

U. S. Department of Justice

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**World's Most-Wanted Fugitive****The Real Life and Times of James Ray**

Dusk was falling on the eastern Missouri woods, and the only light in the remote shack was the square glow of a TV set. An obscure figure emerged from the darkness and peered out through the dirty storm door. Suddenly he was frantic, gesturing menacingly, and bellowing curses of rage and fear. He vanished, but an instant later he was back and a silver-plated .38-caliber pistol was pointing at my chest.

"Get the hell outa here or I'll use this!" The voice, I'm convinced, belonged to a man who was supposed to be dead.

It took that frightening moment to fill the last gap in the puzzle. Newspapers and magazines were telling the world that this man of many names died years ago. Yet there he was in front of me—a desperate, wrinkled, old man manifesting the sense-

*This article, by staff writer Daniel Greene, is based on his on-the-scene reporting in the Midwest and in Washington, D.C.*

less violence that seems to be second nature to most of his family. Behind the gun, too, was the personified answer to the basic question that had lured me to the Mississippi River country of Missouri and Illinois: I wanted to know how Jimmy Ray had grown up to become the most wanted fugitive in the world—and I was looking at his father.

**Matched Fingerprints**

One of the biggest manhunts in history focused on James Earl Ray three weeks ago when the FBI matched his fingerprints with prints found during the investigation of the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis on April 4. The Federal Government charges that James Ray, who used the name Eric Starvo Galt and other aliases, conspired to violate Dr. King's civil rights. There is no Federal law against murder, but Tennessee authorities have issued a state murder warrant for the fugitive.

For 40 years, Jimmy Ray was a luckless cipher. For the past three weeks, he has been a notorious mystery man—the enigmatic subject of endless theories and conjectures: If he *did* shoot Dr. King, was he hired to do it—or was he driven by racial bigotry? If there *was* an elaborate assassination plot, was he the triggerman—or the unwitting fall guy? Did he escape out of the country—or was he himself slain by co-conspirators?

Investigators soon learned that piecing together Ray's background was almost as difficult as finding him. The few records that could be found provided a sketchy outline of an inveterate loser from a rootless, impoverished family of losers who used various names, seldom had their pictures taken (except those who got arrested), and made few friends. Consequently, ever since the FBI released pictures of Ray, together with scanty biographical data culled from prison files, more contradictory and inaccurate reports have been circulated about him than about anybody since Lee Harvey Oswald.

**The Long Search**

An effort to sort out the tangled threads has led me hundreds of miles up and down both sides of the central Mississippi valley, through public records and old newspaper files, into conversation with scores of people who have known the Rays and a few kinsfolk. And in the end, the

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1,14 The National Observer

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search led to a long-kept secret.

The tracer of Jimmy Ray's early life encounters ironies all along the trail, beginning in Alton, Ill., where he was born.

Alton is a blue-collar city of about 47,000 in the heavily industrialized area spreading out from St. Louis on both sides of the Mississippi. The city is known to historians as the site of the last Lincoln-Douglas debate and as the place where Elijah P. Lovejoy, the crusading preacher and newspaper publisher, was killed in 1837 by a mob incensed by his outspoken stand for the abolition of slavery. Now, 131 years after Lovejoy's death, a native of Alton has linked the city, indirectly, to the murder of another renowned campaigner for racial equality.

Just about everybody in Alton and other places where the fugitive lived as a boy and young man now knows the name James Earl Ray. Pictures of him are on posters in every police station and post office. Local newspapers have been printing every scrap of information they can dig up about the suspect and his family—much of it inaccurate. Yet few Altonians actually remember any of the Rays. The rundown, two-story house on West 9th Street, where the parents lived when James was born, is now occupied by two Negro families, one on each floor. None of their neighbors was living in the block in the 1920s.

#### Forgotten in Alton

It is not surprising that the family was forgotten in Alton. The year after James Earl, the first of nine children, was born, his parents moved north. The family as a whole never again made Alton its home. After the marriage broke up and her husband disappeared, however, Lucille Ray and some of the kids lived there at various times. Mrs. Ray, who died in 1961, is buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery on the outskirts of town; the name on the little granite marker is Lucille Mary Ryan. (Ryan is one of several names members of the family assumed over the years.)

Lucille's Irish Catholic roots were in Alton. Her mother, Mrs. Mary Maher, and her aunt, Sadie Fitzsimmons, spent most of their lives there. Miss Fitzsimmons, still remembered by some townspeople as Aunt Sadie, was a respected resident who ran a small cleaning establishment on Broadway for many years, and in later life was an active precinct worker in local election campaigns. Roy Geltz, who is still an Alton alderman, remembers that she canvassed hard for him.

Aunt Sadie died the year after Lucille, and Mrs. Maher the following year. The only member of the family still living in Alton is William Maher, Lucille's younger brother. Mr. Maher is a large, ruddy-faced man of 51 who works as a painting contractor. He has been bothered so much by reporters since his relationship to the suspected killer was disclosed that he usually refuses to answer questions about his late sister's family. But during a leisurely conversation one afternoon, in the tastefully furnished living room of the modest bungalow he shares with his wife, Mr. Maher revealed a lot about the relatives he would just as soon forget.

#### 'Sideburns and Muscles'

Bill Maher was 9 when his sister married James Ray in 1926. She was 17; Ray was a 25-year-old, unschooled rake who had moved from Quincy, Ill., to live with his mother a few doors from the Mahers. "I guess he just bowled her over with those Valentino sideburns and muscles," reminisces Mr. Maher. He remembers that Ray did not work, was probably being

supported by his father (who was reported to be operating a speakeasy in Quincy) and drove his own car. Ray also enjoyed something of a reputation as a fist-fighter, Mr. Maher recalls.

The couple was married by a justice of the peace in Edwardsville, not far from Alton. That may have been the biggest mistake of Lucille's life. For from then on, the history of the Ray family is a sordid chronicle of poverty, wretchedness, alcoholism, and crime.

The Rays were a Depression family—in some ways typical of the countless poor rural families forced to grub for survival in those lean years. But this clan sagged under an extra burden: The head of the household apparently had a lifelong aversion to gainful employment. Nobody can remember the man ever holding down

Please Turn to Page 14, Column 1

## World's Most-Wanted Fugitive

# Real Life and Times Of James Earl Ray

*Continued From Page One*

regular job. "He didn't have any skills," Mr. Maher says. "When he did work, it was as a sharecropper or section hand or something."

Mr. and Mrs. Ray, with their baby boy, moved to Quincy, about 115 miles upriver. But by the time the boy started school in 1935, they were living in Ewing, some 30 miles away on the other side of the river in Missouri. By this time, too, they had a different name. Ewing folks knew them as the Rayns family (spelled "Raynes" in some records). Two years after coming to Ewing, their second child, Marjorie, was burned to death while playing with matches.

Ewing is one of those sleepy little crossroads you drive past without even noticing. The sign on Route 6 says "Pop. 324"—but on a typical spring afternoon you can drive around the dusty streets for an hour and not see more than a dozen natives. The gloomy maroon train station on the edge of town has long been vacant and some sections of the rusty tracks are nearly hidden by weeds. Except for two grocery stores, a barber shop, two feed stores, and a post office, the business section consists of a few rows of boarded-up shells.

In the memories of long-time residents, the Raynses of Ewing were dirt poor, like most others at that time, and generally inconspicuous. They didn't mix much. They lived in a log house on a winding dirt road a mile or so outside town. The farmhouse, on land owned by Mary Maher, burned down—some say while the Raynses were living in it, others say shortly after they moved.

Today you can't even find a trace of the foundation under the tangled lespedeza and sweet clover blanketing the property. In the rolling woodland beyond the home site, Jimmy Rayns, his brothers, and their friends used to romp, pick blackberries, hunt, and fish for catfish.

A recent magazine article depicted the Rayns family of Ewing as a starving brood of untouchables, and Jimmy as a mean, unmanageable bully who was always getting in fights to compensate for his failings in the classroom. These descriptions are far from the truth, according to people who remember the family. "They were poor all right," acknowledges Carlisle Washburn, who went to school with Jimmy and is now the Ewing postmaster. "But so was everybody else around here. They just seemed more shiftless than the others; they didn't seem to care."

