

D. H. ...

U. S. Department of Information

MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2435

FEDERAL BUREAU

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *11/22/02* BY *SP1 CUK/ST*

** Also Nos.*

DO NOT DESTROY
FBI
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

PRESERVE FOR SELECT COMMITTEE

ONLY

ews paper clipping

157-10673-A

Volume Number

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mystery Man Eric Galt Charged in King Slaying

—MEMPHIS (AP)— The mysterious Eric Starvo Galt has been charged with conspiracy and murder in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The FBI said in a fugitive warrant issued last night in Birmingham, Ala., that Galt, 36, conspired with a man "whom he alleged to be his brother" to violate King's civil rights.

The state charge of first-degree murder was filed against Galt in Memphis, where King, 39, Nobel Prize-

GALT SAID N.O. VISITOR

(The FBI reports that Eric Starvo Galt, charged in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made trips to New Orleans. Galt, the FBI said, once claimed to have a 1962 Louisiana driver's license, but there is no record of it. Galt was said to have taken dancing lessons here in 1964 or 1965.)

winning civil rights leader, was shot to death on a motel balcony April 4 by a sniper who fled from a nearby rooming house.

FIRST-DEGREE murder in Tennessee carries the death penalty, although the electric chair has not been used in the state since 1960.

The maximum penalty under the federal charge of conspiracy to violate a person's civil rights is a \$5,000 fine and 10-year prison sentence.

There was no further mention in the FBI statement about the alleged brother and no charge was filed against him.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover announced in Washington that the conspiracy to "injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate" King began "on or about March 30" in Birmingham.

THE FBI statement said a .30.06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight found near the rooming house shortly after King was slain was purchased March 30 in Birmingham.

The statement did not connect Galt directly with the rifle.

The FBI released a photograph of Galt and solicited public aid in finding him. Whether this appeal meant the trail had become cold was unclear, but U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark told a reporter in Washington that he felt this was not the situation.

THE FBI started hunting Galt a week ago. Agents even contacted persons named Galt in several states in an attempt to find him.

The picture—which had to have the eyes "opened" by an artist—brought uncertain responses from witnesses who were acquainted with Galt or saw the fleeing sniper.

"Unless he was wearing a wig or had had a face lift or something, it's not the man I

saw," said Charles Q. Stevens, who lives at the Main st. rooming house from which the fatal shot apparently was fired.

"THE HAIR is too full and the face is too young," he said. But Stevens said he only got a side view of the fleeing figure.

A source in Birmingham said the photograph was taken within the past three

months, although the FBI did not specify when it was made. The photo has sharp contrast, making hair and features very dark.

"It's very near, but I'm not sure," was the reaction of Peter Cherpes, owner of a Birmingham boarding house where an Eric Galt stayed from Aug. 26 to Oct. 7 last year.

"I don't really know," Cherpes said. "It's so hard to tell. His hair seemed to be lighter."

THE FBI, replying on witnesses apparently, said the fugitive had been described as a white man, 5-8 to 5-11, weighing 160 to 175 pounds, with brown hair in a brush cut, blue eyes, straight nose.

Persons who have met Galt, the FBI reported, described him as a loner with a "rural" speech and little schooling, fond of vodka, beer and hill-billy music.

The FBI statement also said, "The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his left hand. His left ear protrudes further from his head than his right ear."

"GALT SHOULD be considered armed and dangerous," the FBI release warned.

Galt has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmeyer, the FBI said. The assassin registered at the Memphis rooming house under the name of John Willard.

Details of the alleged conspiracy were missing from the FBI release, as were vital statistics, such as Galt's birthplace, formal schooling, employment. The statement said Galt claimed to have

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

PAGE 1

SECTION 1

TIMES PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-18-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT.

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673A-1

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 18 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Callender

SENT BUREAU

been a cook on Mississippi riverboats, a merchant seaman and "is said to be an avid dancer."

GALT, THE FBI said, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang with Alabama license plates abandoned in Atlanta the day after King was shot to death. The vehicle was left in the parking lot of an apartment project near the Georgia Capitol.

Two white Mustangs were parked near the rooming house shortly before the shooting, witnesses have said, and both disappeared minutes later. Some witnesses told of a man in a black business suit, neatly dressed, walking down the steps to the street, dropping a rifle and getting into a Mustang with either Alabama or Arkansas tags.

A BUSINESSMAN said last night he was certain the Mustang parked farthest from the shooting scene had an Arkansas tag. "I'm clear in my own mind," he said.

The FBI said Galt's car traveled more than 19,000 miles between Aug. 30, 1967, when he bought it in Birmingham and its abandonment last week in Atlanta. There were trips to Los Angeles, New Orleans and Mexico, the FBI said.

While in the Los Angeles area early this year, Galt took a course in bartending and graduated March 2, the FBI said. In Hollywood, director Tomas Reyes Lau of the International School of Bartending said Galt took a four-week course but refused a job.

LAU SAID GALT turned down the job because he wanted to visit his brother. "He never said anything about Negroes," Lau said. Similarly, residents of the Birmingham boarding house did not recall Galt talking about racial issues.

Galt told his landlord in Birmingham he was on vacation and had worked at Ingalls Shipyards in Pascagoula, Miss. The company had no record of him.

Likewise, Galt put "merchant seaman, unemployed," on his application for an Alabama driver's license last year, but no record has been found of his name on maritime union rolls.



—AP WIREPHOTO.
ERIC STARVO GALT is wanted by the FBI for conspiracy in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The FBI has released the above photo of a man identified as Galt. The man's eyes were closed in the original picture, the FBI said, and were drawn in by an artist.



—AP WIREPHOTO.
GALT'S DANCING TEACHERS, KATHY NORTON, 21, an instructor, and ROD ARVIDSON, 46, dance school manager, examine a picture of Eric Starvo Galt at Long Beach, Calif. They said the photo appeared to be of a man named Galt who attended dance school at Long Beach earlier this year. Galt is wanted for conspiracy in connection with the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

TOOK DANCING LESSONS Galt Described As Quiet Loner

By CHARLES M'FADDEN

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two men say they told the FBI that a man identified as Eric Starvo Galt was a shy, quiet man who spent \$700 in three months on dancing and bartending lessons.

The managers of a dancing school and a bartending school told newsmen yesterday they identified a former pupil to the FBI as Galt, who is wanted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., April 4 in Memphis, Tenn.

ROD ARVIDSON, 46, general manager of National Dance Studios, said he notified the FBI Saturday after recognizing Galt from a composite drawing in a newspaper.

"He's certainly no mixer," Arvidson said. "He had trouble coordinating one foot with another."

A photograph of Galt circulated by the FBI was obtained Tuesday from the International School of Bartending, the school's director said. The director, Tomas Reyes Lau, said a man called Eric S. Galt was graduated from the

Hollywood school March 2 after an excellent record in a \$225 four-week course, which he attended Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons.

GALT'S APPLICATION LISTED his address as Hollywood and his birthday as [redacted] and stated he was single. The FBI in Washington, D. C., said the wanted man was 36.

As a student of bartending and dancing, not only Lau and Arvidson but two dance instructors agreed Galt was withdrawn and a loner.

"He just didn't show anything but a crooked smile and a fidgety manner," said an instructor, Kathy Nolan, 21.

Another instructor, Andreas Jergensen, 46, also talked with newsmen.

Arvidson said that a man who signed enrollment records as Eric S. Galt took "50 or 60" lessons in social dancing over a 2½-month period ending in mid-February and that the lessons cost him about \$500.

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

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-18-68

Edition: RED COMET

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC
STARVO GALT.

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 18 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

SENT BUREAU

157-10673A-2

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

GALT CHARGED IN KILLING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

Federal Complaint Says Conspiracy Involved

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — A federal complaint Wednesday charged the mysterious Eric Starvo Galt, a white man who has been hunted for a week, with conspiracy in the April 4 sniper assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The FBI complaint charges that Galt and a man who Galt claimed was his brother entered into a conspiracy about March 29 in Birmingham. A warrant for Galt's arrest was issued in Birmingham. A state warrant was also issued in Memphis, Tenn., where King was killed.

There was no indication from the FBI that other persons would be charged with the conspiracy. The second man that Galt said was his brother was not identified, nor charged.

A witness in Memphis said an FBI photograph of the wanted man does not resemble the man seen leaving the scene after the shooting.

"Unless he was wearing a wig or had had a face lift or something, it's not the man I saw," said Charles Q. Stevens, a resident of the Main Street rooming house from which the sniper was believed to have shot King.

SENT BUREAU

ONLY GOT SIDE VIEW

"The hair is too full and the face is too young," said Stevens. He said he only got a side view of the fleeing man, however.

The FBI did not indicate when the photograph was made but a source said it was taken within the past three months.

In Birmingham, Galt's landlord for six weeks last fall, Peter Cherpes, told The Associated Press that the FBI photo might be a picture of Galt. "It's very near, but I'm not sure," said Cherpes. He remembered his boarder's hair being much lighter. The FBI description said, "Galt has brown hair."

The AP reported Monday that Cherpes had identified FBI drawings as the Eric Galt who had lived at the Birmingham rooming house from Aug. 26 to Oct. 7, 1967.

An Atlanta taxicab driver said an FBI picture he identified as a two-block fare the night after the slaying was different from the one released Wednesday. "That is definitely not the man I picked up," the cab driver said.

CLARK'S STATEMENT

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, who went to Memphis after the slaying of the civil rights leader, announced in a statement released by the FBI that Galt was being sought as a fugitive on the charge of conspiring to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate King in the exercise of a federal right, "namely, the right to freely travel from state to state."

The FBI declined to comment on whether there might be an early arrest or if the filing of the charge and release of information indicated little headway was being made in finding Galt. It was the first disclosure that authorities had evidence of a conspiracy in King's slaying. An early statement

by Clark referred to "one man on the run," though this was dropped from a later statement.

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover said in the Wednesday release that Galt bought a rifle in Birmingham about March 30. Only a few weeks before, the statement said, Galt had graduated from a school of bartending in Los Angeles.

Galt had told acquaintances in Birmingham that he worked in shipyards or on ships, and on a driver's license application he put "merchant seaman, unemployed."

GRADUATED MARCH 2

In Hollywood, director Tomas Reyes Lau of the International School of Bartending, said Galt graduated March 2 and disappeared after refusing a job. Lau said Galt was an excellent student.

"He never said anything about Negroes," Lau said. There were no Negroes in the class. King, a Negro, was in Memphis to aid striking garbage workers, most of them Negroes.

The FBI said Galt also was known as "Harvey Lowmyer" and "John Willard." The assassin registered under the latter name.

DESCRIPTION GIVEN

An FBI statement said Galt has given his date of birth as [redacted] has brown hair, wears his hair in a brush cut, reportedly has blue eyes, a straight narrow nose, is between 5-feet-8 and 5-feet-11 and weighs between 160 and 175 pounds.

