had the reputation of being pretty tough and had a lot of contacts in that area and was known to have gambling going on at the Halfway Cafe. DAILEY has on several occasions travelled to Poplar Bluff, Missouri, where he gambled some place unknown to CONAWAY. CONAWAY advised that the only friend that he knew who was rather close to DAILEY was a man named JOHN MONICO, who ran the Haven Bar on Lafayette and who he (CONAWAY) thought may have made J. D. DAILEY's bond after DAILEY had shot him. Also, he was aware of the fact that DAILEY would gamble at a place called the Cedar Inn, located on the East Side in Illinois. He also recalled that there was a bondsman with whom he was acquainted who also knew DAILEY quite well whose name was HOMER TOWNSLEY. CONAWAY said that he did not know anyone by the name of THOMAS BEECHUM CREWS. CONAWAY said that he has not seen DAILEY since the shooting and was still considering prosecution in this matter.

2
SL 44-775
RLB/ral

CONAWAY introduced the Agents to Mrs. HAZEL HELVEY, who advised that she had formerly frequented ~~the same area as~~ mentioned above, but could provide no additional information to that provided by her brother. She stated that her husband who had formerly resided in St. Louis County was recently murdered and his body found in a field in Salem, Missouri.

SL: 44-775

RELATIVES

JERRY RAYNES - FATHER

1

SL 44-775
HRD/leh

RE: RAY RELATIVES - JERRY RAYNES

AT CENTER, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by SAs WILLIAM R. DUNCAN and JAMES A. DUFFEY on April 19, 1968:

Mr. ~~JOHN RODGERS~~, Cashier, Center State Bank, advised that a Mr. ~~JERRY RAYNES~~ resided approximately 4½ miles southeast of Center, Missouri, on a small acreage he purchased at a Sheriff's Sale, September 6, 1967. He recalls having seen Mr. RAYNES at that time and described him as an elderly man. He stated the bank had an interest in the sale of the property. He has not seen Mr. RAYNES since. He suggested that Mr. ~~HAROLD MAIDEN~~, next door neighbor of Mr. RAYNES would be a reliable individual to contact.

Mr. HAROLD MAIDEN, Route 2, Center, Missouri, advised Mr. JERRY RAYNES purchased property adjoining his in the fall of 1967. Mr. RAYNES lives alone and has two automobiles, a 1967 Nash Rambler, color tan, and a white over red, 1961 Plymouth. He stated that RAYNES is retired but has indicated he had eight children and had been married twice. It is his understanding that the mother of the children is dead. Mr. MAIDEN advised he had observed a younger woman with two small children visiting Mr. RAYNES on occasional weekends, but that no other persons have visited him to his knowledge. He states that Mr. RAYNES appeared to be approximately 69 years of age. RAYNES has telephone number AM 7-3467.

These Special Agents personally observed the RAYNES property on the above date and noted it was located on a knoll next to the Center, Missouri, city dump. The house was small and appeared to have two or three rooms. One tan Nash automobile and one whiteover red Plymouth automobile were observed parked in the yard. Lights were on in the house and one male individual could be observed inside.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 23, 1968

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, Route 2, Center, Missouri, was contacted at his residence. Both interviewing agents identified themselves to him by exhibition of their credentials and he was advised by SA DUFFEY that they desired to interview him concerning JAMES EARL RAY, who was believed to be his son. He was told of the seriousness of the investigation and of the provisions of the harboring statute by SA DUFFEY.

Mr. RAYNES stated he would willingly cooperate and conducted the agents through the bedroom and into the kitchen in order that they might see no one else was at the home.

Mr. RAYNES stated he is 69 years of age having been born November 24, 1899. He was married to one LUCILLE MAHER, now deceased. Eight children were born to this marriage. Mr. RAYNES stated that his memory was somewhat fuzzy and that he experienced difficulty in recalling specific events. He stated that he doubted that all the children were his but was of the opinion that JAMES EARL, who had been born in Alton, Illinois, in 1928, was his own child. He stated he knew nothing whatever of JOHN. One son, FRANKLIN, also known as "BUZZY" or "BUZZ", was killed in an accident at Quincy, Illinois, in about 1958. He has another son, JERRY, who is currently living in Chicago, Illinois. He has a daughter, CAROL PEPPER, who lives on Bellevue Avenue in Maplewood, Missouri, and another daughter, MELBA RAY, whom he believed currently resides in Quincy, Illinois. He stated that MELBA was a mental case who had received treatment in the Illinois State Hospital at Jacksonville, Illinois. He recalled that there were two other children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were [REDACTED] after his separation from her. Their current whereabouts are unknown to him.

Mr. RAYNES stated he had little contact with his children during the past 17 years, except for CAROL. To the best of his recollection he last saw JAMES EARL RAY, 17 years ago and has had no direct contact with him since. He was aware that subject had been in the penitentiary from news items and from information he had received from the children's mother, LUCILLE. He stated that she had become an alcoholic

On 4/19/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL 44-775
 by SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN SA HAROLD R. DOBSON
SA JAMES A. DUFFEY HRD/leh Date dictated 4/20/68

219

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2

SL 44-775

when the family resided in Ewing, Missouri, and later in Quincy, Illinois. They separated at Quincy, but he was unable to recall the year.

Mr. RAYNES stated he has always used the name of RAYNES but he knew that some of the children had shortened the name to RAY. He was aware that subject had used several aliases.