### Burning the House, Bit by Bit

The Peacock family were the Raynses' closest neighbors, and Charlie Peacock was one of Jimmy's best buddies. Mr. Peacock, now a 39-year-old metal worker in a Quincy plant, has retained childhood memories of the old Rayns place: "The mister was always home when I'd go around there to play. Instead of going out in the woods for firewood, he'd pull off a piece of the house and put it in the stove. When they had taken all they could from one room, they'd start on another. They tore most of the house down that way."

Charles Peacock remembers Mrs. Rayns as a tired, hard-working housewife who did the best she could. Her only "weakness" in those days, as he recalls, was her proclivity to catch a smoke when she thought nobody was watching. Hardly anybody around Ewing ate well in the 1930s, but Mrs. Rayns always managed to scrape up something—typically a pot of navy beans seasoned with beef suet and onions and served with cornbread.

The elder Rayns never struck anybody as particularly energetic, but he did teach his boys how to take care of themselves. "He taught them rough," Mr. Peacock says. "He'd spar with them, and talk to them like they were grownups."

Jimmy was an apt pupil; he and Charlie probably did more than their share of scrapping. Yet teachers who were at the Ewing public school when Jimmy was a student do not remember him as any more

hellcase, than a lot of other ~~spunky~~ farm kids. "Oh, he got into things," says Miss Ina Kitson, who has been teaching in Lewis County for 43 years. "He was reserved, but I didn't see anything slow about Jimmy. I got along pretty well with all the little meanies."

Like many other things about Jimmy's youth, though, his school record is confusing. On one side of his achievement card is a section for "Character Traits," divided into grade columns. Curiously, only two of the columns are filled in, for the second and eighth grades, though he completed eight grades. The notations are not flattering. In both grades, he scored badly in Honesty ("needs watching"), Attitude Toward School Regulations, Appearance ("repulsive"), and Courtesy. Only his Emotional Stability impressed his judges, who characterized him as "quiet."

The other side of the card tells a different story. After repeating the first grade, Jimmy did at least satisfactory work, and often much better, until the eighth grade. From the fourth through the seventh grades (he skipped one to make up for the first-grade failure), his record shows an abundance of Es (Excellent) and Ss (Superior). But the file card also shows a deplorable attendance record.

### 'Tended to Resent Authority'

The record stops after the eighth grade, which Jimmy passed conditionally. Comments Virgil O. Graves, one of Jimmy's teachers who is now a social-science instructor in Philadelphia, Mo.: "To the middle of the eighth grade, he was an average student. He tended to resent authority, like most boys of that age. But I never had any trouble with him. He was just like a lot of kids who *can*—but just never get around to doing it."

Neither Mr. Graves nor his wife knew the boy's parents very well, but they do recall one episode that left them with fond memories of Mrs. Rayns. Jimmy's leg was broken in a ball game in the school yard one day, and Mrs. Graves, a substitute teacher, drove the lad and his mother to a doctor's office in Quincy. She also took them to town for the subsequent checkups. Mrs. Graves knew Mrs. Rayns had no money to reimburse her for the expenses, and didn't expect any payment. But some weeks later Mrs. Rayns came by the Graves' home and presented them with two plump frying chickens she had raised.

Even before quitting school, Jimmy's mind was probably wandering far from arithmetic and spelling. On week ends and summer vacations he would sometimes go to Quincy to visit his Uncle Earl. Earl Ray had always been well known in the rougher parts of Quincy, especially to the police. His adult arrest record started in 1920, and is crammed with charges for everything from rape to assault with intent to kill. ~~In 1948~~ he was sent to prison for throwing acid in his wife's face.

The sudden departure of the family from Ewing, in 1943 or 1944, closed the least eventful, and last respectable, chapter of the Ray-Rayns history. Their movements for the next few years are uncertain. But by the time they returned to Quincy, some time after the war, the clan was in hopeless disarray. The picture that emerges from records and conversations in Quincy bears little resemblance to the quiet family Ewing residents describe.

Jimmy, after living in Alton with his grandmother for a while, had joined the Army. Brothers John and Gerald were gaining reputations as juvenile delinquents. Melba, eldest of the three remaining girls, was becoming a mental case. Both parents were drinking heavily, working as little as possible, and usually letting their kids run wild. They lived in the sleaziest sections of town, most of the time in a two-story, red-brick house on Spring Street in a neighborhood crawling with vice. They were also going by another name: Ryan.

When things couldn't get worse, the father finally took a bold step: He deserted, leaving his spouse and the ~~seven~~ kids

who remained at home to fend for themselves. Where he went, nobody seemed to know. Eventually, he was presumed dead. Most of the biographical accounts published since the FBI put the finger on James Earl Ray have indicated that the elder Ray-Rayns-Ryan probably died in the early 1950s.

The family's final disruption is chronicled in the closed files of juvenile court in Quincy. In 1954, the three youngest children—Franklin, Susan, and Max—were put in the Catholic Children's Home in Alton. The other two girls, Melba and Carol, were placed in foster homes. In the early 1950s, all three elder boys were involved in criminal careers that would lead to prison.

Grandmother Maher was especially disappointed when Jimmy became a crook. When he had lived with her as a teen-ager after leaving home, he had seemed to be on the right path. He got a job in a shoe factory and built up a \$1,100 savings account. In a statement she gave the assistant state's attorney after Jimmy was charged with burglary several years later, Mrs. Maher described her grandson during his most productive period:

"He worked with a man in the tannery from Germany, and learned the trade of dying leather. . . . Never went out, never runned around. As far as girls, he was backward. He was bashful with girls. No pals of men either. Just stayed home." Further in the statement she added: "He's quiet and easy. Always comes in with a smile on his face. He don't smoke."

William Maher saw a lot of his oldest nephew during the lad's Alton residence too. Sometimes the two of them would go to St. Louis to watch the old Browns play. "He loved baseball, just like any other boy," Mr. Maher says. "He used to go down to the neighborhood field and play baseball with the other boys; he was a pretty good shortstop. But you'd never see him hanging around on the corner with any of them."

This period of industry and promise came to an end, however, when Jimmy joined the Army in 1946. Stationed in Germany most of his tour, he never climbed above private first class, did a stint at hard labor for drunkenness and resisting arrest, and was ultimately handed a general discharge in 1948 because of "ineptness and lack of adaptability to military service."

A civilian again, James Ray promptly embarked on an aimless career of maldroit lawbreaking. He was a gutsy crook who could be as elusive as an eel when cornered.

### Arrest in Los Angeles

Caught in 1949 trying to steal a typewriter from a Los Angeles cafeteria, he wrestled away from two men to make his getaway—only to drop his discharge papers in the process. Four days later he was spotted by one of the men, caught, tried for second-degree burglary, and sentenced to 90 days in jail and two years probation. That was followed by arrests for vagrancy in Iowa and for driving a car into Alton without a driver's permit. (William Maher paid the fine and drove the car to the edge of town for him.) In May 1952 Ray held up a Chicago cab driver, but was cornered in an alley and shot by a policeman when he tried to get away. After two years in prison, he returned to the Mississippi River towns of his youth to try his luck in more familiar territory.

By then, the Alton cops knew James Ray. To William H. Petersen, who is now the Alton police chief, he was just a two-bit "dirty-neck" who didn't know how to be honest or tell the truth. Ray has changed a lot in appearance since Chief Petersen last interrogated him in the early 1950s, but the chief says he still remembers the fugitive's protruding left ear ("one of those that flap in the wind") and long nose ("like some of the caricatures of LBJ or Bob Hope").