The FBI said "the fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his left hand. His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear."

The FBI statement said that Galt, on or about March 30,

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

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEWORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-18-68

Edition: REDCOMET

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT.

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 18 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	
157-10673A-3	

bought a rifle at Birmingham. The bureau did not say specifically that this was the rifle that killed King.

RIFLE DISCOVERED

But the statement said, "a 30.06 rifle equipped with a telescopic site was found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis immediately

after the fatal shooting of Dr. King occurred." The rooming house overlooks the Lorraine Hotel and Motel where King was staying.

FBI agents have determined that the rifle was purchased from a Birmingham gun dealer March 30. The sight also was said to have been bought from the same dealer, whom the FBI did not identify.

The FBI said Galt owns a 1966 white Mustang with Alabama license plates which was found abandoned in Atlanta, Ga., April 11. It was bought from a private citizen in Birmingham last Aug. 30.

The car's odometer showed it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between late August 1967 and early April 1968.

The FBI said "Galt's travel in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, Calif., New Orleans, La., Birmingham, Ala., and Mexico as well as to Memphis, Tenn., and Atlanta, Ga. Galt was reported to have been in Memphis on April 3 and 4, 1968 and to have departed from there for Atlanta."

A check of New Orleans police files Wednesday night failed to turn up a local arrest record of anyone using the name Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer or John Willard.

OTHER INFORMATION

The FBI said also its investigation had disclosed these facts:

—Galt has claimed to have been employed as a cook on Mississippi river vessels and as a merchant seaman.

—He is said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965, in Birmingham during September and October 1967 and in Long Beach, Calif., from December 1967 to February 1968.



THE FBI Wednesday released these photographs as those of Eric Starvo Galt, whom they charged with conspiracy in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King. In the photo at left, an FBI artist drew in the eyes, because they were closed as shown in the original picture at right. The FBI said this man has spent some time in New Orleans.

—Galt left Los Angeles last Dec. 15 and drove his Mustang to New Orleans where he claimed he contacted either an engineering or a contracting firm. He left there Dec. 19 and arrived in Los Angeles Dec. 21.

—While in the Los Angeles area early this year, Galt took a course at a bartending school and was graduated March 2.

An FBI description of Galt said persons who have met him "describe him as a loner and state his language and diction have a rural quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages and has a preference for vodka and beer. He is a fan of Western and country music."

The bureau warned that "Galt

should be considered armed and dangerous," and any information concerning him should be furnished immediately to the FBI.

The FBI gave no further identification of the man Galt has alleged to be his brother, would not say where it obtained the photograph, and would not disclose in what connection Galt used the Lowmyer alias.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mystery Man Galt Charged In King Death

MEMPHIS (AP) — The mysterious Eric Starvo Galt has been charged with conspiracy and murder in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The FBI said in a fugitive warrant issued last night in Birmingham, Ala., that Galt, 36, conspired with a man "whom he alleged to be his brother" to violate King's civil rights.

The state charge of first-degree murder was filed against Galt in Memphis, where King, 39, Nobel Prize-

GALT SAID N.O. VISITOR

(The FBI reports that Eric Starvo Galt, charged in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made trips to New Orleans. Galt, the FBI said, once claimed to have a 1962 Louisiana driver's license, but there is no record of it. Galt was said to have taken dancing lessons here in 1964 or 1965.)

winning civil rights leader, was shot to death on a motel balcony April 4 by a sniper who fled from a nearby rooming house.

FIRST-DEGREE murder in Tennessee carries the death penalty, although the electric chair has not been used in the state since 1960.

The maximum penalty under the federal charge of conspiracy to violate a person's civil rights is a \$5,000 fine and 10-year prison sentence.

There was no further mention in the FBI statement about the alleged brother and no charge was filed against him.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover announced in Washington that the conspiracy to "injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate" King began "on or about March 30" in Birmingham.

THE FBI statement said a .30.06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight found near the rooming house shortly after King was slain was purchased March 30 in Birmingham.

The statement did not connect Galt directly with the rifle.

The FBI released a photograph of Galt and solicited public aid in finding him. Whether this appeal meant the trail had become cold was unclear, but U.S. Atty. Gen.

Ramsey Clark told a reporter in Washington that he felt this was not the situation.

THE FBI started hunting Galt a week ago. Agents even contacted persons named Galt in several states in an attempt to find him.

The picture—which had to have the eyes "opened" by an artist—brought uncertain responses from witnesses who were acquainted with Galt or saw the fleeing sniper.

"Unless he was wearing a wig or had had a face lift or something, it's not the man I saw," said Charles Q. Ste-

vens, who lives at the Main st. rooming house from which the fatal shot apparently was fired.

"THE HAIR is too full and the face is too young," he said. But Stevens said he only got a side view of the fleeing figure.

A source in Birmingham said the photograph was taken within the past three months, although the FBI did not specify when it was made. The photo has sharp contrast, making hair and features very dark.

"It's very near, but I'm not sure," was the reaction of Peter Cherpes, owner of a Birmingham boarding house where an Eric Galt stayed from Aug. 26 to Oct. 7 last year.

"I don't really know," Cherpes said. "It's so hard to tell. His hair seemed to be lighter."

THE FBI, replying on witnesses apparently, said the fugitive had been described as a white man, 5-8 to 5-11, weighing 160 to 175 pounds, with brown hair in a brush cut, blue eyes, straight nose.

Persons who have met Galt, the FBI reported, described him as a loner with a "rural" speech and little schooling, fond of vodka, beer and hill-billy music.

The FBI statement also said, "The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his left hand. His left ear protrudes further from his head than his right ear."

"GALT SHOULD be considered armed and dangerous," the FBI release warned.

Galt has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmeyer, the FBI said. The assassin registered at the Memphis rooming house under the name of John Willard. Details of the alleged conspiracy were missing from

SENT BUREAU

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

PAGE1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-18-68

Edition: RED FLASH

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT.

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 18 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	
157-10673A-4	

the FBI release, as were vital statistics, such as Galt's birthplace, formal schooling, employment. The statement said Galt claimed to have been a cook on Mississippi riverboats, a merchant seaman and "is said to be an avid dancer."

GALT, THE FBI said, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang with Alabama license plates abandoned in Atlanta the day after King was shot to death. The vehicle was left in the parking lot of an apartment project near the Georgia Capitol.

Two white Mustangs were parked near the rooming house shortly before the shooting, witnesses have said, and both disappeared minutes later. Some witnesses told of a man in a black business suit, neatly dressed, walking down the steps to the street, dropping a rifle and getting into a Mustang with either Alabama or Arkansas tags.

A BUSINESSMAN said last night he was certain the Mustang parked farthest from the shooting scene had an Arkansas tag. "I'm clear in my own mind," he said.

The FBI said Galt's car traveled more than 19,000 miles between Aug. 30, 1967, when he bought it in Birmingham and its abandonment last week in Atlanta. There were trips to Los Angeles, New Orleans and Mexico, the FBI said.

While in the Los Angeles area early this year, Galt took a course in bartending and graduated March 2, the FBI said. In Hollywood, director Tomas Reyes Lau of the International School of Bartending said Galt took a four-week course but refused a job.

LAU SAID GALT turned down the job because he wanted to visit his brother.

"He never said anything about Negroes," Lau said. Similarly, residents of the Birmingham boarding house did not recall Galt talking about racial issues.

Galt told his landlord in Birmingham he was on vacation and had worked at Ingalls Shipyards in Pascagoula, Miss. The company had no record of him.

Likewise, Galt put "merchant seaman, unemployed," on his application for an Alabama driver's license last year, but no record has been found of his name on maritime union rolls.



—AP WIREPHOTO.

ERIC STARVO GALT is wanted by the FBI for conspiracy in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The FBI has released the above photo of a man identified as Galt. The man's eyes were closed in the original picture, the FBI said, and were drawn in by an artist.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

~~Could this be the killer of King?~~
~~States-Item~~ 4/17/68

Orleans Man Is Kidnaped And Robbed

A "hippie-type" bandit kidnaped and robbed a New Orleans man last night after jumping into the victim's car at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport.

Alfred Crouch, 52, of 4527 Bundy rd., told police he was robbed of \$600. He described the bandit as about 25 years old, 5 feet 11 inches tall, with long brown hair and wearing blue jeans and a blue denim jacket.

ONE OF THE BANDITS pushed him from behind while the other ripped away his right rear trouser pocket and removed his wallet containing \$110, the victim reported.

Together they pushed him down into the street, he said, and the pair fled on foot.

Police also said that Johnnie Oaties, Negro, 2124 S. Liberty, reported he was held up at gunpoint by a Negro bandit about 45 years old at Josephine and Rousseau yesterday and robbed of \$210.

Oaties told police the man

See ROB— Page 4

AFTER JUMPING into the car the bandit produced a pistol and forced Crouch to drive to Chef Menteur hwy. On reaching Hwy. 90 and Chef Menteur Pass, the "hippie" told Crouch to stop the vehicle and hand over his money. Crouch gave up \$600 and the bandit drove off with his car.

The holdup man drove toward Slidell. The car was found abandoned at the intersection of Michoud blvd. and Interstate 10, police said.

In another robbery, Gerard Van Buren, 29, 901 Voisin st., reported he was attacked by two unidentified men after leaving a bus at City Park and Canal blvd. He was walking to Gen. Diaz and Virginia ct., Buren said.

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

PAGE (UNKNOWN)

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-17-68

Edition: (UNKNWON)

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT.

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-106-734

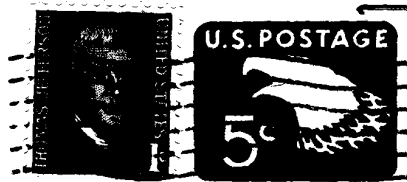
Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

157-106734-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 19 1968	
FBI — NEW ORLEANS	

Wyllie
934½ St. Peter St.,
N. O. La., 70116



Bp 51930

Federal Bureau of Investigation

701 Loyola Ave.,

New Orleans, La.

70150

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Taxi Driver Identifies Sketch

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — An Atlanta taxi driver says an FBI sketch matches a rude patron who rode with him two blocks in northeast Atlanta's "hippie" section a night after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was slain.

He said the man he identified to an FBI agent in a sketch Tuesday was in a hurry and rushed from his taxi, flinging the fare onto the seat.

The driver, who asked that his name not be used, said FBI agents have been checking taxi trip sheets since a white Mustang, matching the description of a car seen leaving the assassination scene in Memphis, was found abandoned in Atlanta last week.

The FBI continued its "no comment" policy. Atlanta police said they had received no information on the report.

In Birmingham Monday, the landlord of a boarding house said he was sure the description of Eric Starvo Galt ~~fit that of a~~ man sought by the FBI. "That's him, I'm sure," said Peter

Cherpes, 72, referring to the drawings.

The Atlanta taxi driver said the name Galt was not mentioned to him by the FBI agent.