Mr. RAYNES stated he knew nothing concerning subject's implication in this case until he received a telephone call from his daughter, CAROL in which she stated that the FBI had contacted her concerning subject. He stated he had received two telephone calls that evening, one from CAROL, and the other from MELBA, each stating the news items indicated their brother, JAMES was involved in the KING murder. He stated he did not know how MELBA learned of his whereabouts as he had not seen her or heard from her for the past seven or eight years. She had indicated she was calling from Quincy, Illinois.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he had no knowledge or information as to subject's whereabouts. He stated he was afraid of subject and was concerned that subject might attempt to contact him. He stated he wanted no part of the subject and that he had consequently barred his doors. Mr. RAYNES stated that he would gladly cooperate with the FBI and would immediately bring to the attention of its agents any information he received concerning subject or his whereabouts.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 26, 1968

JERRY RAYNES advised that he is the stepfather of JAMES EARL RAY as JAMES EARL RAY was born in [redacted] at Alton, Illinois, and Mr. RAYNES stated he married LUCILLE MAHER at Jacksonville, Florida, in the spring of 1929, 1930 or 1931. He believes he was 30 years of age at that time and that she was 23 years of age. Following their marriage, they lived in Quincy and Galesburg, Illinois, and in St. Louis and Ewing, Missouri. It was his understanding that LUCILLE was born in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Mr. RAYNES stated he believes he was the father of all of the other children born to LUCILLE MAHER and himself. Their son, JERRY, was born in Quincy, Illinois, date unknown, under the name JERRY RAYNES. Several of the other children were born in Ewing, Missouri. His daughter, CAROL, was born there on [redacted]

Mr. RAYNES stated he had received a telephone call from his son, JERRY, in Chicago, Illinois, on April 19, 1968, advising him that it appeared JAMES EARL RAY was involved in the KING assassination.

On 4/20/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY HRD/pjh Date dictated 4/22/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/2/68

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES A. DUFFEY:

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, Rural Free Delivery, Center, Missouri, was re-interviewed April 25, 1968. He admitted he had lived with RUBY CARPENTER, from about 1952 until 1963, off and on, as they would split up and then go back to living together.

During this period they lived in St. Louis, and Clarence, Missouri.

He could not recall the St. Louis addresses, but when 4149 West Pine was suggested to him, he stated he believes that to be the address, where RUBY and he lived from about 1952 to 1961 when they moved to a farm near Clarence, Missouri.

While in St. Louis he stated that FRANKLIN, also known as "Buzz", and CAROL lived with him, but subject never lived with him to his recollection. He stated that subject from the time they left Ewing, Missouri, did not live with him, but with Mrs. MARY MAHER, subject's grandmother.

He stated that in the late 1950s subject visited "Buzz" and he recalled subject was then employed at some bakery but he did not know which bakery. He stated if subject ever lived on Pine Street, it was news to him.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he has always been known as JERRY RAYNES, sometimes spelled RAYNS, as the former is the name his mother claims was his. He denied using the name JAMES GERAUD RAY.

Mr. RAYNES also denied ever living in Des Moines, Iowa, and added he has never lived or even been in Des Moines.

He stated that when in Clarence, Missouri, he and RUBY had lived on a farm which belonged to her. He stated while there he did not go to town more than on one or two occasions, had no associates, and can not recall the names of any persons there. They lived there two years.

On 4/25/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL 44-775
 by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY :mck Date dictated 4/26/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SL: #44-775

After leaving Clarence, he went alone to St. Louis where he had various employments. He was employed as a service station attendant for the Site Gasoline Station on Lemay Ferry Road.

He stated he owned an old store building with sleeping rooms upstairs, that he rented, operated a second hand store, and a dry cleaning store.

He sold this property in St. Louis and bought the small acreage at Center, Missouri, last September (1967). He added he is drawing social security and is retired.

He stated that he does not approve of subject's actions, is afraid of him, and what the publicity is doing to his daughter, CAROL, and her family. He stated that if he should hear anything about the subject's whereabouts he will advise the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

1
SL: 44-775
HRD:jfb

JERRY RAYNES

AT CENTER, MISSOURI

Mrs. HAROLD MAIDEN, next-door neighbor of JERRY RAYNES, was contacted by Special Agent JAMES A. DUFFEY on April 24, 25, 26, 1968, and May 2, 3 and 4, 1968. She stated that RAYNES had no visitors to her knowledge and no strange cars were observed by her at the RAYNES' residence.

She stated her son works for RAYNES on Saturdays and after school when needed and that he had observed no unusual activity at the RAYNES' residence. She advised that RAYNES is more or less a recluse and rarely leaves his home. He does not visit with his neighbors but is pleasant when he meets them.

Special Agent DUFFEY conducted spot checks of the RAYNES' residence on April 24, 25 and 26, 1968, and May 3 and 4, 1968, but noted no visitors or unusual activity.

1.
SL 44-775
TLB/pjh

The following investigation was conducted by SA's
THOMAS L. BUCKLEY and ALAN E. MC ELWAIN on April 25, 1968:

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

RAY RELATIVES

SISTER MARY CLARA, Head Sister, Catholic School of Specialized Reading, 4149 West Pine, advised that that property had been a school for approximately seven years and is owned by the Archdiocese of St. Louis who also own the property immediately to the west, known as 4151 West Pine, which is used as a convent. She advised that she had no knowledge of the former occupants of 4149 West Pine but stated that a Mrs. RADKE at 4147 West Pine and Mrs. COULTER at 4157 West Pine might have information about former occupants.

Mrs. ALICE RADKE, 4147 West Pine, advised that 4149 West Pine was formerly owned by RUDY and RUTH KRACK, who sold the property to the Roman Catholic Church about seven years ago. She recalled that the KRACKs kept roomers in her home but she did not know any of these people. She did not know the KRACKs' current address except she thought they lived in the western part of St. Louis near University City, Missouri. She examined a copy of an Identification Order #4182, and stated that JAMES EARL RAY was unknown to her.

Mrs. JEWELL A. COULTER, 4157 West Pine, advised that Mr. and Mrs. RUDY KRACK lived at 4149 West Pine from the early 1940's until 1961 or 1962 when they sold their home to the Catholic Church and moved to 5950 McPherson, St. Louis, Missouri. Mrs. COULTER recalled that the KRACKs kept roomers in their home but she did not know any of these people. She examined a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that he was unknown to her.

Mrs. RUDY KRACK, 5950 McPherson, advised that she could not recall anyone named JERRY RAYNES or JERRY RYAN ever having occupied an apartment in her home at 4149 West Pine. She

2.
SL 44-775
TLB/pjh

stated that she and her husband purchased 4149 West Pine in 1940 and lived at that address until they sold the property in late 1961 to the Catholic Church. They moved to their present address in early 1962. Mrs. KRACK advised that she felt certain she would remember a roomer who had lived in her home for approximately eight years and she could not recall anyone ever having used the name JERRY RAYNES or RYAN. She examined a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that he was unknown to her.