One August night in 1954, Ray drove over to East Alton and broke into the National Cleaners on Broadway. Andrew Biro, a special policeman hired to keep watch on the local businesses, was riding with a city patrolman when he noticed something moving around inside National. When they investigated, the thief climbed back out the window and ran off. Mr. Biro gave chase and pursued the fleet-footed culprit all around the neighborhood before losing the trail along the railroad tracks going to Alton. Evidently Ray ran and walked the five miles to Alton bare-foot; he left his shoes behind at the cleaning plant. When he was arrested in Alton the next day, Mr. Biro recalls, the soles of his feet were "like raw meat."

The only record of the incident in East Alton's police files is a little, 13-year-old ID card bearing the suspect's name and age (26), a Quincy address, and a few bits of identification. There's not enough space in the old brick station house for a lot of bulky files, so every six years they burn up all the old ones. The loafer shoes Ray left at National Cleaners, which were kept

as evidence for a few years, went up in one of the file-burnings too. In the police photo album are two small mug shots, identified as James E. Ray, showing a good-looking young man with wavy, mussed hair, and a long, pointed nose.

But Police Chief Harold Riggins prides himself on his memory. Propping his feet on the corner of a bare desk, he relates the interrogation episode: "I figured he must have been slapped around a lot as a kid. Every time he'd tell a lie, and know that you knew he was lying, he'd duck—jerk his head several inches to the side like he was expecting you to slug him or something. He wouldn't look you in the eye."

Was this nervous, inept thief capable of fulfilling a plot to kill someone like Dr. King? Hardly, judging by his performances in the early '50s. Yet even then he demonstrated a tendency that seems incompatible with a curious aspect of the King assassination: In his most ludicrous failures, Ray took pains to act like a pro.

For instance, he left no fingerprints at National Cleaners simply because he took the precaution of wearing gloves. Yet the first indication that James Ray was involved in the murder of Dr. King was the identification of his fingerprints. And the question lingers: Why, after all the careful, protracted efforts to establish the false identity of Eric Starvo Galt, did the killer or conspirators leave obvious clues that had to eventually incriminate James Earl Ray?

### It's Hard for Me to Picture'

"You know, it's hard for me to picture him doing that," remarks Mr. Maher. "It was too elaborate; if he was involved, somebody told him exactly what to do." Something else about the case puzzles Mr. Maher and others: The white Mustang identified as an escape car for "Eric Starvo Galt" was littered with cigaret butts and ashes when found in Atlanta. Jimmy Ray, according to his uncle and others who knew him, never smoked.

Another notable characteristic was his stubbornness. Persistent failure never discouraged Ray. While awaiting trial on the East Alton burglary charge, Ray went back to Quincy and hooked up with a guy he had known since the early '40s, Walter Rife. They left in Jimmy's car to see some of the country. In less than three months they passed through 38 states and cashed forged money orders in many of them. When they reached Hannibal, Mo., not far from Ewing, they were picked up. Ray served two years and nine months; Rife, 27 months.

Rife now runs the small cafe at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, a block from where the Ray family used to live. Sitting at one of the tavern's small tables the other morning, he chatted about his erstwhile traveling companion: "He wasn't a bad-looking fella. But his bone structure was bad in his shoulders; his shoulders were round and too narrow for his waistline. He never looked good in clothes unless he wore padded shoulders. He was always a neat dresser, though, even when we were boys."

Both men were tough in brawls. "Ray was a mean, nasty fighter. He fought to win no matter what it took—a club, knife, or gun. I never saw him lose a fight." When they were in prison together, Rife adds, Ray lifted weights regularly and built himself up to a rugged 200-pounder.

Most people do not remember Jimmy Ray as a racial bigot. But Walter Rife confides that he often heard his friend express hatred for black people. "He was

prejudiced to the point that he hated to see a colored person breathe," Mr. Rife says. "You could gather from his conversation that if it was up to him, there wouldn't be any colored—they would either be shipped back to Africa or disposed of some way."

As we chatted, a plump woman in faded brown Levis cut off at the knees, a flannel shirt, and a black jacket came in and sat at the next table. "That's Melba," volunteered Rife.

Jimmy Ray's oldest sister has been in and out of mental institutions for years and now lives at the Virginia Hotel. She has turned to religion in recent years, but demonstrates her faith in strange ways. She put together two big wooden crosses, and painted one red, white, and blue, the other, green and brown. One day she lugged one of them downtown, explaining to the curious that she was on her way to church to have it blessed.

Rife introduced me, and we chatted as she nibbled at a hot roast beef sandwich. Melba speaks slowly and smiles faintly now and then. Her conversation rambles—moving from one subject to another with-

out continuity—but some of her comments suggest that she is more perceptive than most people think.

She went on without prompting: "They make heroes out of Bonnie and Clyde, but they want to put my brother in the electric chair or something. . . . I don't know if he done right or wrong. Martin Luther King should have carried a wooden cross; then everybody would have known which side he was on. . . . There was always a lot of excitement in our family; usually you didn't know what had happened until later. We moved around a lot. We'd just get in the car and go. Jimmy had better sense than the rest of my relatives. He should have gone to college and made something of himself. . . . I wouldn't believe a word any of them told me."

By the time he got out of prison in 1958, Ray had become a little more proficient at his trade. He and a partner held up a St. Louis grocery store and got away. Then they robbed a food store in Alton; Ray escaped, but his cohort was caught. Several weeks later he and a new accomplice hit another St. Louis food store, but witnesses gave the police a description of the getaway car, which was soon spotted in front of the rooming house where Ray was staying. Characteristically, Jimmy put up a fight when detectives trapped him upstairs, and was not subdued until one of them bashed him with a revolver.

In December 1959, shortly after a vain attempt to escape from the court house, Jimmy Ray was sentenced to 20 years.

Three times during his stay at the Mis-



souri State Penitentiary, Ray ~~tried to escape~~. The third time, in April 1967, he succeeded by hiding under loaves of bread and getting away in a delivery truck. At that point, James Earl Ray faded into oblivion; a few months later Eric Starvo Galt emerged from nowhere.

I was almost at the end of the trail. The whereabouts of James Earl Ray was still a mystery. What about the other members of the Ray family? Susan and Carol are married and trying desperately to protect their privacy. Max, the youngest child, was put in a foster home long ago. Gerald, who had been working at a golf course in the Chicago suburbs, issued a public plea for his brother to surrender—then suddenly quit his job and dropped from sight. John had not been heard from.

### One Son Drowned

The other son, Franklin, drowned in 1963 when he lost control of his speeding car and it plunged into the Mississippi, across from Quincy. A newspaper report of the accident included one surprising name in the list of survivors: "James Raynes." I drove to the little town of Palmyra, Mo., where the funeral arrangements had been made. At the Sprague Funeral Home there, the report was substantiated: The expenses of burying Frank had been borne by his father, who gave his address as Clarence, Mo. Disappointingly, though, a trip to Clarence was futile; nobody had ever heard of the man.

Back at Quincy, some people admitted long-held suspicions that the missing father of the Ray children was still alive, but nobody could or would offer any clues to his whereabouts. Snapped an attorney familiar with the details of the family's disintegration: "If you ever find him, tell me. I would love to call him a dirty . . . to his face."

At last, in the course of a casual conversation about the old man, a relative dropped the name of a tiny Missouri town. I located the place on my well-worn road map. When I got there, a greasy little phone book in a gas station indicated that this wasn't just another wild-goose chase. Among the Rs was one Jerry Rayns.

A man's voice answered the phone in a slow drawl. I introduced myself, and asked permission to stop by for a chat. "You got the wrong man," he mumbled. "That ain't my boy. The guy you're lookin' for is dead."

That evening I called again. The same man persistently denied he was Jimmy Ray's father. But he stayed on the line long enough to answer a few questions. He acknowledged that he had once lived in Ewing, that he had worked as a railroad switchman in several places, and that he had sold cars in St. Louis.

More revealing, he admitted that FBI agents had questioned him. "They was around here several times," he said. "They might be around here now, for all I know. I don't pay no attention to them. I told 'em everything I know. I don't have nothin' to hide." (In response to my phone inquiry, the FBI refused to confirm or deny that it had questioned the father of the suspected killer.)