He said the agent questioned him first about a fare he had carried from a nightclub near Peachtree and 10th Streets, but the driver said he knew the patron. "and he was not the same man."

However, the agent then disclosed the sketch which appeared to be a type of composite photograph, and the driver recognized him as a fare he had picked up between 10 p.m. and midnight Friday, April 5, about four blocks away at Peachtree and 14th Streets in front of a "hippie" coffee house. He said the man appeared to be in a hurry.

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

PAGE 10-A

MONROE NEWS STAR

MONROE, IA.

Date: 4-17-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: JACK S. CAMPBELL

Title: MURKIN; ERIC

STARVO GALT.

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SENT BUREAU

157-10673A-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 20 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Callender

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Charges Eric Galt As Conspirator In Death

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Mysterious Eric Starvo Galt, a March graduate of a bartender school, was charged Wednesday night with murder in the April 4 sniper assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Nobel-prize winning minister and world leader of non-violence.

A state warrant charging first degree murder was issued in Memphis five hours after the FBI announced a federal com-

plaint charging Galt with conspiracy in the slaying.

King, 39, was shot to death on the second floor balcony of a Memphis motel the day after he returned to lead garbage workers in another march.

Murder is a capital crime in Tennessee.

The FBI complaint charges that Galt, a white man who has

been hunted for a week, entered into a conspiracy about March 29 in Birmingham, Ala., with a man who Galt claimed was his brother. The FBI warrant was issued in Birmingham.

There was no indication that other persons would be charged with conspiracy, nor was the second man who Galt said was his brother identified or charged.

A Memphis witness said an FBI photo of the wanted man does not resemble the man who fled the scene after the shooting.

"Unless he was wearing a wig or had had a face lift or something, it's not the man I saw," said Charles Q. Stevens, a resident of the Main Street rooming house from which the sniper was believed to have shot King.

"The hair is too full and the face is too young," said Stevens. He said he only got a side view of the fleeing man, however.

The FBI did not indicate when the photograph was made, but a source said it was taken within the past three months.

In Birmingham, Galt's landlord for six weeks last fall, Peter Charles, told The Associated Press that the FBI photo might

be a picture of Galt. "It's very near, but I'm not sure," said Cherpes. He remembered his boarder's hair being much lighter. The FBI description said, "Galt has brown hair."

The AP reported Monday that Cherpes had identified FBI drawings as the Eric Galt who had lived at the Birmingham rooming house from Aug. 26 to Oct. 7, 1967.

An Atlanta taxicab driver said an FBI picture he identified as a two-block fare the night after the slaying was different from the one released Wednesday. "That is definitely not the man I picked up," the cab driver said.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, who went to Memphis after the slaying of the civil rights leader, announced in a statement released by the FBI that Galt was being sought as a fugitive on the charge of conspiring to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate King in the exercise of a federal right, "namely, the right to freely travel from state to state."

Police director Frank C. Holloman of Memphis said a state warrant would be drawn for Galt as soon as practicable.

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

PAGE 1

MONROE MORNING

WORLD

MONROE, LA.

Date: 4-18-68

Edition:

Author: JACK S. CAMPBELL

Editor: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT.

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SENT BUREAU

157-10673A-7

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 20 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Cattin

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Man Differs From Photo, Cabbie Says

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — An Atlanta taxi cab driver said Wednesday night that an FBI picture he identified as a man he hauled two blocks the night after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated was different from the picture of Eric Starvo Galt released by the FBI Wednesday.

"The one the FBI showed me was much younger. The face was much thinner. The cheeks weren't as fleshy," said the driver, who has asked that he not be identified.

Looking at an Associated Press wirephoto copy of the picture released by the FBI in Washington, he said, "That is definitely not the man I picked up and not the one they showed me. The only time I've ever seen that was on television tonight."

He said the FBI agent showed him three photographs. "He may have shown me that one, but that wasn't the one I recognized," the driver said.

The driver said he had recognized one of the FBI photographs as that of a patron he carried two blocks in Atlanta's "hippie" section on Friday night April 5. He said he remembered the man because he was rude and threw the money on the seat, causing it to fall on the floorboard.

Describing the FBI print shown to him, he said, "It had a necktie, not a bow tie. The tie was on crooked . . . It had been pulled over to the side. The hair was the same color but it was flatter on top. This man looks older. The other was about 33 to 30, no older than 35."



THE FBI Wednesday released this photo which it identified as Eric Starvo Galt, a man it charged with conspiracy in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The FBI said the eyes were drawn in by an FBI artist because the eyes were closed in the original picture. (AP Wirephoto)

Eye Witness Says Photo Not Of Killer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — An FBI photograph of Eric Starvo Galt, charged with conspiracy in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, does not resemble the man seen leaving the scene shortly after the slaying, a witness said Wednesday.

"Unless he was wearing a wig or had had a face lift or something, it's not the man I saw," said Charles Q. Stevens, who lives in the second floor rooming house from which the fatal bullet is thought to have been fired.

"The hair is too full and the face is too young," Stevens said after viewing the picture.

Stevens, who said he got only a side view of the killer, had contributed to the description used in composite drawings of the alleged assassin.

Bessie Brewer, operator of the rooming house, said she was unable to tell if the picture was of the man who registered under the name of John Willard the afternoon of April 4, three hours before King was killed, and left immediately after the shooting.

"I don't know," she said. "I couldn't tell you to save my soul."

The FBI did not indicate when the picture of Galt it released was taken, or under what circumstances the photograph was obtained.

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

PAGE 2-A

MONROE MORNING

WORLD

MONROE, LA.

Date: 4-18-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: JACK S. CAMPBELL

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT.

Character: RM •

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673A-8

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 20 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Chittenden

SENT BUREAU

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Mystery Man' Galt Is Charged with Murdering King

MEMPHIS (AP)—The mysterious Eric Starvo Galt has been charged with conspiracy and murder in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The FBI said in a fugitive warrant issued last night in Birmingham, Ala., that Galt, 36, conspired with a man "whom he alleged to be his brother" to violate King's civil rights.

The state charge of first-degree murder was filed against Galt in Memphis, where King, 39, Nobel Prize-winning civil rights leader, was shot to death on a motel balcony April 4 by a sniper who fled from a nearby rooming house.

FIRST-DEGREE murder in Tennessee carries the death penalty, although the electric chair has not been used in the state since 1960.

The maximum penalty under the federal charge of conspiracy to violate a person's civil rights is a \$5,000 fine and 10-year prison sentence.

There was no further mention in the FBI statement

GALT SAID N.O. VISITOR

(The FBI reports that Eric Starvo Galt, charged in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made trips to New Orleans. Galt, the FBI said, once claimed to have a 1962 Louisiana driver's license, but there is no record of it. Galt was said to have taken dancing lessons here in 1961 or 1965.)

about the alleged brother and no charge was filed against

him.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover announced in Washington that the conspiracy to "injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate" King began "on or about March 30" in Birmingham.

THE FBI statement said a .30.06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight found near the rooming house shortly after King was slain was purchased March 30 in Birmingham.

The statement did not connect Galt directly with the rifle.

The FBI released a photograph of Galt, and solicited public aid in finding him. Whether this appeal means the trail had become cold was unclear, but U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark told a reporter in Washington that he felt this was not the situation.

THE FBI started hunting Galt a week ago. Agents even contacted persons named Galt in several states in an attempt to find him.

The picture—which had to have the eyes "opened" by an artist—brought uncertain responses from witnesses who were acquainted with Galt or saw the fleeing sniper.

"Unless he was wearing a wig or had had a face lift or something, it's not the man I saw," said Charles Q. Stevens, who lives at the Main st. rooming house from which the fatal shot apparently was fired.

"THE HAIR is too full and the face is too young," he said. But Stevens said he only got a side view of the fleeing figure.

A source in Birmingham said the photograph was taken within the past three months, although the FBI did not specify when it was made. The photo has sharp contrast, making hair and features very dark.

"It's very near, but I'm not sure," was the reaction of Peter Cherpes, owner of a Birmingham boarding house where an Eric Galt stayed from Aug. 26 to Oct. 7 last year.

"I don't really know," Cherpes said. "It's so hard to tell. His hair seemed to be lighter."

THE FBI, replying on witnesses apparently, said the fugitive had been described as a white man, 5-8 to 5-11, weighing 160 to 175 pounds, with brown hair in a brush cut, blue eyes, straight nose.

Persons who have met Galt, the FBI reported, described him as a loner with a "rural" speech and little schooling, fond of vodka, beer and hill-billy music.

The FBI statement also said, "The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his left hand. His left ear protrudes further from his head than his right ear."

"GALT SHOULD be considered armed and dangerous," the FBI release warned. Galt has used the names of

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

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-18-68
Edition: FINAL
Author:
Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY
Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT.

Character: RM
or
Classification: 157-10673A
Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673A-9

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 20 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Callender

SENT BUREAU

John Willard and Harvey Lowmeyer, the FBI said. The assassin registered at the Memphis rooming house under the name of John Willard.

Details of the alleged conspiracy were missing from the FBI release, as were vital statistics, such as Galt's birthplace, formal schooling, employment. The statement said Galt claimed to have been a cook on Mississippi riverboats, a merchant seaman and "is said to be an avid dancer."

GALT, THE FBI said, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang with Alabama license plates abandoned in Atlanta the day after King was shot to death. The vehicle was left in the parking lot of an apartment project near the Georgia Capitol.

Two white Mustangs were parked near the rooming house shortly before the shooting, witnesses have said, and both disappeared minutes later. Some witnesses told of a man in a black business suit, neatly dressed, walking down the steps to the street, dropping a rifle and getting into a Mustang with either Alabama or Arkansas tags.

A BUSINESSMAN said last night he was certain the Mustang parked farthest from the shooting scene had an Arkansas tag. "I'm clear in my own mind," he said.

The FBI said Galt's car traveled more than 19,000 miles between Aug. 30, 1967, when he bought it in Birmingham and its abandonment last week in Atlanta. There were trips to Los Angeles, New Orleans and Mexico, the FBI said.

While in the Los Angeles area early this year, Galt took a course in bartending and graduated March 2, the FBI said. In Hollywood, director Tomas Reyes Lau of the International School of Bartending said Galt took a four-week course but refused a job.

~~LAU SAID GALT~~ turned down the job because he wanted to visit his brother.

"He never said anything about Negroes," Lau said. Similarly, residents of the Birmingham boarding house did not recall Galt talking about racial issues.

Galt told his landlord in Birmingham he was on vacation and had worked at Ingalls Shipyards in Pascagoula, Miss. The company had no record of him.

Likewise, Galt put "merchant seaman, unemployed," on his application for an Alabama driver's license last year, but no record has been found of his name on maritime union rolls.



—AP WIREPHOTO.

