

# A Chronicle of Ray's Whereabouts, From the Time He Fled Prison

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MEMPHIS, Nov. 15 — The day-to-day whereabouts of James Earl Ray from the time he escaped from prison in April, 1967, until he was arrested in London last June 8 after the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis can now be established.

Investigations by correspondents of The New York Times in the United States, Canada and Europe already had pinpointed most of the travels of the man accused of the assassination. And information that Ray supplied from his jail cell in Memphis for a series of articles in Look magazine has filled in the holes.

Until Ray furnished this information to William Bradford Huie, an Alabama author, even the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which had more than 3,000 agents investigating the case, had been unable to put together a complete account of Ray's movements.

In a long handwritten memorandum that he furnished to Mr. Huie through his former attorney, Arthur J. Hanes, Ray said that when he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary on April 23, 1967, he began walking toward Kansas City, about 150 miles from the state prison in Jefferson City.

## Not for St. Louis

He said that he believed the police would expect him to head for St. Louis, where he had friends and relatives, and that he had gone in the opposite direction for this reason.

For the first five days after he escaped, Ray spent the time walking and hiding. He said he had \$300 that he had accumulated in prison. He did not ex-

and caught a train to Birmingham.

He arrived on Aug. 25 and spent the first night at the Granada Hotel, next to the Birmingham News Building. The next day he checked into the Economy Grill and Rooms, a boarding house on Birmingham's South Side.

## Bought a Mustang

Mr. Huie said Ray told him that a letter from Raoul arrived the day after he had checked into the boarding house and that he met Raoul at the Starlite, a restaurant and club, on Aug. 28.

The author reported that Ray

said Raoul told him to buy a car, and on Aug. 30, he bought a 1966 white Mustang, paying for it with \$2,000 Raoul had given him.

On Sept. 1 he applied for a driver's license, stating on his application that he had once held a driver's license in Louisiana, a state that did not keep drivers' old license records. On Oct. 5 he received his permanent Alabama driver's license.

He told Mr. Huie that he left Birmingham to go to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, on the Texas border, where he was to meet Raoul. After smuggling some items into the interior of Mexico

for Raoul, he told the author that he received \$2,000 from Raoul and was told to keep in touch with him through a telephone number in New Orleans.

Ray said he drove to Acapulco, where he stayed for 10 days or two weeks, and then went to nearby Puerto Vallarta, where he stayed for a month. He said that when he got out of prison, he had planned to settle down in Puerto Vallarta.

## Drove to Los Angeles

In late November, Ray said he drove to Los Angeles, where he checked into the St. Francis Hotel on Hollywood Boulevard. He spent most of his waking

hours for the next two or three weeks at the Rabbit's Foot Club or the Sultan Room, drinking beer or vodka and orange juice.

On Dec. 15, in answer to a summons from Raoul, according to Mr. Huie, he took off in a white Mustang, accompanied by Charles Stein, a bearded poet whose sister Ray had been courting. The two men arrived in New Orleans on Dec. 17. Ray checked into the Provincial Motor Hotel, while Stein stayed with relatives.

Ray told Mr. Huie that he met Raoul at a New Orleans bar and that Raoul gave him

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\$2,500 and told him to go back to await further orders.

Ray and Mr. Stein arrived back in Los Angeles on Dec. 19, where Ray signed up for a series of dancing lessons and a course in bartending.

## Had Nose Shortened

Early in March, after he had graduated from the bartenders' school, Ray had his nose shortened. The long pointed end of his nose was his most prominent physical feature, and he said in his memorandum to Mr. Huie that he hoped to disguise his looks.

On March 15, Ray said he

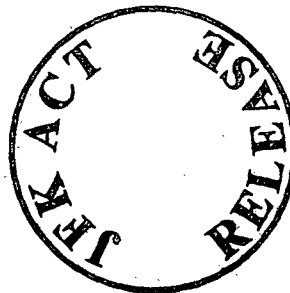
got a letter from Raoul instructing him to go to Selma and Birmingham, Ala., Mr. Huie reported.

Ray drove across country in the Mustang, arriving on March 22 in Selma, where he checked into the Flamingo Motel. Dr. King had been scheduled to lead a march in Camden, 30 miles away from Selma, the next day in connection with the Poor People's Campaign, but the appearance was canceled and Dr. King returned to his home in Atlanta.

On March 23, Ray drove from Atlanta, where he checked into

a rooming house, paying a week's rent in advance.

At this rooming house, the F.B.I. later found a map with circles drawn around the addresses of Dr. King's home, his church and his office. Following Dr. King's death, the landlord had called the F.B.I. after noticing the resemblance between his missing roomer and Eric Starvo Galt in the Atlanta newspapers. A fingerprint found on a television set in Ray's room led the F.B.I. to conclude that Ray and Galt were the same man.



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