### 'There Has to Be a Goat'

He also offered some random thoughts about the King assassination. "Personally, I think the guy who done it is dead. He probably done it for money, and the others killed him to cover it up. Just like Oswald—there has to be a goat. It was pretty damn stupid if you ask me—plumb crazy. I don't believe in killing, myself.

"I don't know who done it. Mighta been one of his friends; mighta been one of those politicians scared that King would get to be President. Too many killings among them people—money and power, that's all they know. I don't care nothin' 'bout those things. I don't care who's President—he won't help me none."

Before he hung up, I tried a long shot; I asked if he had seen Gerald or John lately. "Sure, they're right here with me," he responded. "You want to meet my boys? We'll come over to see you."

Not knowing what kind of welcome I might get from three Rays together, I said I'd call again tomorrow. The next morning, the old man answered and then called "Jerry" to the phone. I explained to the younger man that I wanted to talk about his brother, Jimmy Ray, and he suggested that the four of us meet that afternoon in the MacArthur Hotel in St. Louis. They didn't show up. I decided to return to the little burg and confront Jerry Rayns—or whatever his name is.

I confronted him all right—except that a gun was between us. Yet in his own way, the yelling, frightened old man, barely visible on the other side of the dirty storm door, gave me the answer I had come for. I left with no doubt that I had found the father of James Earl Ray.

—DANIEL GREENE



James Earl Ray: Subject of endless theories and speculations.



Ewing, Missouri: ~~One of those sleepy little crossroads you drive~~

## *Change of Pace ... Change of Place*

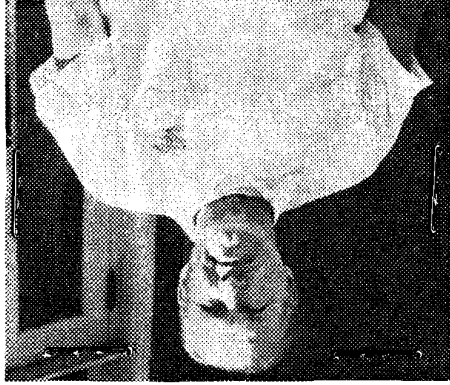
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MYSTIC, CONN.

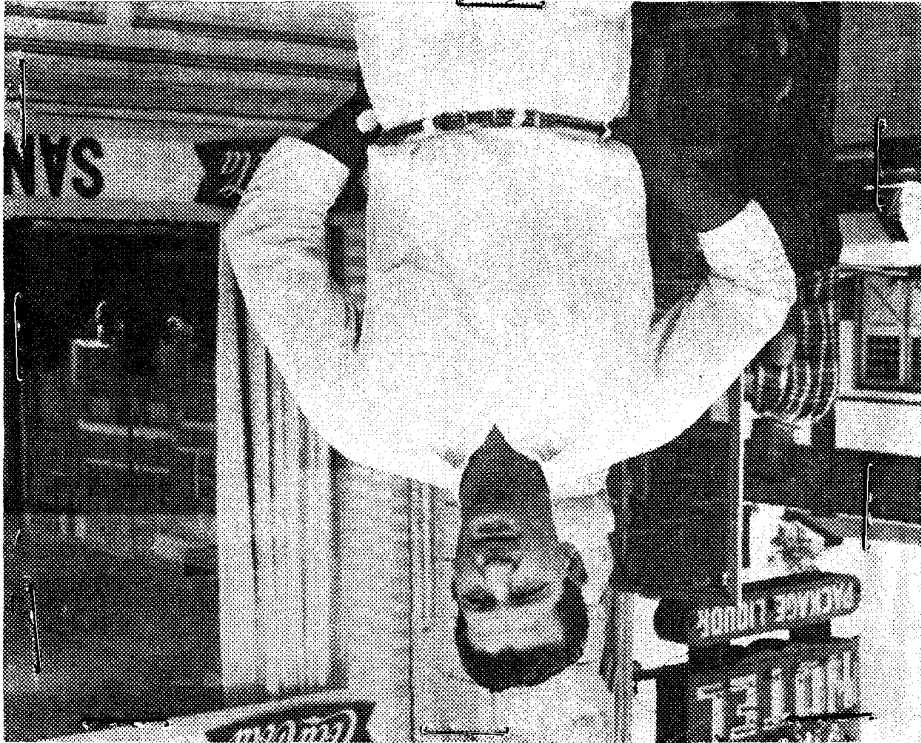
**S**TEP aboard the Charles W. Morgan. Tread her weather decks back into a distant era, the age of sails and whales.

She is a proud ship, sturdy and well-rigged, the lone survivor of that great fleet of wooden-hulled sailing vessels that rounded Cape Horn to seek the mighty Pacific whale. Today she rests beside a pier here, the flagship of a squadron of floating artifacts at Mystic Seaport.

Chief Riggins: 'He got slapped around.'



Walter Rife: 'Ray was a mean fighter.'





—T. Mike Fletcher

Missouri house of 'this man of many names.'

SAC, Denver (157-203)

5/14/68

SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (P)

MURKIN;  
CR

MEMPHIS OO

Re Memphis airtel to Denver, 4/12/68, Denver airtel to Memphis, 4/16/68, and Denver airtel to Memphis, 4/29/68.

On 5/7/68 Attorney RUSSELL X. THOMPSON, Home Federal Building, Memphis, Tenn., and his personal secretary, Miss CAROL HOWELL, both viewed photographs of DONOVAN LEON CURTIS of Denver, Colorado. They said these photos definitely were not of the suspect originally mentioned by THOMPSON.

THOMPSON said the suspect has not recontacted him since 4/11/68. THOMPSON said he is now convinced that the individual who contacted him was a mental case of some sort.

2 - Denver  
1 - Memphis

WHL:mjh  
(3)

157-203-471

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 16 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, Denver (157-203)

DATE: 5/14/68

FROM: SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN;  
CR

MEMPHIS OO

Re Memphis airtel to Denver, 4/12/68, Denver airtel to Memphis, 4/16/68, and Denver airtel to Memphis, 4/29/68.

On 5/7/68 Attorney RUSSELL X. THOMPSON, Home Federal Building, Memphis, Tenn., and his personal secretary, Miss CAROL HOWELL, both viewed photographs of DONOVAN LEON CURTIS of Denver, Colorado. They said these photos definitely were not of the suspect originally mentioned by THOMPSON.

THOMPSON said the suspect has not recontacted him since 4/11/68. THOMPSON said he is now convinced that the individual who contacted him was a mental case of some sort.

2 - Denver  
1 - Memphis

WHL:mjh  
(3)

157-203-471

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-203)

DATE: 5/14/68

FROM : SA BARRY SIKES

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re memo of WILLIAM JOHN SPRING dated 5/13/68.

The following investigation was conducted by SA BARRY SIKES at Berthoud and Longmont, Colorado:

On 5/14/68 Mr. LOUIS F. BEIN, Berthoud National Bank, Berthoud, Colorado was contacted regarding information furnished telephonically on 5/13/68. At this time he advised that JOHNNY R. PATRICK, 1420 Main St., Longmont, Colorado, who opened a checking account at that bank on 5/13/68 is now in the process of opening an auction house in Berthoud, Colorado at Straight's Furniture Warehouse.

On 5/14/68 I. O. #4182 of subject RAY was exhibited to RAY DEGROAT, Chief of Police, Berthoud, Colorado and to Mrs. (FNU) Straight. Both advised that they do not believe that JOHNNY R. PATRICK is identical.

On 5/14/68 inquiry at Longmont, Colorado Police Dept., and Credit Bureau, Longmont, Colorado, determined that JOHNNY R. PATRICK and wife VIRGINIA have been on file since 1956 ~~with~~ with PATRICK's employment shown as the manager of the Trailways Motel, 1420 Main street, Longmont, Colorado and previously from Porterville, California. On 5/14/68 Mr. DALE PARKER, Captain, Longmont, Colorado Police Dept., advised that PATRICK is not identical to subject RAY.