ERIC STARVO GALT is wanted by the FBI for conspiracy in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The FBI has released the above photo of a man identified as Galt. The man's eyes were closed in the original picture, the FBI said, and were drawn in by an artist.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Massive Manhunt Is on for King Slaying Suspect

Mysterious Eric Galt Is
Eluding Police

By BILL JOHNSON

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) —The FBI pressed one of the most massive manhunts in its history Thursday for shadowy Eric Starvo Galt, charged in the sniper slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

But little more was known publicly about the alleged assassin of the civil rights leader than when his name first arose a week ago. It was learned, however, that a man registered as Eric S. Galt in a Memphis motel a day before King was killed.

Police agencies continued their "no comment" handling of queries—including questions about a newspaper report that the search had spread outside the country, to Mexico or Cuba. And they were silent on any details at all about a man with whom Galt may have conspired in the slaying.

WARRANT ISSUED

A murder warrant was issued here Wednesday night for the 36-year-old Galt, five hours after the FBI charged him with conspiracy to violate the civil rights of King. The FBI warrant charged him with conspiring with a man "whom he alleged to be his brother."

King was killed by a single bullet the night of April 4 as he leaned over the second floor railing of a Memphis motel. Police have said the shot was fired from the common bathroom of a low-cost hotel across the street.

The FBI said Galt had used the names of Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard. A man registered as "John Willard" checked into the hotel just three hours before King was killed.

Ivan B. Webb, night-desk clerk at the Rebel Motel here, said a man registered there under the name of Eric S. Galt on April 3. Webb said a white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates and Mexican tourist stickers was parked near the room occupied by Galt. A similar car has been impounded in Atlanta, Ga., and the FBI said that car belonged to Galt. A white Mustang is believed to have been the getaway car after the slaying.

NEAT DRESSER

The FBI declined comment on the possibility that a man who had checked into another motel April 3 might have been Galt's brother.

In Washington, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark described Galt Wednesday night as white, a neat dresser, of apparently lim-

ited education and a man with a taste for vodka and beer.

He also was described as an avid dancer with a liking for country and western music.

Police recovered a 30.06 Remington rifle with telescopic sight soon after King was killed. The weapon had been abandoned in a doorway near the scene of the shooting.

The Birmingham News said in a copyrighted story Thursday that a gun which the FBI said had been purchased in that city had been identified in ballistics tests as the 30.06 rifle which killed King.

The newspaper also said the search for Galt has spread outside the United States and that it is believed the man has fled to Mexico or Cuba.

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

PAGE 3

SECTION 1

TIMES PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-19-68

Edition:

Author: GEORGE W. HEALY

Editor:

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT.

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-

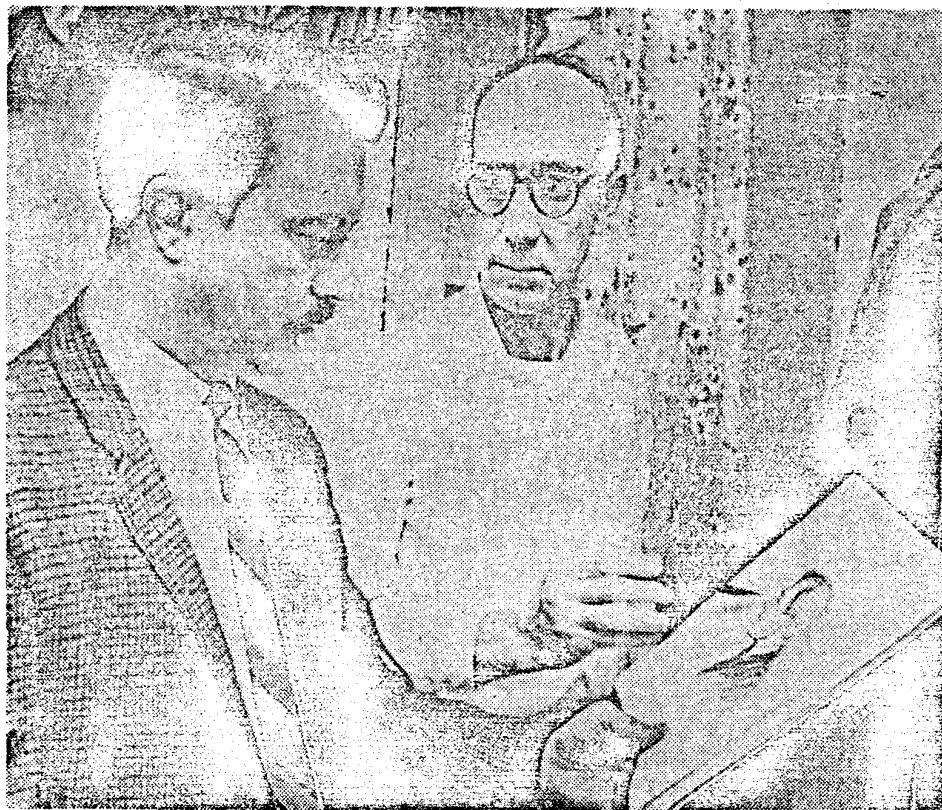
Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673A-10

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 20 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

SENT BUREAU



CHARLES Q. STEVENS (right), whose description of Dr. Martin Luther King's alleged assassin played an important part in the composite drawing by Bill Harrington (left), staff artist of the Memphis Commercial Appeal, said Wednesday night the picture released

by the FBI of Eric Starvo Galt was "not the man I saw." Stevens lives in the rooming house from which the fatal bullet was fired. Galt was charged Wednesday by the FBI with conspiracy in the case. (AP Wirephoto)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

KING SUSPECT IS ESCAPEE, REAL NAME RAY, FBI SAYS

SENT BUREAU

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

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-19-68

Edition: FINAL

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT.

Character: RM.
or

Classification: 157-

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI today identified Eric Starvo Galt, wanted for the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as James Earl Ray, 40, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

The FBI said he was identified through "a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints" uncovered in the King case against the fingerprints of the more than 53,000 persons for whom wanted notices are on file in the bureau's identification division.

RAY WAS reported missing from the penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo., April 23, 1967. He was serving a 20-year sentence for an armed robbery in St. Louis and operating a motor vehicle without the owner's permission.

Ray, who had been at the prison since March 17, 1960,

157-106737-11

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 20 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

spent some time in September, 1966, in the maximum security ward at the state hospital in Fulton, Mo.

The man known as Galt was charged Wednesday with the first-degree murder of King April 4 in Memphis, Tenn. He also is charged in a federal warrant with con-

spiracy and murder in the King assassination.

A drifter since he left school in the 10th grade at Alton, Ill., Ray served as an enlisted man in the Army from February, 1946, to December, 1948, when he was given a general discharge for ineptness and lack of adaptability, the FBI said. During his Army career he received a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and "breaking" arrest.

THE FBI SAID Ray has an arrest record dating at least to 1949, when he was convicted for burglary in Los Angeles. He also was convicted in 1952 for armed robbery in Chicago and in 1955 for forging U.S. postal money orders in Missouri.

He has served terms in a Los Angeles County jail, state prisons at Joliet and Pontiac, Ill., and a federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan.

The FBI said Ray has used the names of James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Conner.

RAY CLAIMS to have been born [redacted] in Illinois—but the FBI did not say where. He is about 5-feet-10, weighs 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair and two scars: a small one on the center of his forehead and another on the palm of his right hand.

He has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

The FBI said Ray has been a federal fugitive since July 20, 1967 when an FBI complaint was filed at Jefferson City charging him with unlawfully fleeing from Missouri to avoid confinement.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SUSPECT'S REAL NAME IS RAY, FBI DISCLOSES

'Eric Galt' Is Identified as Ex-Convict

By GARDNER L. BRIDGE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The elusive Eric Starvo Galt, who is wanted for the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was identified by the FBI Friday as a 40-year-old drifter and ex-convict named James Earl Ray.

The FBI said Galt's real identity was traced through "a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints" developed in the King case against the fingerprints of more than 53,000 persons for whom wanted notices are on file in the bureau's identification division.

Galt is only one of the names Ray has used in brushes with the law which began, according to the FBI dossier, when he was 21.

The FBI said he has used the names of James McBride, James Walton, W. O. Herron and James O'Connor.

DESCRIPTION GIVEN

He was described as about 5 feet 10, weighing 163 to 174 pounds, with blue eyes and brown hair and two scars: a small scar in the center of the forehead and another on the palm of his right hand.

At the time King was shot and killed by a sniper in Memphis, Tenn., April 4, Ray was being sought on a jail breaking charge.

The FBI said he escaped on April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, where he was serving a 20-year sentence for armed robbery in St. Louis.

Ray, who is now being sought on a Tennessee murder charge in the King slaying, has an arrest record dating at least to

1949 when he served time in Los Angeles on a burglary charge. He was also in the fur- Angeleno room occupied by the sniper.

ARMY DISCHARGE This followed his discharge from the Army. The FBI also has reported re- from the Army. The FBI said he covering a white Mustang auto- served as an enlisted man from mobile in Atlanta, Ga., believed February 1946 to December 1948 to have been used by the killer. when he received a general dis- charge for ineptness and lack of adaptability.

His Army record showed a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest, the FBI said.

The bureau's dossier on Ray indicates he has been a drifter since he left school in the 10th grade at Alton, Ill.

He has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

In 1952, according to the FBI, he was convicted in Chicago for armed robbery and served two years in Joliet and Pontiac, Ill. state prisons. In 1955, the FBI said, he was convicted of forg- ing U.S. postal money orders in Missouri and was confined to Leavenworth penitentiary until 1958.

The FBI said Ray was sent to the Missouri State Penitentiary on March 17, 1960, and spent some time in September 1966 in the maximum security ward at the state hospital in Fulton, Mo.

The FBI said Ray has listed his birth date as [redacted] and his birthplace as Illinois.

The city clerk at Alton, Ill., Paul A. Price, said a James Earl Ray was born there on [redacted] the son of a laborer.

The principal at Alton Senior High School said his records showed three James Rays at- tended the school during the pe- riod Ray would have been there, and he was trying to determine whether any of them was the man identified by the FBI as Galt.

The bureau did not say what set of fingerprints in the King case was matched with those of Ray, but it is presumed that prints were found on a rifle dropped near the scene of the

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

PAGE 1

SECTION 1

TIMES PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-20-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT.