Mrs. WILLIE MANNING, 1731 South 11th Street, owner of 1727 and 1729 South 11th Street, recalled that a person named JERRY RYAN (not sure of last name, could have been RAYNES) lived in an apartment at 1727 South 11th Street with a teenage son and daughter around 1960. She recalled that the children were both in their late teens and that the girl was the oldest. RYAN had no wife that she knew of. These people lived at 1721 South 11th Street for several months and moved to an unknown address, she thinks, on Menard Avenue. Mrs. MANNING stated that none of the present occupants of 1727 or 1729 South 11th Street lived at those addresses in 1960. She was unable to recall the names of persons who did live at those addresses in 1960. She examined a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that he definitely was not one of the children who lived with JERRY RYAN and further that she cannot recall ever having seen him before.

Efforts to expand the neighborhood investigation in the area of 1727 South 11th Street were not determined feasible since the entire northern end of the block on the west side of the street is occupied by a truck dock and the entire eastern side of the street is the back wall of a warehouse.

Efforts to locate residents at 1135 South 10th Street met with negative results. The southern most building in the block is now known as 1133 South 10th Street and this address is occupied by the FEDERHOFER Truck, Leasing and Rental, Inc., which occupies the entire south half of the block on the west side of Tenth Street. The buildings across on the east side of the street are abandoned and ready to be razed.

3.
SL 44-775
TLB/pjh

Mrs. FLORA SARR, 1012 Hickory, around the corner from 1133 South Tenth Street, recalled that the corner of Tenth and Hickory used to be occupied by a rooming house which was demolished when the present building was built about 1962. She thinks that this corner was numbered 1135 at that time. Mrs. SARR advised that the old rooming house on the corner of Tenth and Hickory was managed by a Mr. FOWLER whose first name and address she does not know. She was very sure FOWLER did not own the property but merely managed it. She stated that FOWLER was quite elderly eight years ago and may well have died by this time; in any event, she does not know his present whereabouts. She further advised that she never knew any of the occupants of the rooming house.

1

SL 44-775

HRD:paw

Relative: JERRY RAYNES, Father

AT CLARENCE, MISSOURI

Mr. LLOYD SMITH, owner of the Smith Clothing Company, and Mr. FLOYD SCHOONOVER, President of the Clarence State Bank, advised SA JAMES A. DUFFEY on April 25, 1968, that they were not acquainted with anyone named JAMES GERALD RAY or JERRY RAYNES, and that to the extent of their knowledge, no person by those names had resided in the Clarence, Missouri, area for approximately the past twenty years.

1
SL: 44-775
GTJ:wma

RE: RAY RELATIVE -
JERRY RAYNES, aka
Jerry Rayns

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

Personnel, Military Personnel Records Center, advised IC GEORGE T. JENKINS, May 1, 1968, that they were unable to locate or identify a military service record for JERRY RAYNES or JERRY RAYNS born [redacted] Selma, California, and reportedly a veteran of World War I.

1

SL 44-775
HGS/jtc

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent HOWARD G. SLACK based on a communication from the Springfield Office of the FBI concerning relatives of JAMES EARL RAY:

JACK RANDOLPH, owner of J & R Auto Sales, 5901 South Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri, advised on April 23, 1968, that JERRY RAYNES was an employee of his approximately eight years ago as a salesman. RANDOLPH stated that RAYNES was employed by his firm for approximately one year. He stated that RAYNES was a peculiar individual who came to work and left when he pleased and was engaged in selling cars. RANDOLPH stated that he was not aware that RAYNES had a son but did know that RAYNES had a young daughter who he sometimes brought to work and left in the car. RANDOLPH viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated he had never seen this individual.

RANDOLPH stated he did not know RAYNES' address while he worked for him and had no idea where RAYNES was now although he had mentioned that he wanted to go to Acapulco, Mexico.

The following neighborhood investigation was conducted at 1915 Hickory:

The Reverend PATRICIA ANN JONES, Apartment #8, advised that she has been living at that address for three months and stated that she did not know any of the previous occupants. She further advised that this address was a rooming house and people frequently moved in and out and no one in the building had been there longer than a year.

HELEN CREAMER, 1915 Hickory Street, stated that she had resided at this address for sometime but had never heard of LUCILLE RAY, LUCILLE RYAN, or LUCILLE BERNES. She stated this is a transient neighborhood and no one residing in that neighborhood would have knowledge of previous occupants at 1913 Hickory.

A neighborhood investigation conducted at 1133 South Tenth Street revealed that the only building in this block was

2
SL 44-775
HGS/jtc

Federhofer Truck Renting and Leasing Company, 1135 South Tenth Street. Inquiries in the neighborhood revealed previous buildings had been demolished.

231

1

SL: 44-775
JAD:jfb

AT HANNIBAL, MISSOURI

RELATIVES

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES A. DUFFEY:

Mrs. LILLIAN HERMAN, Bureau of Vital Statistics, on April 24, 1968, checked the death records for the years 1940 to 1958 for the name of JAMES GERALD RAY.

Mrs. HERMAN stated that there was no person by the last name of RAY who died within the period mentioned above.

44-775

LUCILLE MARY RYAN - MOTHER

258

1
SL: 44-775
LFC:jfb

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

JAMES EARL RAY - RELATIVES

On April 22, 1968, Miss VERNA REEVES, Clerk, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Room 10, Municipal Building, St. Louis, Missouri, advised Special Agent LOUIS F. CAPUTO records of her Office revealed the following information concerning the death certificate of LUCILLE MARY RYAN:

Name	LUCILLE MARY RYAN
Address	1913 Hickory, St. Louis, Missouri
Date of Death	January 25, 1961
Place of Death	St. Louis Cith Hospital #1, St. Louis, Missouri
Sex	Female
Race	White
Marital Status	Married
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Alton, Illinois
Nationality	USA
Occupation	Houseworker
Father's Name	JOHN MAHER
Mother's Maiden Name	MARY FITZSIMMONS
Name of Husband	GERALD RYAN
Cause of Death	Hepatic coma; Laenner's cirrhosis
Informant	CAROL RYAN, 1031 Rutger
Physician	HILARY LINDER, M. D., 1515 Lafayette Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri
Date Death Certificate Signed	January 25, 1961
Burial	St. Patrick's Cemetery, Godfrey Township, Illinois
Funeral Director	THOMAS J. BURKE, JR., Alton, Illinois.