1 - 157-203  
BS

*see ser. 451*

157-203-472

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1604	



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-203)

FROM : SA STEPHEN B. CHENOWETH

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/15/68

On 5/6/68, the following motels were contacted, with respect to CARL RAY, with negative results:

Lazy C Motel  
8787 East Colfax  
LEO W. BALDWIN

Palomino Motel  
8701 East Colfax  
ERVIN MAAS

Blue Onion Motel  
8675 East Colfax  
Mr. JUNIA HIRATSUKA

"A" Bar Motel Lodge  
8607 East Colfax  
DOROTHY E. VOICE

Silver Spur Motel  
8595 East Colfax  
HARDY SMITH

Sand and Sage Motel  
8415 East Colfax  
ROBERT SHRODE

Westerner Motel  
8405 East Colfax  
Mrs. MAMIE ZAHAN

SBC: lkr  
(1) *CR*



5010-108-01

157-203-473

SEARCHED <i>ll</i>	INDEXED <i>ll</i>
SERIALIZED <i>ll</i>	FILED <i>ll</i>
MAY 15 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

*Adair* *Bata*

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

**DN 157-203**

**Airway Motel  
8339 East Colfax**

**Niagara House  
6701 East Colfax  
Mrs. EDNA DAVISON**

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : ALL SENIOR RESIDENT AGENTS

DATE: 5/16/68

FROM : SAC, DENVER (157-203)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re displaying photographs of JAMES EARL RAY to Bank Robbery and BANK BURGLARY witnesses and contacting law enforcement agencies.

Radiogram from Bureau states "In view of fact that subject spent a considerable sum of money from April 23, 1967, to April 4, 1968, and the source of his money has not been determined, his photograph should be displayed to appropriate witnesses in unsolved bank robberies and bank burglaries in those instances where witnesses are available. You should also consider the requesting of Police Departments to display photograph of RAY to witnesses in their unsolved robberies."

Each SRA is requested to arrange with the personnel of his RA to have attached photos (the Mexico picture, dark glasses, taken in Fall, 1967, and the quarter-view taken in 1968) and Wanted Flyers shown to any witness in unsolved BBs and BRs, and to have copies of these photos and WFs placed in the hands of law enforcement personnel in their territories (police departments, sheriff's offices, etc.) who have unsolved robberies assigned to them.

Please advise results in memo form, and return any photos not needed by RA or law enforcement agencies.

1 - McMenamin (Encls 20)  
1 - Bugas " "  
1 - De Nier 2 "  
1 - Sikes " "  
1 - Jones " "  
1 - Hewitt " "  
1 - Gunter " "  
1 - Gustafson " "  
1 - Ford " "  
1 - Little " "

① - 157-203

(11)

BDA/bda



5010-108-01

*Armed & Dangerous.*

*Do not  
serialize 5/16/68.  
BDA*

157-203-474

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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

SAC, DENVER (157-203)

5/17/68

SA BOYD D. ADSEY

MURKIN

Re displaying photographs of JAMES EARL RAY to witnesses in local armed robberies.

Radiogram from Bureau states in part "In view of fact that subject spent a considerable sum of money from 4/23/67 to 4/4/68, and the source of his money has not been determined . . . You should also consider the requesting of Police Departments to display photograph of RAY to witnesses in their unsolved robberies."

LEAD:

At Denver:

Police Liaison Agent is requested to place copies of RAY's photograph and Wanted Flyer in the hands of law enforcement personnel in the metropolitan area of Denver (police departments, sheriff's offices, etc.) who have unsolved robberies assigned to them.

1 - SA Nischke (Photos and WFs personally delivered)

① - 157-203

(2)

BDA/bda

157-203-475-

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, DENVER (157-203)

DATE: 5/17/68

FROM : SA BOYD D. ADSIT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re displaying photographs of JAMES EARL RAY to witnesses in local armed robberies.

Radiogram from Bureau states in part "In view of fact that subject spent a considerable sum of money from 4/23/67 to 4/4/68, and the source of his money has not been determined . . . You should also consider the requesting of Police Departments to display photograph of RAY to witnesses in their unsolved robberies."

LEAD:

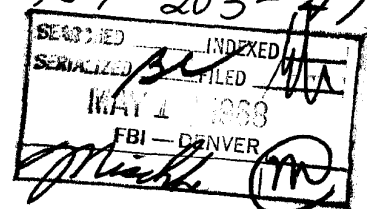
n At Denver:

Police Liason Agent is requested to place copies of RAY's photograph and Wanted Flyer in the hands of law enforcement personnel in the metropolitan area of Denver (police departments, sheriff's offices, etc.) who have unsolved robberies assigned to them.

- ① - SA Mischke (Photos and WF's personally delivered)  
1 - 157-203  
(2)  
BDA/bda



5010-108-01



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

SAC, DENVER (157-203)

5/16/68

SA BOYD D. ADSIT

MURKIN

Bureau radiogram 5/14/68, states " In view of fact that subject spent a considerable sum of money from 8/23/67, to 4/4/68, and the source of his money has not been determined, his photograph should be displayed to appropriate witnesses in unsolved bank robberies and bank burglaries in those instances where witnesses are available. You should also consider the requesting of police departments to display photograph of RAY to witnesses in their unsolved robberies."

LEAD:

HQ Road Trip Territory:

Will show the attached photos (the Mexico picture, dark glasses, taken in Fall, 1967, and the quarter-view taken in 1968) and Wanted Flyer on RAY ~~show~~ to any witnesses in unsolved BBs and BRs in his territory.

Will furnish copies of these photos and WFs to law enforcement personnel in the territory (police departments, sheriff's offices, etc.) who have unsolved robberies assigned to them and will request that they show the photos to any witnesses.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

1 - HQ Road Trip Agent (Encl 15)  
① - 157-203  
(2)  
BDA/bda

157-203-476  
B  
H

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, DENVER (157-203)

DATE: 5/16/68

FROM : SA BOYD D. ADSIT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Bureau radiogram 5/14/68, states " In view of fact that subject spent a considerable sum of money from 4/23/67, to 4/4/68, and the source of his money has not been determined, his photograph should be displayed to appropriate witnesses in unsolved bank robberies and bank burglaries in those instances where witnesses are available. You should also consider the requesting of police departments to display photograph of RAY to witnesses in their unsolved robberies."

IF AD:

## HQ Road Trip Territory:

Will show the attached photos (the Mexico picture, dark glasses, taken in Fall, 1967, and the quarter-view taken in 1968) and Wanted Flyer on RAY ~~show~~ to any witnesses in unsolved BBs and BRs in his territory.

Will furnish copies of these photos and WFs to law enforcement personnel in the territory (police departments, sheriff's offices, etc.) who have unsolved robberies assigned to them and will request that they show the photos to any witnesses.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

① - HQ Road Trip Agent (Encl. 15)  
1 - 157-203  
(2)  
BDA/bda



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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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*McLaughlin TCM*

SAC, DENVER (157-203)

5/16/68

SA BOYD D. ADSIT

MURKIN

Bureau radiogram 5/14/68, states in part "In view of fact that subject spent a considerable sum of money from 4/23/67, to 4/4/68, and the source of his money has not been determined, his photograph should be displayed to appropriate witnesses in unsolved bank robberies and bank burglaries in those instances where witnesses are available."

LEAD:

In Denver:

Agents handling BR matters in HQ City are requested to show the attached photos (the Mexico picture with dark glasses taken in Fall, 1967, and the quarter-view taken in 1968) and the Wanted Flyer on RAY to any witnesses in unsolved BRs and BBs where witnesses are available.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

1 - SA RIFKE (Encls 3)

1 - SA Yates (Encls 3)

① - 157-203

(3)

EDA/bda

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SAC, DENVER (157-203)

5/16/68

SA BOYD D. ADSIT

MURKIN

Bureau radiogram 5/14/68, states in part "In view of fact that subject spent a considerable sum of money from 4/23/67, to 4/4/68, and the source of his money has not been determined, his photograph should be displayed to appropriate witnesses in unsolved bank robberies and bank burglaries in those instances where witnesses are available."