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-

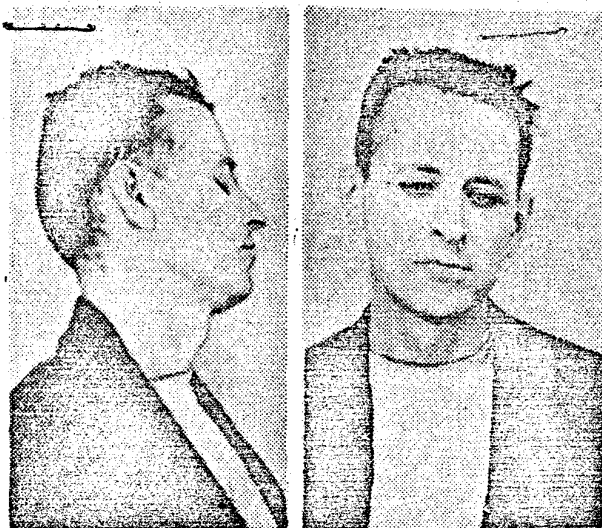
Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673A-12

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 22 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Alton



—AP WIREPHOTO.
THESE prison identification pictures of James Earl Ray were taken at Missouri Penitentiary Jan. 4, 1966. Ray is being sought for questioning in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The FBI says Ray and Eric Starvo Galt are the same person. Ray escaped from prison April 23, 1967.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Suspect Hunt Pushed

Ray on 'Most Wanted' List

WASHINGTON (AP) — Escaped convict James Earl Ray, sought as the sniper slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was placed on the FBI's "most wanted" list today.

The FBI said yesterday a systematic search of its vast fingerprint files identified the 40-year-old Ray as phantom fugitive Eric Starvo Galt, charged in Tennessee with murdering King April 4.

THE FBI action today added formality to what was already fact—the escapee from the Missouri state penitentiary is the nation's most intensely hunted man in years.

Ray was described as an avid dancer, a high school dropout, Army reject, a man who likes to drink beer and

vodka, and who tugs his ear when he's nervous.

"Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous," the FBI said.

The suspect is actually the 11th man placed on the traditional list of "10 most wanted fugitives," but the search

for Ray obviously overshadows all others.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said the 40-year-old white man was added to the list specially "to insure the widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help effect his earliest possible location."

When Galt was left off the list at the time a 10th man was added Thursday, an FBI spokesman said the principal reason for listing fugitives was to "attract publicity for

a guy you're looking for—and in this case there's been plenty of publicity."

The FBI said today Ray "has been the subject of a massive and intensive search" since the slaying of King 16 days ago in Memphis, Tenn.

There was no indication the FBI was any closer to catching Ray than it was Wednesday when it put the name Galt on a fugitive warrant charging him "and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother" with conspiring to deprive King of his civil right to travel from state to state.

Ray fled the Missouri Penitentiary—where he was serving the seventh year of a 20-year sentence for a 1959

Prison officials, who said a 1966 escape try by Ray was thwarted when he was discovered in a ventilator shaft, indicated he succeeded the next year by hiding in a truck carrying bread from the penitentiary bakery to its honor farms.

THE earlier escape attempt landed Ray in a Fulton, Mo., prison hospital facility for a mental checkup.

"We gave him our Grade A, Class I workup," recalled Dr. Donald B. Peterson, hospital superintendent. "We found no mental disease or defect within the law."

Prison and police records showed Ray was born in Alton, Ill., son of a laborer of the same name.

Records at the Fulton facility indicated both parents were dead, but the penitentiary records listed his mother as Mrs. Lucille Ryan of St. Louis.

THE FBI said Eric Starvo Galt was one of a string of aliases favored by Ray in frequent brushes with the law beginning when he was 21 years old—several years after he dropped out of high school in the 10th grade.

In addition to the aliases John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer listed on the FBI fugitive warrant, the bureau said Ray has also called himself James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Connor.

John Willard was the name used by the man who checked into a shoddy Memphis rooming house overlooking the Lorraine Motel, where King was fatally shot as he stood on a balcony and talked with friends.

The FBI has said Eric Starvo Galt purchased a 30.06 rifle in Birmingham five days before the assassination. That rifle, with a telescopic sight intact, was recovered outside the rooming house just after the assassination.

THE FBI did not make clear where it got the fingerprints which it matched against its files to show Galt is actually Ray.

But speculation was the prints may have been left in the rooming house, on the rifle or on a 1966 white Mustang—since impounded in Atlanta—that witnesses reported seeing leaving the vicinity of the shooting.

But while some details remained fuzzy, the portrait sketched by the FBI showed Ray as a rather average-looking ne'er-do-well of conflicting personality traits.

He was described as 5-foot-10, and 163 to 174 pounds, with brown hair, blue eyes and small scars on his forehead and right palm. He's

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

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-20-68

Edition: FINAL

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC

STARVO GALT.

Character: RM.

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673A-13
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

APR 22 1968

FBI - NEW ORLEANS

said to have a habit of tugging on an ear when nervous. His left ear protrudes slightly further than his right ear.

RAY was said by authorities to have worked at various times as a laborer, baker and color-matcher. In addition, persons who came in contact with him while he was outside prison said he spoke of having worked as a merchant seaman and riverboat cook.

The FBI said the fugitive's acquaintances called him a loner who likes beer and vodka, favors country and western music and speaks with a rural twang. The loner tag seemed to conflict with the FBI description of him as an "avid dancer."

In more obvious conflict was the FBI's Wednesday statement saying Galt "took dancing lessons" in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965 — a time when Ray was still imprisoned in Missouri.

A bureau spokesman said the earlier Galt description should have said he "reportedly" took the dancing lessons, rather than stating flatly that he had.

THE FBI said Ray was first arrested in 1949 in Los Angeles, where he drew an eight-month jail term for burglary.

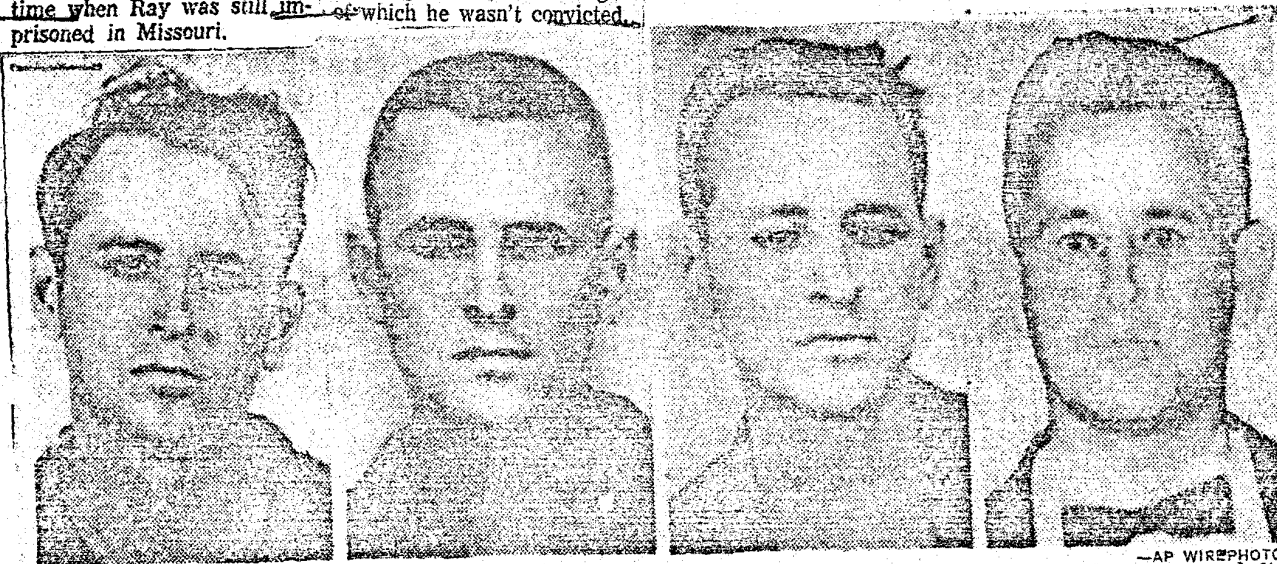
Subsequent convictions came in Chicago, 1952, robbery; in Missouri, 1955, for breaking into a Kansas City post office and forging postal orders; 1959, the St. Louis market holdup and car theft.

In addition, he was arrested but not convicted in 1950 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for vagrancy; in 1951 in Alton, Ill., for driver license violations; in 1954, Edwardsville, Ill., for burglary.

All told, the records show Ray has spent 13 years and 5 months behind bars — not counting detention on charges of which he wasn't convicted.

ALSO not included in that total is the three-month stretch at hard labor he received for being drunk and "breaking arrest" while in the Army from February 1946 to December 1948.

The Army washed Ray out on a general discharge, saying he was inept and couldn't adapt to military life.



ERIC STARVO GALT, sought in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is shown at right in picture released by FBI. JAMES EARL RAY is shown in the other pictures. The FBI said yesterday Galt

and Ray are the same man. Ray is shown at left in a 1959 St. Louis police photo; second from left in a 1960 FBI photo; second from right in a 1966 Missouri penitentiary picture.

—AP WIREPHOTO.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Suspected King Sniper Is on 'Most Wanted' List

FBI Adds Formality to Fact in Search

By LEWIS HAWKINS

WASHINGTON (AP) — What may be the nation's most intensive manhunt gained fresh pressure Saturday when the FBI placed on its "most wanted" list a fugitive convict accused of murder in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old habitual criminal, is being hunted by police from border to border and beyond for the April 4 sniper slaying in Memphis, Tenn., of the Negro civil rights leader from Atlanta.

The FBI always has limited its list of most wanted criminals to 10 names but Saturday it lengthened this roll of dishonor to 11 by adding Ray, a white loner known also by the name of Eric Starvo Galt and by six other aliases.

WARRANT ISSUED

In addition to a state first-degree murder warrant issued in Memphis, Ray is wanted on federal charges of conspiracy to deny Dr. King his civil rights and of flight to escape confinement. The latter traces to his April 1967 escape from Missouri prison at Jefferson City where he was starting his eighth year on a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

In announcing the unprecedented step of adding an 11th name to the "10 most wanted" list, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover announced it was done "to insure the widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help effect his earliest possible location."

On Thursday, when Ray still was being sought under the name of Galt, the FBI filled a vacancy on the list with another name. When asked why Galt wasn't the nominee at that time a spokesman explained the

"to attract publicity for a guy you're looking for—and in this case there's been plenty of publicity."

But Hoover obviously decided more public attention was in order.

APPEAL MADE

As usual, the FBI is appealing to the public for help in spotting its man and—as usual—gives implied warning against any effort by a plain citizen to apprehend the criminal unaided.

The official language puts it this way:

"Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous. Anyone with information concerning this fugitive is requested to immediately contact the nearest office of the FBI, the telephone number of which may be found on the first page of local telephone directories."

Reportedly a native of Illinois, Ray is described as about five feet, 10 inches tall, weighing from 163 to 174 pounds. He has blue eyes and brown hair usually worn short. Forehead and right palm bear small scars. His nose is narrow and straight, teeth even. And he has a noticeably protruding left ear, the lobe of which he reportedly tugs at when nervous.

By way of further help in the search which the FBI described Saturday as "massive and intensive", Ray is reported to speak in a "rural" manner and in a fashion indicating limited education. He is described as neat in dress and as an avid dancer with a taste for vodka and beer.

In addition to armed robbery, Ray has been convicted of burglary, forgery of a postal money order and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. He has been confined in the Los Angeles County jail, two state prisons in Illinois and the U.S. penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan.