Miss REEVES made available a photostatic copy of above death certificate and advised it need not be returned.

1

SL 44-775
EEB/leh

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

RE: RAY RELATIVES

On April 21, 1968, HOMER TOWNSLEY advised SAs ROBERT L. BENDER and EARL E. BROWN, a man named SMITH operates a confectionary on Hickory Street about four houses west of 18th Street, north side, in a basement. This should be about the address where RAY's mother lived on Hickory, and TOWNSLEY felt SMITH should know the mother, whether or not she is dead, and might possibly know RAY.

On April 22, 1968, SA EARL E. BROWN determined that SMITH is AUBREY SMITH, 1811 Hickory. SMITH said he is familiar with newspaper publicity concerning this matter, and while RAY may have been a customer, he does not remember him nor his mother. He stated that the two best sources of information in the neighborhood would be COLLEEN TURNBOUGH, 1902 Hickory, and SOPHIE MARTIN, 1917 Hickory.

Mrs. TURNBOUGH was interviewed and it was determined she had previously been contacted on this matter by SA GEORGE M. PEET. It was also determined SA PEET has contacted SOPHIE MARTIN. During the contact with Mrs. TURNBOUGH, however, she stated she knew LUCILLE RYAN was dead through Mrs. LLOYD BIRDSONG, who now lives at 2929 Lafayette. Mrs. TURNBOUGH said that she talked to LUCILLE only once, but that Mrs. BIRDSONG was a frequent visitor with LUCILLE.

On April 25, 1968, LLOYD BIRDSONG, 2929 Lafayette Street, phone PR 3-4894, advised that his wife is out of town, but was expected to return during the day of April 25, 1968. He stated that since the publicity on RAY has appeared he has discussed this matter with his wife. He stated he had no independent recollection of RAY or his mother, as during that time he worked nights and slept during the day, and thus had little contact with his neighbors. He stated that his wife was not well acquainted with LUCILLE RYAN, as RYAN had a very bad reputation as a drunk and was simply not the type anyone would befriend. Mrs. BIRDSONG told her husband that RYAN was living with an older woman believed to be RYAN's mother. She was known as "Old Mary." BIRDSONG believes that RYAN and her mother occupied the entire house and had no

235

2

SL 44-775

roomers, although he understands that numerous men came and went there.

BIRDSONG was recontacted later in the day and said that his wife's return had been delayed because of illness in the family. She is visiting with Mrs. FLOYD HEADY, Fredericktown, Missouri, phone State 3-3104. BIRDSONG stated he had discussed RAY with his wife when she called to tell him she would not be returning on April 25, 1968, and she had no information he had not already furnished. She told her husband that she was not on friendly terms with RAY's mother because of her drinking.

BIRDSONG stated that the only persons still around who lived in the neighborhood who might be able to furnish information is a Mrs. TURNBOUGH, a Mrs. MARTIN, both of whom still live on Hickory, and SMITH, the proprietor of a basement confectionary on Hickory.

236

SL: 44-775

FRANKLIN RAY - BROTHER

237

1
SL: 44-775
JAD:klr

JAMES EARL RAY
DEATH OF FRANKLIN RAY, BROTHER

AT HANNIBAL, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES A. DUFFEY:

The Hannibal Courier-Post, according to B. B. WATSON, employee, on April 22, 1968, reported the death of FRANKLIN RAY in an accident when his car ran off the west approach of the Quincy Memorial Bridge and was drowned, October 1, 1963.

SL: 44-775

CAROL PEPPER - SISTER
(and husband ALBERT PEPPER)

239

Date April 29, 19681.

Mrs. ~~HAROLD P. TOOMBS~~ 2027 Bellevue, advised upon interview that the ALBERT PEPPER family had resided next door at 2025 Bellevue since around September, 1967. It was her understanding that the PEPPER family had probably purchased the property from the HOLTZ family who live on Almeda Street near above addresses. She stated the WAGNERS had rented the property next door for approximately 20 years prior to the time the PEPPER family moved in.

Mrs. TOOMBS stated she had not observed any automobiles parked in front of the PEPPER home or in the drive leading to the garage other than the white fairly late model Ford automobile driven to and from work by Mr. PEPPER. She stated she had visited with Mrs. PEPPER briefly on one occasion but had not been invited inside the home. She stated the two PEPPER children, [REDACTED] age 5, and [REDACTED], age 4, had been overheard on one occasion talking about going fishing with their grandfather on a farm believed to be somewhere in out-state Missouri. She also recalled having heard Mrs. PEPPER remark on one occasion that either her brother or a brother of her husband had been helping Mr. PEPPER in fixing up the house.

A photograph of subject JAMES EARL RAY was exhibited to Mrs. TOOMBS and she advised she had not observed anyone resembling such a person visiting the PEPPER family.

On 4/19/68 at Maplewood, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SA HARRY C. JUNG
SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL CBB:bam Date dictated 4/25/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1
SL: 44-775
HCJ:klr

RE: RAY RELATIVES

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT A. HESS and HARRY C. JUNG, at St. Louis, Missouri, on April 22, 1968:

Mrs. FLOYD J. (ROSEMARY) SHIRLEY, JR., 2115 Edmond Avenue, Wellston, Missouri, advised that she formerly resided at 718 Shenandoah Street, St. Louis, Missouri, where she became acquainted with CAROL and AL PEPPER, as neighbors. This was approximately three years ago. She stated that she is not related to either CAROL or AL.

Mrs. SHIRLEY stated that she visits telephonically with CAROL on occasion but has not seen her since Christmas, 1967. She said that she had met CAROL's father, who now lives somewhere in the vicinity of Troy, Missouri, and also met her brother, JACK, who operates a bar on Arsenal at Indiana or Illinois Streets, St. Louis, Missouri. She said she had never heard CAROL mention any other relatives other than a brother who was killed in an accident several years ago.

Mrs. SHIRLEY was exhibited photographs of JAMES EARL RAY but stated that she had never seen this individual.