LEAD:

In Denver:

Agents handling BR matters in HQ City are requested to show the attached photos (the Mexico picture with dark glasses taken in Fall, 1967, and the quarter-view taken in 1968) and the Wanted Flyer on RAY to any witnesses in unsolved BBs and BRs where witnesses are available.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

1 - SA RIPPE (Encls 3)  
① - SA Yates (Encls 3)  
1 - 157-203  
(3)  
BDA/bda

157-203-477  
M. J. J.  
Yates  
leg

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, DENVER (157-203)

DATE: 5/16/68

FROM : SA BOYD D. ADSIT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Bureau radiogram 5/14/68, states in part "In view of fact that subject spent a considerable sum of money from 4/23/67, to 4/4/68, and the source of his money has not been determined, his photograph should be displayed to appropriate witnesses in unsolved bank robberies and bank burglaries in those instances where witnesses are available."

LEAD:

In Denver:

Agents handling BR matters in HQ City are requested to show the attached photos (the Mexico picture with dark glasses taken in Fall, 1967, and the quarter-view taken in 1968) and the Wanted Flyer on RAY to any witnesses in unsolved BBs and BRs where witnesses are available.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

① - SA RIPPE (Encls 3)  
1 - SA Yates (Encls 3)  
1 - 157-203  
(3)  
BDA/bda



5010-108-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

157-203-477

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*Rippe*

5/16/68

**Airtel**

**To: SAC's, Denver (157-203)  
Memphis (44-1987)**

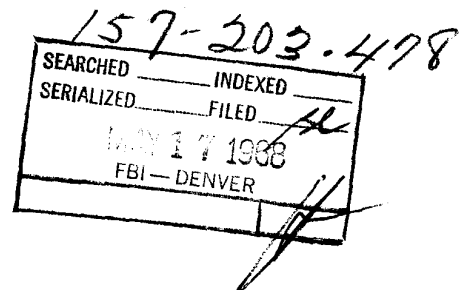
**From: Director, FBI (44-38861)**

**MURKIN**

Re Denver airtel 5/6/68, submitting a copy of the  
May 3, 1968, issue of Life Magazine.

Four latent fingerprints of value were developed  
on magazine. These latent fingerprints are not identical with the  
fingerprints of James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G.

Magazine being returned to Denver under separate  
cover.



F B I

Date: 5/16/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via Airtel \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

To: SAC's, Denver (157-203)  
Memphis (44-1987)

✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re Denver airtel 5/6/68, submitting a copy of the  
May 3, 1968, issue of Life Magazine.

Four latent fingerprints of value were developed  
on magazine. These latent fingerprints are not identical with the  
fingerprints of James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G.

Magazine being returned to Denver under separate  
cover.

*Rec'd 5/21/68.  
BGA  
Destroyed 5/22/68  
BGA*

157-203-478

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 17 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

*[Signature]* *[Signature]*

Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

18218 Federal Building  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
May 17, 1968

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are a photograph of James Earl Ray taken this year, and a Wanted Flyer containing additional photographs, as well as his description and aliases. These items need not be returned to this office. As you know, there is an intensive, nationwide investigation under way to locate this individual in connection with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Using the name Eric Starvo Galt, Ray took a bartending course in Los Angeles, California, during the early part of 1968, and prior to his departing Los Angeles, in March of 1968, he made several telephone calls to country clubs in an effort to obtain employment. If this man has contacted your club, or does so in the future, under any name, please contact this office through any of its representatives, or by calling telephone number 222-5981 in Denver, Colorado.

It is to be noted that this man is considered armed and extremely dangerous.

Very truly yours,

SCOTT J. WERNER,  
Special Agent in Charge.

1-Each Country Club,  
Colorado and Wyoming  
1-157-203  
BDA:hg WW  
Enclosures-2  
(48)

157-203-479

SEARCHED
SERIAL
MAY 17 1968
FBI - DENVER

SAC (157-203)

5/17/68

CLERK JERRY F. TYMA

JAMES EARL RAY

At 7:00pm this date, this writer was contacted by Rex Hardy Basinger of 1416 Downing, Apt# 2, Denver. Mr. Basinger advised that he had received a collect call (this afternoon) from Edgar Eugene Bradley who was calling from Tulsa, Oklahoma, place and phone number unknown.

Mr. Bradley (who sounded as if he was intoxicated) told Basinger that RAY was in his room and that he talked to RAY. Mr. Basinger also stated that it sounded as if the call was being placed from a tavern.

Also, Mr Basinger advised that Bradley was tied down with the Garrison deal, as Bradley was picked up in California on a subpoena and brought to New Orleans by Garrison.

It is recommended that Basinger be recontacted for any further details.

SA Adsit was advised of the above.

jft  
(2)

157-203-480

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-203)

DATE: 5/17/68

FROM : *M* CLERK JERRY F. TYMA

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY

At 7:00pm this date, this writer was contacted by Rex Hardy <sup>137-1756</sup>  
Basinger of 1416 Downing, Apt# 2, Denver. Mr. Basinger advised that <sup>62-0.1</sup>  
he had received a collect call (this afternoon) from Edgar Eugene Bradley <sup>10651</sup>  
who was calling from Tulsa, Oklahoma, place and phone number unknown.

Mr. Bradley (who sounded as if he was intoxicated) told Basinger that RAY was in his room and that he talked to RAY. Mr. Basinger also stated that it sounded as if the call was being placed from a tavern.

Also, Mr Basinger advised that Bradley was tied down with the Garrison deal, as Bradley was picked up in California on a subpoena and brought to New Orleans by Garrison.

It is recommended that Basinger be recontacted for any further details.

SA Adsit was advised of the above.

jft  
(2)

*N.H. 5/20/68 P.M.  
NH 5/21/68  
Contacted 5/22*



5010-108-01

157-203-480

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<i>Adsit</i>	

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

F B I

Date: 5/9/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via Airtel \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

To: SAC's, Denver (157-203) - ~~Enclosure~~  
 Memphis (44-1987)

✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re Denver airtel 5/4/68, submitting Frontier  
 Airlines Transportation Receipt dated 5/1/68, Q325, for  
 examination.

No latent impressions of value developed on the  
 receipt, which is enclosed to Denver.

Laboratory reporting separately.

1 - Los Angeles (44-1574)

*Returned to  
 Frontier Airlines  
 5/21/68.  
 CC retained. 1A24  
 BSA*

157-203-481

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI — DENVER	

*Adsit Bate  
 w/encls.*

Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_



5/9/68

**Airtel**

**To: SAC's, Denver (157-203) - Enclosure  
Memphis (44-1987)**

**From: Director, FBI (44-38861)**

**MURKIN**

**Re Denver airtel 5/4/68, submitting Frontier  
Airlines Transportation Receipt dated 5/1/68, Q325, for  
examination.**

**No latent impressions of value developed on the  
receipt, which is enclosed to Denver.**

**Laboratory reporting separately.**

**1 - Los Angeles (44-1574)**

157-203-481

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI — DENVER	

*[Signature]*

5-17-68

**Airtel**

**To: SAC's, Denver (157-203) - Enc. (6)**  
**Memphis (44-1987)**

**From: Director, FBI (44-38861)**

**MURKIN**

**Re Denver airtel 5-7-68, submitting five Frontier Airlines Transportation receipts, and one application for a travel card, Q328 through Q333, for examination.**

**One latent fingerprint of value was developed on the receipt dated April 27, 1968, Q329. This latent fingerprint was not identical with the fingerprints of James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G.**

**Q328 through Q333 enclosed to Denver.**

**Laboratory reporting separate.**

157-203-482

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
MAY 1 8 1968	
FBI — DENVER	

F B I

Date: 5-17-68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via Airtel \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

To: SAC's, Denver (157-203) - Enc. (6)  
 Memphis (44-1987)

✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re Denver airtel 5-7-68, submitting five Frontier Airlines Transportation receipts, and one application for a travel card, Q328 through Q333, for examination.

One latent fingerprint of value was developed on the receipt dated April 27, 1968, Q329. This latent fingerprint was not identical with the fingerprints of James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G.

Q328 through Q333 enclosed to Denver.