During nearly three years in the Army he received a three-month sentence for

drunkenness and breaking arrest. He was discharged in December 1948 for ineptness and lack of adaptability to military service.

Dr. King was killed by a single shot from a large-caliber rifle while he stood on the balcony of his motel room. The bullet reportedly came from a cheap rooming house about 200 feet away. Ray—not so identified until Friday—has been sought since the day of the killing which sparked racial riots in more than 100 cities.

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

PAGE 1

SECTION 1

TIMES PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-21-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT.

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 22 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

157-10673A-14

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Claims King's Killer Payoff Set in Orleans

New Orleans was the payoff point for a man hired to kill Dr. Martin Luther King, Time Magazine said in a story appearing in this week's issue of the magazine.

The magazine said a Memphis man overheard a Memphis businessman "giving an unknown trigger man urgent orders to kill King on the balcony of his motel, and even specifying the price for the job—(\$5,000) and the pickup point for his fee (New Orleans)."

THE FBI in Washington had no comment on the report.

District Attorney Jim Garrison was out of town and unavailable for comment. Assistant DA James L. Alcock said he had no knowledge that the office was investigating any such report.

Time said the witness told the magazine and later the FBI of having overheard the conversation.

The conversation tended to support a theory that the plot was a "made-in-Memphis undertaking" according to Time.

The magazine also said that "according to several current theories, the death of King was plotted about three months ago in Memphis."

At least one Memphis man reported seeing a man roughly matching the description of James Earl Ray, the suspect named by the FBI, in Memphis last fall.

King was killed April 4 in Memphis by a sniper.

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

PAGE 14

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-22-68

Edition: RED FLASH

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT.

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SENT BUREAU

157-10673A-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 22 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Atkins

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

LINK N.O. INDUSTRIAL LIST TO KING SLAYING PROBE

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

PAGE 1

SECTION 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-24-68

Edition: GEORGE W. HEALY

Author:

Editor:

Title: MURKIN; ERIC
STARVO GALT, JAMES
EARL RAY

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SENT BUREAU

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 24 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

157-10673A-14

Hollywood Blonde Located

By LOUIS LOMAX
BEVERLY HILLS
(NANA) — In a startling new development, the hunt for the person or persons responsible for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. now focuses on a mysterious Hollywood blonde and a New Orleans industrialist.

The FBI let it be known Monday that they were in search of the Hollywood blonde but could not locate her. The report was that she has "disappeared."

This reporter located the blonde in question late yesterday afternoon. She is in her mid twenties as reported and,

EXCLUSIVE STORY

(Louis Lomax is a regular reporter on Negro affairs for North American Newspaper Alliance. The news syndicate says he has established contact with the underworld and has been able to elicit facts in the King assassination case not known to others.)

as suspected, was a close confidante of James Earl Ray, then known as Eric Starvo Galt and the suspected killer of Dr. King.

INVESTIGATION by this reporter revealed that the young woman was a habitue of the Sultan Room and the Rabbit's Foot, bars along a sleazy section of Hollywood Blvd. She used several names but was known as "Jerri."

She spent several nights, perhaps weeks, with Ray (Galt) and on the day Ray left Los Angeles on the trip that led him to Memphis he purchased "Jerri" an airplane ticket to a Midwestern city where she is now visiting with her parents. There is some evidence that Ray arranged to visit with the girl and her parents in the Midwestern city "after I take care of some business in the South." This was the way Ray explained his mission to the girl in question. The FBI's search for the girl still continues and there is no indication that the agency is aware of the girl's whereabouts.

"JERRI" IS important to the investigation because of her close relationship to Ray while he was in Los Angeles.

Ray (Galt) kept this quiet and, on the whole, remained to himself. However, "Jerri" was in his apartment on several protracted occasions and the conviction is that she may well have information about the various contacts Ray was known to have made in the South, particularly in New Orleans.

As important as "Jerri" is to the stalled investigation, she is overshadowed by additional information uncovered by this reporter about Ray's New Orleans contacts. These are the facts that can now be published:

—On Dec. 16, 1967, Ray was in telephone contact with a major New Orleans industrialist, a man who is considered the economic and political "killer" of the community.

—On Dec. 17, 1967, Ray met in person with this New Orleans industrialist. On the day of the meeting, Ray was registered in a motel in New Orleans. The contact between Ray and the industrialist was made from this motel and the meeting with held in "downtown" New Orleans.

Investigators are attempting to zero in on the "industrialist" in the light of a disclosure from an inmate out of Missouri Prison, where Ray once served time and where Ray expressed interest in an offer of \$100,000 put up by "Southern businessmen" for anyone who would kill Dr. King. This reporter has also been able to establish a timetable for Ray that leads up to a few days to Dr. King's assassination:

—On Valentine's Day, Ray, who was then living in Room 408 of the St. Francis Hotel along Hollywood Blvd., visited another girl friend — not the blonde — and offered his console TV set for her portable. The girl accepted the swap. Ray loaded her portable

set in his car and told the girl he was leaving town.

Although they are tight-lipped about it, the FBI has found the portable TV set, probably in a Birmingham, Ala., roominghouse.

—Ray was seen on this same day in the parking lot of the Los Angeles Sears, Roebuck store on Pico Blvd.

—Three days later, Ray called upon a New Orleans family and delivered to them a package sent by their daughter in Los Angeles. The already published record shows that Ray then drove into Alabama, finally, into Memphis.

The FBI is having major difficulty tracing both the elusive blonde and the New Orleans industrialist because the trail leads through denizens of the underworld and semi-underworld who flatly refused to cooperate with law enforcement officials. The name of the New Orleans industrialist is not known.

However, this reporter is aware of how the telephone contact between the industrialist and Ray was established. A search is now on to locate records which will reveal both the industrialist's name and telephone number.

Other information developed by this reporter indicated that "Jerri" spoke with a foreign accent and is probably from one of the Scandinavian countries.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

READY TO KILL, RAY IS QUOTED

Willing to Try for Bounty on King, Says Convict

By JAY BOWLES

DALTON, Ga. (AP) — A convicted murderer who was in prison with the mysterious James Earl Ray, now hunted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said Tuesday he heard Ray say he would be willing to try to collect \$1 million for killing the civil rights leader.

Raymond Curtis, 40, the same age as Ray, is in the Whitfield County jail awaiting action on appeal of a murder conviction. Curtis said he and Ray were prisoners at the Missouri State Penitentiary when John F. Kennedy was assassinated Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, Tex.

"Another boy said, 'Well, there's a million-dollar bounty to get King.' King was running his mouth pretty good then. Ray said, 'If there is a million-dollar bounty on King, I believe I can collect it,'" Curtis said in an interview.

Curtis said he met Ray in 1955 when both were prisoners in Jackson County jail at Kansas City, Mo. He said they shared a cell for seven months.

Then, Curtis said, Ray was transferred to the Leavenworth federal prison to serve a term for forging postal money orders. Curtis said that two weeks later he also was sent to Leavenworth.

Curtis said he and Ray were in the same 281-cell building at Leavenworth and at one point were in adjoining cells.

He said after about six months he was transferred to the Atlanta prison and did not see Ray again until late 1961 or early 1962, when Curtis went to the Missouri State Penitentiary on a 10-year armed robbery sentence.

Ray was there, Curtis said, serving a 20-year armed robbery sentence. Prison records confirm that Curtis and Ray were inmates at the same time.

The two saw each other "almost daily" Curtis said.

It was in the prison yard, Curtis said, that he and Ray saw television news reports of Kennedy's assassination. A few days later, he said, a new prisoner came in and said that a \$1 million bounty had been put on King by a "K-K businessman's association."

Curtis said Ray did not associate freely with other inmates. "You could pick him out of a crowd of 2,000 men in the prison yard. He would be off to himself walking and his mind would be somewhere else."

"The only thing he would make a long conversation out of was when he was planning something and you were a part of it," Curtis said. "Anything he did was thoroughly planned. He never went off half-cocked."

Curtis said he heard Ray mention a King bounty several times. At one point, Curtis said, Ray referred to the Kennedy assassination by saying, "Boy, probably somebody made a nice little penny off of that. I sure wish it was me."

Curtis, who was born in Dalton, said Ray had a soft southern Illinois accent, not a southern drawl.

Curtis, who was convicted in January 1967, of a robbery murder, is awaiting a decision on a new trial motion. FBI agents questioned Curtis Sunday and Monday.

To his knowledge, Curtis said, only one person visited Ray during their prison time together.

Curtis talked to reporters from his individual 4- by 10-foot cell at the Whitfield County jail. A bare light bulb illuminated the cell. He wore a torn white T-shirt, and raspberry colored pajama trousers.

Curtis said Ray made the statements about King to Curtis personally and not in a group.

The FBI said the man they are hunting has a liking for beer and vodka and water. "He liked beer, I know that, because he talked about it," Curtis said.

Curtis said Ray talked a great deal in prison about New Zealand, Brazil and Argentina and Curtis speculated that he would have left the United States for one of those countries within hours after the slaying if he were responsible.

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

PAGE 5
SECTION 2

TIMES-PICAYUNE
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-24-68

Edition: Morning

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC
STARVO GALT, JAMES

EARL RAY

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SENT BUREAU

157-10673A-17

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 24 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Callender

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

KING KILLING SUSPECT RAY IN CITY LAST DECEMBER

The man charged with conspiracy and murder in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was registered in a French Quarter motel from Dec. 17 through 19 of last year.

This was confirmed after Louis Lomax, a newsman

writing for the North American Newspaper Alliance, reported that the suspect, James Earl Ray, met a man Lomax identified only as "a major New Orleans industrialist" at the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres, Dec. 17.

The States-Item has not been able to establish the identity of this "industrialist" or whether he actually exists.

HOWEVER, records of the motel show that Ray, now on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list, stayed there during the Dec. 17-19 period, driving a Mustang auto with an Alabama license. (Authorities in Atlanta are holding a white Mustang which witnesses reported seeing leaving the scene of Dr. King's shooting in Memphis April 4.)

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

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-24-68

Edition: FINAL

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC

STARVO GALT, JAMES

EARL RAY

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673A-170
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

APR 25 1968

FBI - NEW ORLEANS

SENT BUREAU

Lomax reported that investigators are searching for the "industrialist" (whose name still is unknown to them) in the light of a disclosure from a Missouri prison inmate, who served time with Ray, that Ray expressed interest in an offer of \$100,000 put up by "Southern businessmen" for anyone who would kill Dr. King.

Time magazine reported this week that New Orleans was the payoff point for the man hired to kill Dr. King. This, the magazine said, was based on a conversation overheard by a Memphis businessman.

LOMAX ALSO reported that on Feb. 17, 1968, Ray called on an unidentified New Orleans family and delivered to them a package sent by their daughter in Los Angeles.