241

1

SL: 44-775

AJR: pdp

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

RE: RAY RELATIVES

The following inquiries were conducted by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING in the vicinity of 712A Shenandoah, the former residence of ALBERT and CAROL PEPPER.

On April 26, 1968, Mrs. ERNEST (JEAN) COOK, 712 Shenandoah, advised that ALBERT and CAROL PEPPER were neighbors of hers, having lived upstairs at that address for about three years until they moved away in approximately September 1967. Mrs. COOK recalled that the PEPPERS had two young sons - a boy called [REDACTED], about five years of age, and a boy called [REDACTED], about four years of age.

Mrs. COOK viewed photographs of subject JAMES EARL RAY stating that she did not recall ever having seen this individual and she believed he had not visited the PEPPERS at any time to her knowledge. She recalled that CAROL PEPPER's brother, who she believed was named JOHN RAY, visited the PEPPER residence occasionally and Mrs. COOK had an impression he lived somewhere in St. Louis. She had an impression that JOHN RAY was married but she could not recall having seen his wife and could not advise how she gained this impression. Mrs. COOK also recalled that CAROL PEPPER's father, who apparently lived somewhere in St. Louis, was also an occasional visitor at the PEPPER residence and not long before the PEPPERS moved away CAROL PEPPER mentioned that her father had bought a farm somewhere in Missouri and Mrs. COOK believed that CAROL PEPPER mentioned this farm was located near Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Mrs. COOK recalled that CAROL PEPPER spoke of her mother as being dead. While the PEPPERS lived there CAROL PEPPER worked at a nearby school on 12th Street near Russell Avenue where she was apparently assisting in the "Headstart" school which her older boy attended. Mrs. COOK believed this work by CAROL PEPPER was probably volunteer work. Mrs. COOK understood that when the PEPPERS moved away they moved to a new address in Maplewood, Missouri.

242

2

SL: 44-775

On April 29, 1968, Mrs. MARY JEAN GOLLUBSKE, 714 Shenandoah, advised that she recalled ALBERT and CAROL PEPPER who formerly resided at 712A Shenandoah for two or three years and in approximately September 1967 when they moved to Maplewood, Missouri. Mrs. GOLLUBSKE furnished information corresponding to that previously furnished by Mrs. ERNEST COOK. She did not recognize photographs of subject JAMES EARL RAY stating she had no knowledge that this person was ever a visitor of Mr. and Mrs. PEPPER. Mrs. GOLLUBSKE also recalled that the older son of the PEPPERS was actually named [REDACTED] but was called [REDACTED], which was apparently a nickname. Mrs. GOLLUBSKE also recalled that the school at which Mrs. PEPPER was apparently a volunteer worker in the "Headstart" program was a Catholic school located at 12th Street and Russell Avenue.

Both Mrs. COOK and Mrs. GOLLUBSKE stated they did not recall Mr. and Mrs. PEPPER ever having made mention of CAROL PEPPER's brother JAMES EARL RAY.

243

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 29, 1968

1.

Mrs. ALBERT B. (CAROL) PEPPER, age 27, of 2025 Bellevue, advised interviewing Agents that she had been married to ALBERT S. PEPPER for approximately six years. She stated she had not seen JAMES EARL RAY since some time prior to her marriage and that her husband had never met her brother JAMES EARL RAY.

With reference to her brothers JOHN "JACK" RAY and JERRY RAY she stated she had not seen either of these individuals since they were visiting in St. Louis around Christmas, 1967. She advised JERRY RAY resides in the vicinity of Chicago, Illinois, and it is her understanding that JACK RAY is residing there also.

When questioned concerning her father she stated that her father, JERRY RAY, age about 59 years, is presently residing on a farm he owns which is located in the vicinity of Hannibal, Missouri. She denied knowing the exact location of this farm stating she had never visited it. However, she had visited in the general area near Hannibal some months ago at the time her father was looking for a farm to purchase in that area. According to Mrs. PEPPER she is normally in contact with her father approximately once a week at which time he calls her by telephone, usually on Saturday morning. She denied having ever made a telephone call to her father, JERRY RAY, stating that she did not know his telephone number. When questioned specifically in this respect she stated she had not misplaced his number but had never been in possession of his telephone number. She advised that her father was retired, and that his only source of income was what he received from Social Security.

With respect to other members of the family Mrs. PEPPER furnished the following information:

SUSIE RAY, age 20, was raised by some unknown well-to-do family residing in the vicinity of Quincy, Illinois. Within the past several months SUSIE was married to some unknown band leader who works out of the vicinity of the Quincy, Illinois, area.

On 4/19/68 at Maplewood, Missouri File # SL 44-775
 by SA HARRY C. JUNG
SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL CBB:bam Date dictated 4/25/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2.

SL 44-775

A sister, MELBA RAY, age 30 and single, resides somewhere in Quincy, Illinois, and has on occasion been confined in a hospital due to a mentally retarded condition. She volunteered the information that the last time she heard from MELBA was at Christmas last year at which time she was in jail in Quincy, Illinois.

According to Mrs. PEPPER another brother, FRANKLIN "BUZZY" RAY was killed in an automobile accident which occurred approximately four years ago on a bridge west of Quincy, Illinois. She stated when she last saw JAMES EARL RAY he was with this brother "BUZZY" in St. Louis approximately two or three years prior to the death of "BUZZY" RAY.

With respect to her mother LUCILLE RYAN, Mrs. PEPPER advised that she had died in the City Hospital at St. Louis approximately seven years ago of complications resulting from sclerosis of the liver and heart trouble.

Mrs. PEPPER emphatically denied having any knowledge or information whatever concerning the whereabouts of her brother, JAMES EARL RAY. She was specifically advised of the provisions of the harboring statute during the course of the interview.

245

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 26, 1968

CAROL PEPPER advised that she was visiting her father, JERRY RAYNES, at Center, Missouri. She stated she had been born at Ewing, Missouri, on [redacted] and that she had no additional information.

On 4/20/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY HRD:pjh 246 Date dictated 4/22/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1

SL 44-775

EEB:amb AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

RE: RAY RELATIVES

On the morning of April 22, 1968, SAs F. JACK WILLIAMS and EARL E. BROWN attempted to interview subject's sister, CAROL PEPPER, at her residence, 2025 Bellvue, Maplewood. She appeared at the door with two young children and refused to admit agents to the house. She stated that she and her husband are disgusted with the matter, that they are not sure they are related to the subject, and that she will not discuss the matter without her husband's consent and in his presence.

