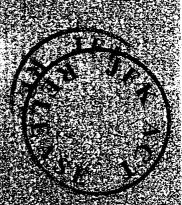
THE SHOCKING STORY
BEHIND THE CRIME THAT ROCKED
THE NATION AND THE WORLD!

GONSPIRACY? !!YIS or MO!!

The Man Who
Murdered
Martin Luther King
by Clay Blair Jr

INCLUDING THE COMPLETE COURT RECORD



## A Move to Obscurity

The next seven years in the life of James and Lucille Ray must have been a ghastly nightmare. Caught in the crush of the depression, Ray, an ex-convict with limited skills, could find no work, even if he had been so inclined. James and Lucille apparently shuttled back and forth between the homes of her parents in Alton and his in Quincy. During this time—perhaps to cover his past, or to keep it from rising to haunt him—James Gerald Ray began to assume a variety of aliases: Gerry Ray or George Ray or Gerry Rayn or Gerry Raynes or Gerry Raines or Gerry Ryan.

Things were tough. To make matters worse—at least in the eyes of the family—Lucille was pregnant much of the time. They had been married outside the church—James Gerald was a Protestant—but Lucille still clung to her Catholicism and its stringent rules on contraception. Two years after James Earl was born, Lucille produced a girl, Marjorie, born on June 8, 1930. On her birth certificate, her surname is Raynes. A year later, June 19, 1931, came another boy, John Larry. Then four years later, Gerald, born July 16, 1935—a total of four children in seven years and there were five more to come.

Until January 5, 1935, the official records are silent about the life and times of James Gerald Ray. But on that date, he was arrested in Alton for forgery. The grand jury in Edwardsville, where he and Lucille were married, failed to indict him. Perhaps he made restitution or promised to leave town, or both. A few months after the arrest, on August 2, 1935, Lucille's mother, Mary, bought a 63-acre farm for James and Lucille in an obscure country hamlet, Ewing, Missouri, across the river from Quincy. It cost less than \$1,000, with little or no cash down, the balance in a mortgage which Mary Maher paid in full to the previous owner, Nettie Uhlein, by 1942.

The farm, lying to the northeast of Ewing, was not

THE STRANGE CAS

impressive. The land in the almost unyielding. Only about for planting; the remainde covered with trees. No mat the land. There was a large house for the children, and chance to begin a new life. Ewing in August, 1935, bri and the four children: Jimm Larry, four; and Gerald, and the name Gerry Raines.

Before the depression stru thriving little Midwest count a shipping point on the C.B. rounding farms. There was a pit, two banks, two doctors, yard and a business center. B early thirties had almost destr closed. The doctors, the lawye away. The stores failed; the boarded-up ghost town. A ne Ewing of its role as a rail sh money. Foreclosed homes we \$350. A hard-working labore hand might earn \$16 a mont people lived on what they gre church-mouse poor.

Poor but proud. The popposed largely of white Anglo Democrats" all. The Washbu The Willows. The Whites. The Casons. They were clean country folk who seldom drathemselves on surviving the benefit of government hando conflict: the town had never hasn't had to this day. "The nigger," says an old-timer, "the highway. But they kept the lily-white character of Ewing in a nearby town, La Grange, the

The newcomer, Gerry Rain