Asked about the possibility that criminal acts leading to Dr. King's death took place in New Orleans, District Attorney Jim Garrison said today, "We're very interested in the case."

However, the DA said, "we have no data at present. The federal people have not given us any information."

He added that federal authorities have not refused the information—they have not yet been asked for it. "Now that it's getting this specific, we'll be very much interested."

GARRISON STRESSED that he means no criticism of federal investigators in this instance. "They have their own problems," he said.

Ray is charged with conspiracy and murder in the King slaying, under the name of Eric Starvo Galt. The FBI says Ray and Galt are the same man.

Ray registered at the motel here under the name of Galt.

Lomax is a regular reporter on Negro affairs for NANA, a wire service which provides news to the States-Item and other newspapers around the nation. The news syndicate said Lomax has established

contact with the underworld and has been able to elicit facts not known to others interested in the King assassination case.

HIS STORY, datelined Beverly Hills, Calif., said that in a startling new development, the hunt for the persons responsible for King's death now focuses on a mysterious Hollywood blonde and a New Orleans industrialist.

The story, as written by Lomax, continued:

The FBI let it be known Monday that they were in search of the Hollywood blonde but could not locate her. The report was that she has "disappeared."

This reporter located the blonde in question late yesterday afternoon. She is in her mid twenties as reported and, as suspected, was a close confidante of Ray, then known as Eric Starvo Galt and the suspected killer of Dr. King.

INVESTIGATION by this reporter revealed that the young woman was a habitue of the Sultan Room and the Rabbit's Foot, bars along a sleazy section of Hollywood Blvd. She used several names but was known as "Jerri."

She spent several nights, perhaps weeks, with Ray (Galt) and on the day Ray left Los Angeles on the trip that led him to Memphis he purchased "Jerri" an airplane ticket to a Midwestern city where she is now visiting with her parents. There is some evidence that Ray arranged to visit with the girl and her parents in the Midwestern city "after I take care of some business in the South." This was the way Ray explained his mission to the girl in question. The FBI's search for the girl still continues and there is no indication that the agency is aware of the girl's whereabouts.

"JERRI" IS important to the investigation because of her close relationship to Ray while he was in Los Angeles. Ray (Galt) kept this quiet and, on the whole, remained

to himself. However, "Jerri" was in his apartment on several protracted occasions and the conviction is that she may well have information about the various contacts Ray was known to have made in the South, particularly in New Orleans.

As important as "Jerri" is to the stalled investigation, she is overshadowed by additional information uncovered by this reporter about Ray's New Orleans contacts. These are the facts that can now be published:

—On Dec. 16, 1967, Ray was in telephone contact with a major New Orleans industrialist, a man who is considered the economic and political "killer" of the community.

—On Dec. 17, 1967, Ray met in person with this New Orleans industrialist. On the day of the meeting, Ray was registered in a motel in New Orleans. The contact between Ray and the industrialist was made from this motel and the meeting with held in "downtown" New Orleans.

Investigators are attempting to zero in on the "industrialist" in the light of a disclosure from an inmate out of Missouri Prison, where Ray once served time and where Ray expressed interest in an offer of \$100,000 put up by "Southern businessmen" for anyone who would kill Dr. King. This reporter has also been able to establish a timetable for Ray that leads up to a few days to Dr. King's assassination.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Suspect in King Slaying In City Last December

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

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-24-68
Edition: RED FLASH
Author:
Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY
Title: MURKIN; ERIC
STARVO GALT, JAMES
EARL RAY
Character: RM

or
Classification: 157-10673A-
Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SENT BUREAU

157-10673A-18

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 24 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Callahan

Reportedly Met with N.O. Tycoon

The man charged with conspiracy and murder in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was registered in a French Quarter motel from Dec. 17 through 19 of last year.

This was confirmed after Louis Lomax, a newsman writing for the North American Newspaper Alliance, reported that the suspect, James Earl Ray, met a man Lomax identified only as "a major New Orleans industrialist" at the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres, Dec. 17.

The States-Item has not been able to establish the identity of this "industrialist" or whether he actually exists.

HOWEVER, records of the motel show that Ray, now on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list, stayed there during the Dec. 17-19 period, driving a Mustang auto with an Alabama license. (Authorities in Atlanta are holding a white Mustang which witnesses reported seeing leaving the scene of Dr. King's shooting in Memphis April 4.)

Lomax reported that investigators are searching for the "industrialist" (whose name still is unknown to them) in the light of a disclosure from a Missouri prison inmate, who served time with Ray, that Ray expressed interest in an offer of \$100,000 put up by "Southern businessmen" for anyone who would kill Dr. King.

Time magazine reported this week that New Orleans was the payoff point for the man hired to kill Dr. King. This, the magazine said, was based on a conversation overheard by a Memphis businessman.

LOMAX ALSO reported that on Feb. 17, 1968, Ray called on an unidentified New Orleans family and delivered to them a package sent by their daughter in Los Angeles.

Asked about the possibility that criminal acts leading to Dr. King's death took place in New Orleans, District Attorney Jim Garrison said today, "We're very interested in the case."

However, the DA said, "we have no data at present. The federal people have not given us any information."

He added that federal authorities have not refused the information—they have not yet been asked for it. "Now that it's getting this specific, we'll be very much interested."

GARRISON STRESSED that he means no criticism of federal investigators in this instance. "They have their own problems," he said.

Ray is charged with conspiracy and murder in the King slaying, under the name of Eric Starvo Galt. The FBI says Ray and Galt are the same man.

Lomax is a regular reporter on Negro affairs for NANA, a wire service which provides news to the States-Item and other newspapers around the nation. The news syndicate said Lomax has established contact with the underworld and has been able to elicit facts not known to others interested in the King assassination case.

HIS STORY, datelined Beverly Hills, Calif., said that in a startling new development, the hunt for the persons responsible for King's death now focuses on a mysterious Hollywood blonde and a New Orleans industrialist.

The story, as written by Lomax, continued:

The FBI let it be known Monday that they were in search of the Hollywood blonde but could not locate her. The report was that she has "disappeared."

This reporter located the blonde in question late yesterday afternoon. She is in her mid twenties as reported and, as suspected, was a close confidante of Ray, then known as Eric Starvo Galt and the suspected killer of Dr. King.

INVESTIGATION by this reporter revealed that the young woman was a habitue of the Sultan Room and the Rabbit's Foot, bars along a sleazy section of Hollywood Blvd. She used several names but was known as "Jerri."

She spent several nights, perhaps weeks, with Ray (Galt) and on the day Ray left Los Angeles on the trip that led him to Memphis he purchased "Jerri" an airplane ticket to a Midwestern city where she is now visiting with her parents. There is some evidence that Ray arranged to visit with the girl and her parents in the Midwestern city "after I take care of some business in the South." This was the way Ray explained his mission to the girl in question. The FBI's search for the girl still continues and there is no indication that the agency is aware of the girl's whereabouts.

"JERRI" IS important to the investigation because of her close relationship to Ray while he was in Los Angeles. Ray (Galt) kept this quiet and, on the whole, remained to himself. However, "Jerri" was in his apartment on several protracted occasions and the conviction is that she may well have information about the various contacts Ray was known to have made in the South, particularly in New Orleans.

As important as "Jerri" is to the stalled investigation, she is overshadowed by additional information uncovered by this reporter about Ray's New Orleans contacts. These are the facts that can now be published:

—On Dec. 16, 1967, Ray was in telephone contact with a major New Orleans industrialist, a man who is considered the economic and political "killer" of the community.

—On Dec. 17, 1967, Ray met in person with this New Orleans industrialist. On the day of the meeting, Ray was registered in a motel in New Orleans. The contact between Ray and the industrialist was made from this motel and the meeting with held in "downtown" New Orleans.

Investigators are attempting to zero in on the "industrialist" in the light of a disclosure from an inmate out of Missouri Prison, where Ray once served time and where Ray expressed interest in an offer of \$100,000 put up by "Southern businessmen" for anyone who would kill Dr. King. This reporter has also been able to establish a timetable for Ray that leads up to a few days to Dr. King's assassination:

—On Valentine's Day, Ray, who was then living in Room 408 of the St. Francis Hotel along Hollywood Blvd., visited another girl friend — not the blonde — and offered his console TV set for her portable. The girl accepted the swap. Ray loaded her portable set in his car and told the girl he was leaving town.

Although they are tight-lipped about it, the FBI has found the portable TV set, probably in a Birmingham, Ala., roominghouse.

—Ray was seen on this same day in the parking lot of the Los Angeles Sears, Roebuck store on Pico Blvd.

—Three days later, Ray called upon a New Orleans family and delivered to them a package sent by their daughter in Los Angeles. The already published record shows that Ray then drove into Alabama, finally, into Memphis.

The FBI is having major difficulty tracing both the elusive blonde and the New Orleans industrialist because the trail leads through denizens of the underworld and semi-underworld who flatly refused to cooperate with law enforcement officials. The name of the New Orleans industrialist is not known.

However, this reporter is aware of how the telephone contact between the industrialist and Ray was established. A search is now on to locate records which will reveal both the industrialist's name and telephone number.

Other information developed by this reporter indicated that "Jerri" spoke with a foreign accent and is probably from one of the Scandinavian countries.



JAMES EARL RAY
alias Eric Galt.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Prison Buddy Describes Suspect**JFK Death 'Inspired' Ray**

DALTON, Ga. (AP) — A convicted murderer who was in prison with the mysterious James Earl Ray, now hunted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said Tuesday he heard Ray say he would be willing to try to collect \$1 million for killing the civil rights leader.

Raymond Curtis, 40, the same age as Ray, is in the Whitfield County jail awaiting action on appeal of a murder conviction. Curtis said he and Ray were prisoners at the Missouri State Penitentiary when John F. Kennedy was assassinated Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, Tex.

"Another boy said, 'Well, there's a million-dollar bounty to get King.' King was running his mouth pretty good then. Ray said, 'If there is a million-dollar bounty on King, I believe I can collect it,'" Curtis said in an interview.

Curtis said he met Ray in 1955 when both were prisoners in Jackson County jail at Kansas City, Mo. He said they shared a cell for seven months.

Then, Curtis said, Ray was transferred to the Leavenworth federal prison to serve a term for forging postal money orders. Curtis said that two weeks later he also was sent to Leavenworth.

Curtis said he and Ray were in the same 231-cell building at Leavenworth and at one point were in adjoining cells.

He said after about six months he was transferred to the Atlanta prison and did not see Ray again until late 1961 or early 1962, when Curtis went to the Missouri State Penitentiary on a 10-year armed robbery sentence.

Ray was there, Curtis said, serving a 20-year armed robbery sentence. Prison records confirm that Curtis and Ray were inmates at the same time.

The two saw each other "almost daily" Curtis said.

It was in the prison yard, Curtis said, that he and Ray saw television news reports of Kennedy's assassination. A few days later, he said, a new prisoner came in and said that a \$1 million bounty had been put on King by a "K-K businessman's association."