247

1
SL 44-775
EEB/ral

Re: RAY RELATIVES

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Information was received that subject's sister, CAROL PEPPER, was employed on "Operation Head Start" while residing on Shenandoah Avenue, probably as a teacher at St. Joseph's Church.

On April 29, 1968, Father SPIRO ANDREJANIC, St. Joseph's Croatian Catholic Church, 2112 South Twelfth Street, after checking his records, advised SA ALBERT J. RUSHING and SA EARL E. BROWN that ALBERT and CAROL PEPPER were not members of his parish and had not been, and that he maintained no record of teachers or other employees of a summer school session he knew as "Operation Head Start". He stated that if CAROL PEPPER was so employed a record might be maintained at the Catholic Archdiocesan Board of Education Office on Lindell Boulevard.

248

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 6, 1968

1

Records of the Manufacturers Bank and Trust Company, 1731 South Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri, reflect there is a current checking account in the name of ALBERT or CAROL PEPPER. The balance as of April 29, 1968, was \$186.09.

This account was opened April 3, 1967, with a deposit of \$209.08.

Prior to August 21, 1967, the balance was two figures and low three figures with no deposit larger than the opening deposit and the largest withdrawal being \$164.75. On August 21, 1967, there was a deposit in the amount of \$4628.78 and on August 23, 1967, a check was written in the amount of \$500.00. On September 5, 1967, there was a deposit of \$837.94 and on September 6, 1967, a check was written in the amount of \$3656.98. On September 12, 1967, there was a deposit of \$756.00 and on September 14, 1967, a check was written in the amount of \$1900.00. On October 9, 1967, there was a deposit of \$1056.71.

Since October 9, 1967, no deposit was made larger than a deposit of \$460.35 made November 6, 1967. Since January 22, 1968, no check was written on this account larger than the \$195.00 check written January 22, 1968.

With respect to the largest deposits as reflected below in a check of the savings account of ALBERT and CAROL PEPPER, the deposit on August 21, 1967, to the checking account in the amount of \$4628.78 coincides with a withdrawal in their savings account of \$4500.00. Deposit tickets for the checking account for August 21, 1967, reflect that the \$4628.78 deposit was made up of \$4500.00 transferred from a savings account, a check in the amount of \$105.37 and a check in the amount of \$23.41.

With respect to the deposit of \$837.94 on September 5, 1967, this deposit consisted of \$513.29 in cash, \$200.00 in cash, and a check in the amount of \$124.60.

With respect to the deposit of \$756.00 on September 12, 1967, this consisted of a check in that amount.

Regarding the deposit of October 9, 1967, in the amount of \$1056.71, this consisted of a cash deposit of \$1000.00 and a check in the amount of \$56.71.

On 4/30/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
 by SA EARL E. BROWN
SA ALBERT J. RUSHING EEB: pdp Date dictated 5/6/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2

SL: 44-775

The other deposit of size noted above, November 6, 1967, in the amount of \$460.35, is supported by deposit tickets reflecting \$100.00 in cash and checks in the amount of \$125.00, \$87.07, \$93.95, \$6.67, \$43.40, and \$4.26.

Since January 1, 1968, the only checks written on this checking account were six in January, one in February, and two in March. Checks drawn on the account in April 1968, (six in all) consisted of the following:

April 12, 1968, in the amount of \$2.50 payable to R. J. DEVEREUX;

April 16, 1968, \$5.46 payable to Sealtest;

April 16, 1968, \$3.00 payable to Cardinal Glennon Hospital;

April 14, 1968, \$6.50 (this check could not be located to determine payee);

April 14, 1968, \$13.88 to Katz Drugs and

March 29, 1968, \$105.20 to Manufacturers Bank.

An official of Manufacturers Bank stated that the \$105.20 check dated March 29, 1968, payable to Manufacturers Bank is for a payment on the PEPPER residence they are purchasing.

One of the large withdrawals from this checking account listed above was a \$500.00 check on August 23, 1967. This was the date of posting and the check was actually drawn on August 18, 1967. It was payable to Mercantile Trust Company and contained a stamp indicating it had been processed by the Real Estate Department.

With respect to the check in the amount of \$1900.00 noted above, which was posted on September 14, 1967, this check was dated September 9, 1967, and payable to JERRY RAYNS and contains a notation "purchase of 42 acres". It was endorsed

250

3

SL: 44-775

JERRY RAYNS followed by an endorsement which appears to be ~~HAROLD WALKER, Trustee~~. This check was deposited at the Center State Bank and is the only check found wherein the body of the check was apparently not written by CAROL PEPPER, although she signed all checks mentioned herein.

ALBERT or CAROL PEPPER also maintain at the Manufacturers Bank a savings account number [REDACTED]. Bank records reflect that this account was opened September 7, 1965. The PEPPERS gave an address of 712A Shenandoah, St. Louis, Missouri, and the only other address reflected in the savings account is 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri. At the time the account was opened ALBERT PEPPER, Social Security Number [REDACTED] stated he was born [REDACTED] at Chicago, Illinois, and is employed by Ace Service. CAROL PEPPER stated she was born [REDACTED] in Missouri. It was noted that an inquiry had been made concerning this account by Missouri Liquor Control on November 27, 1967. The account was opened with a deposit of \$2570.15. The largest deposits thereafter were \$1900.00 on April 3, 1967, and \$344.00 on February 6, 1967. Numerous other deposits were made in smaller amounts. Withdrawals were as follows:

November 10, 1965	\$200.00
June 27, 1966	\$100.00
July 11, 1966	\$ 70.00
September 12, 1966	\$500.00
September 15, 1966	\$500.00
October 24, 1966	\$175.00
August 21, 1967	\$4500.00
September 12, 1967	\$756.00

The balance as of April 30, 1968, was \$2175.43.