Laboratory reporting separate.

*Orig. sent to  
 Frontier 5/21/68  
 copies retained.  
 mwa*

157-203-482

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - DENVER	

*Adsett* *W/serials.*

Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/14/68

1

Mr. WILLIAM SMITH CHEW, also known as Bill Chew, was located at the Paradise Motel, U. S. Highway 301, near the intersection of Georgia Highway 17, Screven County, Georgia, which he operates and leases from the owner. He advised the following:

He and his wife, Mrs. JONNIE CHEW, operate the Paradise Motel. Mr. HOLT CHEW is his father who lives in Denver, Colorado. His father was charged with the shooting of JAMES THOMAS JACKSON in 1966. His father had told him that JAMES THOMAS JACKSON had been attempting to rob him (HOLT CHEW) just before his father had shot JACKSON.

In early April, 1968, his father had travelled by Eastern Airlines to visit him and also to contact him for business reasons. On April 6, 1968, at about 8:00 PM, his father, Mr. HOLT CHEW, had telephonically contacted him at his residence in Screven County, Ga., from Charlotte, N. C. and stated he would arrive at the airport in Augusta, Ga., at about 10:55 PM or 10:35 PM.

Since he had very little time to drive from Screven County, Ga., to Augusta, Ga., to meet his father, he had to leave immediately after receiving the telephone call from his father. He then arranged for someone to stay with his wife at the Paradise Motel and proceeded to Augusta, Ga.

As soon as his father had landed at the airport in Augusta, Ga., he met him and they drove to Screven County, Ga., to the Paradise Motel. HOLT CHEW did not stay in Augusta, Ga., at any time. At the time of his father's arrival, his father's luggage was missing and they were informed that the luggage would arrive on a later flight. They went back to Augusta, Ga., on Monday, April 8, 1968, but the luggage was still missing. Eastern Airlines then placed a tracer on the luggage and it arrived the next day Tuesday, April 9, 1968.

His father, HOLT CHEW, had come to visit him at his (WILLIAM SMITH CHEW) request to inspect and invest in land, in various cities, to be developed into a restaurant chain. This restaurant chain will probably be known as

On 5/10/68 at Screven County, Ga.

File #

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by SA NELSON B. KLEIN, JR. and  
SA SYDNEY J. SMITH SJS:hja

Date dictated 5/12/68

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.

157-203-483

2  
SV 44-1768

"Chewbys." Restaurants are being planned for Savannah, Ga., Augusta, Ga., Charlotte, N. C., Miami, Fla., other locations in Florida, Ohio, and in Colorado. These restaurants are to specialize in roast beef, ham, and corn beef sandwiches at an above average price.

When his father arrived, his father was completely exhausted and not feeling well. A day after his father's arrival, he found it necessary to have a doctor come to the Paradise Motel to treat him. His father has been an alcoholic for about five years and maintains a large liquor cabinet in his office in Denver, Colorado. His father had stopped smoking cigars on advice of a physician due to diabetes about five years ago and had then taken up drinking of intoxicants.

On the visit in April, 1968, his father and he travelled around inspecting and negotiating for different parcels of land on which to construct restaurants. They travelled into N. C., S. C., Florida, as well as Georgia and met different businessmen with whom they discussed their business venture. One of the men contacted was MATTHEW HEFFERNAN, Miami, Fla. He would not reveal the names of any other businessmen contacted.

His stepmother, Mrs. ELAINE CHEW, and a brother joined his father and him in Florida on April 12, 1968. His father then departed with his stepmother and brother for Denver, Colorado, on April 27, 1968.

He has within the past day or so completed negotiations for a piece of land near the K-Mart, Savannah, Ga., for the erection of a Chewbys Restaurant.

In connection with the contemplated restaurant chain, Chewbys, he had made a trip to Denver, Colorado, starting on September 12, 1967, in which his father, HOLT CHEW, then accompanied him to Ill., Ohio, N. C., and Georgia, for the purpose of getting options on sites for the restaurants.

In connection with the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., he denied having anything to do with it or to know anything about it. He had made a telephone call to his father in Denver, Colorado, the night, Thursday, April 4,

3  
SV 44-1768

1968, when Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was shot. At that time he talked with his stepmother, Mrs. ELAINE CHEW. Mrs. CHEW had told him that his father was in bed as the result of an excessive consumption of intoxicants. He has since heard that his father did not receive information of the killing of KING until the next day. He has no knowledge of a conspiracy in relation to the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. It is his opinion that the Reverend RALPH D. ABERNATHY led KING to his death and that from the appearances on the faces of KING and ABERNATHY as seen in news photos just prior to the shooting of KING, that they both knew KING had not much longer to live.

He (WILLIAM SMITH CHEW) at one time was the owner of a motel in St. Augustine, Fla., and was also active in a motel and restaurant association in Florida. Then Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was instrumental in starting protests and demonstrations against his motels and other motels which finally forced him to sell his motel and resign his position with the motel and restaurant associations. He had refused to serve individuals in his restaurant who he had proof were criminals and who were being treated for venereal diseases. As a result a civil rights complaint was filed against him, he was found guilty, and fined. The case is still pending in the courts.

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

5/16/68

SAC, SAVANNAH (44-1768) (P)

MURKIN

Re Denver airtel to Bureau, 5/1/68.

**RE: PERSONS INVOLVED IN PRIOR THREATS  
AGAINST KING**

Enclosed herewith for Memphis are fifteen (15) copies of FD-302 indicating interview of Mr. WILLIAM SMITH CHEW on 5/10/68 at Screven County, Georgia.

Enclosed herewith for the Denver Division, for information, is one copy of the above-mentioned FD-302.

For the information of all offices, no investigation conducted at Augusta, Ga., in view of fact it was determined from Mr. WILLIAM SMITH CHEW that his father, Mr. HOLT CHEW, did not stay in Augusta, Ga., upon arrival there on April 6, 1968.

**ARMED AND DANGEROUS**

2- Memphis (Encls. 15)  
①- Denver (157-203) (Info)  
2- Savannah (Encl. 1)

SJS:ehr  
(5)

157-203-484

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 20 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

ADDIE BOW  
W/ENCL.

F B I

Date: 5-16-68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: SAC, DENVER (157-203)  
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) - P -  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Denver airtel to Springfield, 5-6-68.

For the information of the Denver Office, the telephone at the Virginia Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, is the hotel phone and the calls could be made by anyone and it is doubtful from interviews with the owners of the hotel that any of the phone calls were actually made by MELBA MARIE RYAN. The hotel does not have any record of the telephone call to Denver # 333-5486 being charged to MELBA MARIE RYAN's account and in view of this, leads have not been set forth to have all of the guests at the El Patio Motel on 4-3-68 interviewed.

② - Denver (157-203) 1 - Chicago (Info)  
2 - Memphis  
2 - Springfield (44-561)  
EHD:ras  
(7)

157-203-485

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
MAY 20 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



F B I

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2 - Springfield (44-561)  
EHD:ras  
(7)

157-203-485

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 20 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

AdS, r BSA

Approved: [Signature] Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, Denver (157-203)

DATE: May 17, 1968

FROM : SA ROBERT C. GUSTAFSON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Retelephone call from SA BOYD ADSIT at Denver 5/16/68.

AT CHEYENNE, WYOMING:

On 5/17/68 Mrs. HELEN WILLMSCHEN, Bureau of Vital Statistics, State of Wyoming Health Department, advised her office maintains death ~~certificates~~ certificates on unidentified persons, however, there have been no such deaths of unidentified persons since 4/5/68 to the present.

She advised that in each death in the State each County Coroner is required to submit a death certificate to her office within ten days. In the event a person dies and his identity is unknown it is the responsibility of the County Coroner and the Sheriff to establish his identity.

Mrs. WILLMSCHEN advised that if any death certificates are received for unidentified bodies she will notify this office.

RCG/  
(2)



5010-108-01

157-203-486

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MAY 20 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

*[Signature]*

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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(2)



5010-108-01

157-203-486

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, DENVER (157-203)

DATE: 5/20/68

FROM : BOYD D. ADSIT, SA

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Following is a list of Denver informants and dates contacted re this case. No positive information was developed.

<u>DATE CONTACTED</u>	<u>TYPE INFORMANT</u>	<u>INFORMANT</u>	<u>FILE NUMBER</u>	<u>AGENT</u>
4/5,9/68	CRS	Thomas Chin	170-52	Paul E. Bush
4/5,9/68	CI	DN 110-C	137-13	Paul E. Bush
4/5/68	CI	DN 136-C	137-96	Ralph Rippe
4/5,8/68	CI	DN 103-C	137-9	Ralph Rippe
4/8,23/68	PCI	Esther Montoux	137-1811	Barry Sikes
4/11,13,14 18/68	PCI	Irene Schrapp	137-	Kelly V. England
4/12/68	CI	DN 299-C	137-1042	John H. Gallie
4/12/68	CI	DN 221-C	137-654	Eugene J. Coble
4/10,24,30/68	CI	DN 234-C	137-419	Eugene J. Coble
4/12,5/8/68	PCI	Evelyn Sweet	137-1831	Raymond J. Fox
4/12,5/8/68	CI	DN 392-C	137-1662	Raymond J. Fox
4/12,5/8/68	CI	DN 143-C	137-211	Raymond J. Fox
4/18/68	CI	DN 402-C	137-1636	Boyd D. Adsit
4/19/68	CS	CS DN 239-C	137-868	Paul E. Bush
4/22/68	CI	DN 110-C	137-13	Paul E. Bush
4/22/68	PCI	George Irving	137-1887	Boyd D. Adsit
4/23/68	PCI	Allen M. Cain	137-1876	Barry Sikes
4/23/68	CI	DN 238-C	137-879	Barry Sikes
4/24/68	PCI	Robert Jones	137-1841	Geo. M. Maloney
4/24/68	PCI	Jules Goodger	137-1839	Lynn K. Enyart
4/26,5/6/68	CI	DN 334-C	137-1089	Ransom A. Whittle
4/26/68	CI	DN 410-C	137-1738	Paul E. Bush
4/26/68	CI	DN 387-PC	137-1812	Paul E. Bush
4/26/68	PRI(G)	Thomas Wm. Chinn	170-52-	Paul E. Bush
4/29/68	PCI	Louis Sandoval	137-1808	E. Wm. Trainor
4/28/68	CI	DN 342-C	137-	Leo E. Ford
4/29/68	CI	DN 240-C	137-	Leo E. Ford
4/10/68	RI	Tony Hernandez	170-	Leo E. Ford
4/12/68	PCI	Fred Peeche	137-	Leo E. Ford
4/26/68	PCI	Squire Jackson	137-	Richard L. Campbell
4/29/68	CI	DN 376-C	137-	Richard L. Campbell



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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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4/30/68	CI	DN 404-C	137-	Richard L. Campbell
4/30/68	CI	DN 403-C	137-	Richard L. Campbell
4/30/68	PCI	Neil McLean	137-	Geo. Maloney
4/30/68	PCI	Orlo Jackson	137-	Geo. Maloney
5/1/68	CI	DN 326-C	137-1072	Robert H. Little
5/2,6/68	CS	CS DN 305	137-1484	Elmer A. Samson
5/6/68	PCI	Woodrow Wilson		
		Harrison	137-	C. E. Gunter, Jr.
5/6/68	CS	Norma J. Sims	137-	C. E. Gunter, Jr.
5/7/68	CI	DN 407-C	137-1367	Ransom A. Whittle
5/14/68	PRI(G)	Thomas Wm. Chinn	170-52=	Paul E. Bush
5/14/68	CI	DN 362-C	137-1696	Paul E. Bush

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-203)

FROM : SA RALPH B. RIPPE

SUBJECT: **MURKING**

DATE: 5-21-68

Reference is made to the office memo by SA ADSIT dated 5-16-68.

During the period from 4-23-67 to 4-4-68, there were three bank robberies, presently all unsolved, in which victim-witnesses are available:

1. 91-2801 - Unsub. Valley National Bank, Littleton, Colo., 5-25-67 - BR
2. 91-2873 - Unsub; Capitol Federal S & L, Denver, Colo., 8-9-67 - BR
3. 91-2916 - Unsub; Colorado Commercial Bank, Colorado Springs, Colo., 9-20-67 - BR

It is noted there are no unsolved bank burglaries in which eye-witnesses are available.

Photos of JAMES EARL RAY were displayed victim-witnesses (who are sole witnesses) in first two cases by SA RIPPE, and in each instance witness stated RAY not identical with unsub.

LEAD - AT COLORADO SPRINGS (SA BUGAS)

Will display attached photos (one with dark glasses taken in autumn of 1967; one a quarter-view taken in 1968; the third a copy of wanted flyer 442-A) of Top Ten JAMES EARL RAY to JOYCE WALKER, victim teller in this case.

For background, Bureau has instructed "In view of fact that JAMES EARL RAY spent a considerable sum of money from 4-23-67 to 4-4-68, and source of money not determined, his photograph should be displayed to appropriate witnesses in unsolved BR and BB cases where witnesses are available."

Case assigned SA BOYD D. ADSIT

RBR

1 - SA BUGAS (Encl. 3)

1 - SA ADSIT

(2)



5010-108-01

*Bugas has lead*

157-203-488

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*Adsit* *Boyd*

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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RBR

- 1 - SA BUGAS (Encl. 3)  
1 - SA ADSIT  
(2)



5010-108-01

157-203-488

5/21 L/C

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Bugas

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

## DECODED COPY

☒ Radio☐ Teletype

URGENT

5-21-68

CRT

TO: ALL FIELD DIVISIONS

FROM: DIRECTOR (211921)

MURKIN

INASMUCH AS RAY IS KNOWN TO STAY AT QUOTE FLOPHOUSES UNQUOTE AND LOWER CLASS ROOMING HOUSES, ALL OFFICES WILL FURNISH COPY OF IDENTIFICATION ORDER REGARDING RAY TO SALVATION ARMY AND OTHER CHARITABLE TYPE MISSIONS. *Don't 6/22*

ALL OFFICES COVERING STATE CAPITALS, IF NOT ALREADY DONE WILL AT DRIVERS LICENSE BUREAUS CHECK ALL DRIVERS LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY, SIXTYEIGHT, CONCERNING ALL MALE CAUCASIANS OVER THIRTY YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER FIFTYFIVE YEARS, IN VIEW OF FACT IT IS POSSIBLE SUBJECT SECURED DRIVERS LICENSE USING ANOTHER NAME OTHER THAN ALIASES KNOWN. *started 6/22*

AS RESULT OF REVIEWING THESE APPLICATIONS, YOU SHOULD CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF ANY SUCH INDIVIDUAL IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

*9AM 5/22/68  
RCG AMV:J*

*157-203 - 489*

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<i>ADSI</i>	<i>YSAW</i>

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.



XX

URGENT

5-21-68

CRT

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ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

157-203-489

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SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
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FBI - DENVER	

FRONTIER AIRLINES, INC.  
5900 EAST 39TH AVE.  
DENVER, COLORADO 80207

  
LEWIS W. DYMOND  
PRESIDENT

May 16, 1968

Mr. Scott J. Werner  
Special Agent in Charge  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
18218 Federal Building  
Denver, Colorado 80202

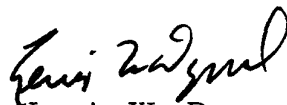
Dear Mr. Werner:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 8.

Our staff was pleased to cooperate with you in your recent investigation. I shall see that each person who participated receives a copy of your thoughtful letter.

Should there be a future occasion requiring the assistance of our personnel, we will be more than happy to work with you.

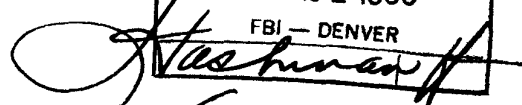
Sincerely,

  
Lewis W. Dymond

LWD/njs

157-203-490

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Adair BAC