Records of the Manufacturers Bank also reflect that ALBERT and CAROL PEPPER have a real estate loan, number M-1625, on the property at 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri, in the amount of \$6500.00. It is payable in monthly installments of \$75.00 which payment includes escrow fee, taxes, insurance, and interest. A number of payments in addition to the regular payments have been made and the balance due on the principal

251

4

SL: 44-775

as of April 1, 1968, is \$6080.77. This property is recorded in Book 1052, Page 167, Daily number 132, St. Louis County Court House. It is a first deed of trust. Seller to the PEPPERS was Mercantile Trust Company, Real Estate Department. Closing on this property was September 6, 1967, with a payment in the amount of \$3656.98.

The application for this loan was dated August 14, 1967, and signed by ALBERT PEPPER. The application reflects that this is a five room house, the total selling price being \$10,500. At the time of the application ALBERT PEPPER resided at 712A Shenandoah and was employed by Ace Construction Company - New Market Hardware at \$100.00 per week plus overtime. His wife was employed by "Arch. Dietries" (Project Headstart) at \$50.00 a week. On the application no liabilities were listed and assets were a \$5000.00 life insurance policy on the life of ALBERT PEPPER with his wife beneficiary; cash in a savings account of \$7256.43; a 1963 Plymouth valued at \$800.00; and furniture valued at \$800.00 or total assets of \$8856.43.

Two checking accounts were located in the name of JOHN RAY both of which were closed as of April 30, 1968.

The ~~first~~ account was opened November 3, 1966, with a deposit of \$339.12. At the time the account was opened JOHN RAY listed his address as 1812 Lafayette. This was changed to 712A Shenandoah and there was also a notation of an address at 1822 North 21st Street.

Three deposits were made after the account was opened ranging in amount from \$48.00 to \$68.18.

Eleven checks were drawn on this account ranging in amount from \$5.88 to \$152.00. Reference shown at the time the account was opened was JERRY RAYNS. This account was closed on July 18, 1967.

JOHN RAY had a second checking account opened August 30, 1967, with a deposit of \$1300.00. He gave his address as 1807 South 11th Street. There was the initial deposit only. Fifteen checks were drawn on this account ranging from

252

5

SL: 44-775

\$5.04 to \$550.00. The \$550.00 check was posted on February 2, 1968. The next largest check drawn on the account was posted January 26, 1968, in the amount of \$126.85. At the time the account was opened RAY stated he was unemployed. There was no activity in the account from February 9, 1968, until it was closed April 8, 1968, with a check in the amount of \$5.04.

The Manufacturers Bank also contains a closed checking account in the name of JERRY RAYNS, 1434 Menard Street, which was opened May 11, 1964, and closed May 29, 1967. At the time the account was opened JERRY RAYNS indicated he was self-employed at a second hand store. From January 5, 1966, until January 16, 1967, 10 deposits were made ranging in amounts from \$46.40 to \$500.00. The largest balance was on October 17, 1966, amounting to \$1076.28. The largest check drawn on the account was \$500.00 on November 25, 1966. After January 16, 1967, there was only one transaction, check number 344, which closed the account.

Records of the Manufacturers Bank also reflect a closed savings account in the name of JERRY RAYNS or CAROL PEPPER (daughter) savings account number [REDACTED]. This account was opened September 7, 1965, with a deposit of \$300.00. At that time JERRY RAYNS listed his address as 1819 Park Avenue. He stated he was born [REDACTED] in California and is retired. No address was listed for CAROL PEPPER, who was said to be a housewife born [REDACTED] in Missouri. On October 6, 1965, there was a deposit of \$100.00 and on August 30, 1966, a deposit of \$200.00. This account was closed on September 5, 1967, with a withdrawal of \$513.29.

In the event these records are needed, a subpoena duces tecum should be directed to Mr. HARLEY E. SCHWERING, Senior Vice President, Manufacturers Bank and Trust Company, 1731 South Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri.

253

1
SL: 44-775
AJR: pdp

RE: RAY RELATIVES

On April 26, 1968, inquiry was made by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING at the Liberty Loan Company, 4 Crestwood Executive Center, Crestwood, Missouri, which was based on information appearing in the files of a credit agency in St. Louis, Missouri, reflecting that an inquiry had been received by that credit agency on September 5, 1963, from Liberty Loan Company (telephone VI 2-2100) concerning ALBERT B. PEPPER.

Mr. GENE GRIFFIN, Manager, advised that the above is the correct telephone number for the branch office of Liberty Loan Company at the address set out above. After checking all pertinent records Mr. GRIFFIN advised he could locate no record of an active or closed account for ALBERT B. PEPPER or CAROL PEPPER. He explained that if they had applied for a loan in 1963 and their application had been rejected no record would have been retained by the company after a few months.

254

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 29, 19681.

ALBERT B. PEPPER, 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri, advised upon interview that although he has been married to his wife, CAROL PEPPER, for a period of approximately six years he has never met JAMES EARL RAY. He did admit knowing his wife's brother JOHN "JACK" RAY, present whereabouts unknown, and a brother JERRY RAY who resides in the vicinity of Chicago, Illinois. He stated that the last time he had heard of these individual was at Christmas time 1967 at which time they visited briefly in the PEPPER home in Maplewood, Missouri.

PEPPER was advised of the provisions of the harboring statute and emphatically denied any information whatever which might be of value in trying to locate JAMES EARL RAY.

PEPPER advised that he and his wife were in the process of purchasing their home at that address. He further stated he was employed at the New Market Hardware in St. Louis and the salary that he makes barely meets living expenses and the amount necessary to make the payments on the home.

On 4/19/68 at Maplewood, Missouri File # SL 44-775
 by SA HARRY C. JUNG
SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL CBB:bam Date dictated 4/25/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1.
SL 44-775
KND/pjh

RAY RELATIVES

The following investigation was conducted by SA KENNETH N. DELANOY on April 20, 1968:

On April 20, 1968, HARRY SCHNEIDER, President, New Market Hardware, 4064 Laclede, St. Louis, Missouri, and his son, MURRAY SCHNEIDER, President, Ace Construction and Engineering, 4060 Laclede, combined companies, were contacted at which time HARRY SCHNEIDER made available a xerox copy of an application for employment dated June 11, 1966, for JOHN LARRY RAY, 2012 Mississippi, St. Louis, Missouri, Social Security Number [redacted] telephone PR 1-2191; Born [redacted] Ewing, Missouri; former address 1817 Park, St. Louis, Missouri; single, mother's birthplace Alton, Illinois; father's birthplace St. Louis, Missouri; high school - "I.C.S.", employment history - "Rays", Bloomingdale, Illinois, four-five months.

SCHNEIDER stated JOHN RAY was not hired; he has not seen him since June 1966, and believes RAY was recommended to apply by his brother-in-law, ALBERT BENNY PEPPER, a current employee of New Market Hardware. HARRY SCHNEIDER also made available a copy of Application for Employment for ALBERT BENNY PEPPER, dated September 17, 1964, which sets forth the following information:

Present Address (1964)	712 Shanedan, St. Louis, PR 6-1055
Social Security No.	[redacted]
Last Previous Address (1964)	1324 Lami, St. Louis, Missouri
Place of Birth	Chicago, Illinois
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Height	5'7"
Weight	135
Sex	Male
U. S. Citizen	Yes
Marital Status	Married, two children
Real Estate	None
Mother's Birthplace	Tennessee
Father's Birthplace	Portageville, Missouri

256

2.
SL 44-775
KND/pjh

Wife's Maiden Name	RYAN
Wife's Birthplace	Quincy, Illinois
Education	2 years high school McKinley High School, Missouri and Russell, St. Louis, Missouri
Employment History	May 1957 - May 1959, CAL JANSEN Waterproofing, terminated by reason of being laid off; June 1959 - July 1962, SMOOTS Heating, installing furnaces; Company went out of business; August 1962 - August 1964, WHITE Supply, 4343 Duncan, shipping receiving and packing; work got slack.

Regarding information that PEPPER had allegedly seen subject JAMES RAY since his escape from prison, MURRAY and HARRY SCHNEIDER stated they had no evidence to support this, and it was merely an "impression" since PEPPER is very close-mouthed about RAY.

Regarding information that PEPPER made a comment to an employee named "FRED" that "his brother-in-law was arrested the same day he (PEPPER) was arrested", FRED NEY, employee, New Market Hardware, stated he knows nothing further regarding the statement made by PEPPER, and PEPPER did not identify the brother-in-law. NEY stated it was his impression that the arrest of PEPPER was made by the Ninth District, St. Louis Police Department, and Sergeant HACKETT may know more of that.

Above individuals were shown photographs from WF-442, but each stated that person is unknown to them. Each stated that any information regarding subject RAY or JOHN LARRY RAY which comes to their attention, will be immediately relayed to the FBI.

257

1

SL: 44-775

RAY RELATIVES

AJR:klr

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

ALBERT PEPPER was contacted on the morning of April 22, 1968, by Special Agent ALBERT J. RUSHING and Special Agent HARRY C. JUNG at the New Market Hardware Company, 4064 Laclede, St. Louis, Missouri.

PEPPER said he did not want to talk with the agents. He said he had tried to be cooperative when he was interviewed by FBI Agents at his home on the preceding Friday. He said he had nothing more which he could tell the agents and that he did not intend to cooperate any further. He said that he was at this time about to begin his daily work and that he wanted to go on about his work and not be bothered any further. He said if he continued to be bothered in connection with this investigation, he might see a lawyer and see if something could be done about it.

Inquiry was made by Special Agent RUSHING of PEPPER as to whether he was aware of the importance and significance of the investigation to locate JAMES EARL RAY, a Federal fugitive, and PEPPER replied that he was aware of this. Special Agent RUSHING advised PEPPER that there was a Federal Harboring Statute which might be applicable if PEPPER should harbor this fugitive or should withhold information concerning him. He replied he was not concerned about this because he had already supplied all the information he had at the time of a previous interview and that he was not harboring a fugitive.

1.
SL 44-775
GMP:pjh

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

RE: ALBERT PEPPER

The following investigation was conducted by SA GEORGE M. PEET on April 22, 1968:

Records of the Ninth District, St. Louis Police Department, under complaint number 142436, reflect that ALBERT PEPPER, 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, a white male, born [redacted] was arrested at approximately 10:00 p.m., April 16, 1968, charged with individual peace disturbance, and was released after issuance of a summons, instructing him to appear at 9:00 a.m., May 31, 1968, in Division #1, Municipal Court Building, 14th and Market Streets.

A review of the police report reflects that at about 10:00 p.m., April 16, 1968, WILMA SHIRLEY, 4318 Forest Park, a white female, 27, housewife, walked out of the liquor store at 4304 Laclede and while in front of the liquor store observed PEPPER and "JOE", whom she recognized as a tenant in the same house she had lived in. As she came out, both men put an arm around her and started hugging and kissing her. She tried to get away and walked north on Boyle Street but the men hung on and when in front of 13 North Boyle, she cried out for help. JOE ran but a witness held PEPPER until the police arrived. This report reflects PEPPER has a prior record, so he was booked as indicated above.

On April 22, 1968, Mrs. WILMA SHIRLEY, 4318 Forest Park, advised that at about 10:00 p.m., she and her six-year-old daughter [redacted] went to the store, according to Mrs. SHIRLEY, for Kotex. As she came out of the liquor store, JOE, later determined by Mrs. SHIRLEY, to be JOE PRESLEY (phonetic), and another fellow (PEPPER) started kissing and hugging her and pulling at her clothes. Both were drunk and one said something to the effect, "I can give you what you've been looking for." They pulled her a short distance into the alley and when she started hollering and told her six-year-old daughter to get help, Mrs. SHIRLEY said that she was scared to death and that in a few minutes the men ran. One of them was caught and was held until the police arrived. She exhibited a brown skirt on which the side seam was torn about eight inches down from the zipper and stated this was the skirt

259

2.

SL 44-775

GMP:pjh

she was wearing at the time. Mrs. SHIRLEY indicated that she had four children, the youngest being not quite a month old, and that it was difficult for her to get downtown to the address given her by the police officer so that she could prosecute. (It is to be noted that Mrs. SHIRLEY did not know what prosecute meant and stated she did not know where to go nor whether she would go down and sign any papers. She indicated she had learned the identity of PRESLEY from his brother-in-law who resides in the same building she is currently in).