Curtis said Ray did not associate freely with other inmates. "You could pick him out of a crowd of 2,000 men in the prison yard. He would be off to himself walking and his mind would be somewhere else."

"The only thing he would make a long conversation out of was when he was planning something and you were a part of it," Curtis said. "Anything he did was thoroughly planned. He never went off half-cocked."

Curtis said he heard Ray mention a King bounty several times. At one point, Curtis said, Ray referred to the Kennedy assassination by saying, "Boy, probably somebody made a nice little penny off of that. I sure wish it was me."

Curtis, who was born in Dalton, said Ray had a soft southern Illinois accent, not a southern drawl.

Curtis, who was convicted in January 1967, of a robbery murder, is awaiting a decision on a new trial motion. FBI agents questioned Curtis Sunday and Monday.

To his knowledge, Curtis said, only one person visited Ray during their prison time together.

Curtis talked to reporters from his individual 4- by 10-foot cell at the Whitfield County jail. A bare light bulb illuminated the cell. He wore a torn white T-shirt, and raspberry colored pajama trousers.

Curtis said Ray made the statements about King to Curtis personally and not in a group.

The FBI said the man they are hunting has a liking for beer and vodka and water. "He liked beer, I know that, because he talked about it," Curtis said.



RAYMOND CURTIS

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

PAGE 1

MONROE MORNING

WORLD

MONROE, LA.

Date: 4-24-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: JACK S. CAMPBELL

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT, JAMES EARL RAY

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SENT BUREAU

157-10673A-180

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Pat Hendrix

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI CHECKING MANY KING CASE 'RUMORS'

Agents Investigating Link Involving N.O.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D. C., told The Times-Picayune Wednesday it has been swamped by "rumor stories" regarding the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King and is checking them all out, including one involving New Orleans.

The man charged with conspiracy and murder in the death of Dr. King was registered in a French Quarter motel from Dec. 17 through 19, of last year, a check by newsmen revealed.

This was confirmed after Louis Lomax, a newsman writing for the North American Newspaper Alliance, reported that the prime suspect, James Earl Ray, met a man Lomax identified only as "a major New Orleans industrialist" at the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres, Dec. 17.

The identity of the "industrialist" or whether he actually exists has not been established.

'NUMEROUS REPORTS'

Contacted regarding the Lomax story, the FBI said it has received numerous reports and it is "investigating every logical query we get."

The FBI did not elaborate further.

Records of the motel here show that Ray stayed there during the Dec. 17-19 period, driving a Mustang automobile with an Alabama license. Ray has been placed on the FBI's list of Most Wanted Men.

(Authorities in Atlanta are holding a white Mustang which witnesses reported seeing leaving the scene of the shooting of Dr. King April 4 in Memphis.)

Lomax reported that FBI investigators are searching for the "industrialist" (whose name is unknown to them) in the light of a recent disclosure by a Mississippi prison inmate, who served

time with Ray, that Ray expressed interest in an offer of \$100,000 by "Southern businessmen" for anyone who would kill Dr. King.

INTERESTED—GARRISON

He also reported that on Feb. 17, 1968, Ray called on an unidentified family and delivered a package to them sent by their daughter in Los Angeles.

District Attorney Jim Garrison said: "We're very interested in the case."

Garrison was questioned about the possibility that criminal acts leading to Dr. King's death took place in New Orleans. He said his office has "no data at present. The federal people have not given us any information."

He added that federal authorities have not refused the information because they have not been asked for it. Said Garrison: "Now that it's getting this specific, we'll be very much interested."

The DA emphasized that he means no criticism of federal investigators. "They have their own problems," he said.

REGISTERED AS GALT

Ray is charged with conspiracy and murder in the King slaying, under the name of Eric Starvo Galt, and the FBI says Ray and Galt are the same person.

Ray registered at the motel in New Orleans under the name of Galt.

Lomax, who is a reporter on Negro affairs for NANA, obtained his information from contacts with the underworld, the news syndicate said, and was able to elicit facts not known to others interested in the case.

His story was datelined Beverly Hills, Calif., and he reported that in a new development in the case, the hunt had become focused on a "mysterious Hollywood blonde" and the New Orleans industrialist.

SENT BUREAU

The story, as written by Lomax, continued:

The FBI let it be known Monday that they were in search of the Hollywood blonde but could not locate her. The report was that she has "disappeared."

BLONDE LOCATED

This reporter located the blonde in question late yesterday afternoon. She is in her mid twenties as reported and, as suspected, was a close confidante of Ray, then known as Eric Starvo Galt and the suspected killer of Dr. King.

Investigation by this reporter revealed that the young woman was a habitue of the Sultan Room and the Rabbit's Foot, bars along sleazy section of Hollywood Blvd. She used several names but was known as "Jerri."

She spent several nights, perhaps weeks, with Ray (Galt) and on the day Ray left Los Angeles on the trip that led him to Memphis he purchased "Jerri" an airplane ticket to a Midwestern city where she is now visiting with her parents. There is some evidence that Ray arranged to visit with the girl and her parents in the Midwestern city "after I take care of some business in the South." This was the way Ray explained his mission to the girl in question. The FBI's search for the girl still continues and there is no indication that the agency is aware of the girl's whereabouts.

"Jerri" is important to the investigation because of her close relationship to Ray while he was in Los Angeles. Ray (Galt) kept this quiet and, on the whole, remained to himself. However, "Jerri" was in his apartment on several protracted occasions and the conviction is that she may well have information about the various contacts Ray was known to have made in the South, particularly in New Orleans.

As important as "Jerri" is to the stalled investigation, she is overshadowed by additional information uncovered by this reporter about Ray's New Orleans contacts. These are the facts

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

PAGE 1

SECTION 1

TIMES PICAYUNE

NEWORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-25-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC

STARVO GALT, JAMES

EARL RAY

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673A-19

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

W. H. Hester

that can now be published:

—On Dec. 16, 1967, Ray was in telephone contact with a major New Orleans industrialist, a man who is considered the economic and political "killer" of the community.

—On Dec. 17, 1967, Ray met in person with this New Orleans industrialist. On the day of the meeting, Ray was registered in a motel in New Orleans. The contact between Ray and the industrialist was made from this motel and the meeting with held in "downtown" New Orleans.

DISCLOSURE BY INMATE

Investigators are attempting to zero in on the "industrialist" in the light of a disclosure from an inmate out of Missouri Prison, where Ray once served time and where Ray expressed interest in an offer of \$100,000 put up by "Southern businessmen" for anyone who would kill Dr. King. This reporter has also been able to establish a timetable for Ray that leads up to a few days to Dr. King's assassination:

—On Valentine's Day, Ray, who was then living in Room 408 of the St. Francis Hotel along Hollywood Blvd., visited

another girl friend — not the blonde — and offered his console TV set for her portable. The girl accepted the swap. Ray loaded her portable set in his car and told the girl he was leaving town.

TV SET FOUND

Although they are tight-lipped about it, the FBI has found the portable TV set, probably in a Birmingham, Ala., rooming house.

—Ray was seen on this same day in the parking lot of the Los Angeles Sears, Roebuck store on Pico Blvd.

—Three days later, Ray called upon a New Orleans family and delivered to them a package sent by their daughter in Los Angeles. The already published record shows that Ray then drove into Alabama, finally, into Memphis.

DIFFICULTY IN TRACING

The FBI is having major difficulty tracing both the elusive blonde and the New Orleans industrialist because the trail leads through denizens of the underworld and semi-underworld who flatly refused to cooperate with law enforcement officials. The name of the New Orleans industrialist is not known.

However, this reporter is aware of how the telephone contact between the industrialist and Ray was established. A search is now on to locate records which will reveal both the industrialist's name and telephone number.

Other information developed by this reporter indicated that "Jerri" spoke with a foreign accent and is probably from one of the Scandinavian countries.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

MEXICO QUESTIONS U.S. CITIZEN IN KING SLAYING

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

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

'Resembles' James Ray, Police Say

Police in northwest Mexico say they are questioning a U.S. citizen who they say resembles James Earl Ray, wanted on a charge of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In Baltimore, however, the arrested man's mother said, "There is just no connection. He doesn't even look like him."

Lt. Roberto Fletcher of the Judicial Police Investigation Office in Caborca, Mexico, said the man carried a U.S. passport issued to Daniel David Kennedy. Fletcher said the man denied any connection with King's assassination

and said he was from Baltimore.

Meanwhile, the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington said it is checking numerous "rumor stories" on the King assassination, including one involving New Orleans.

LOUIS LOMAX, a newsman for the North American Newspaper Alliance, continued to follow Ray's trail between Los Angeles and New Orleans and reported that "it becomes increasingly certain" that a Dec. 16, 1967, phone call Ray made from Houston to New Orleans "will provide the clue" to who paid for the assassination.

In Baltimore, Mrs. Pearl E. Kennedy said an FBI agent told her Mexican authorities were holding her son, Daniel David, because a Mexican police officer said he resembled the man accused of killing the Negro civil rights leader.

"It was impossible for him to do it," said Mrs. Kennedy. "He wouldn't even hurt a fly, let alone kill a human being." Mrs. Kennedy said her 41-

year-old son left Baltimore March 24 to go to Mexico—"he wanted to take off, that's all"—and that he telephoned her from there on Sunday.

"HE WAS SO HAPPY when he talked to me," said Mrs. Kennedy. "He said people were so friendly to him there, because everything was so peaceful and quiet."

Fletcher said earlier that the man he was holding made a telephone call to Baltimore this week asking that money be sent to him in Caborca.

Agents of the Sonora state police were en route to Ca-

borca to return the man to Hermosillo, the state capital, Fletcher said. He added that FBI agents were on their way to Hermosillo from Arizona but in Phoenix, John Mull, in charge of the FBI in Arizona, said he had heard nothing from Mexican authorities and none of his agents was en route to Hermosillo.

SENT BUREAU

Date: 4-25-68
Edition: RED COMET

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC
STARVO GALT, JAMES
EARL RAY

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673A-20

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Callahan

FLETCHER SAID he picked the man up about 6 p. m. yesterday in a cafe in Caborca, about 80 miles southwest of Nogales, Ariz. The officer said he took the man in because of his similarity to published photographs of Ray.

Fletcher said the man crossed the border at Nogales on April 7 and told him he had walked to Caborca.

Police in Ciudad Victoria detained another man briefly 10 days ago because he fitted the general description of Ray. There have been reports from several other Mexican cities of persons spotting men resembling Ray.

The FBI announced April 17 that it was seeking a man identified as Eric Starvo Galt in connection with King's slaying in Memphis April 4.

TWO DAYS LATER, the bureau said a "systematic and exhaustive search" through its fingerprint files revealed that Galt and Ray, a 40-year-old drifter and prison escapee, are the same man.

Ray fled the Missouri Penitentiary April 23, 1967, while serving the seventh year of a 20-year sentence for robbery and auto theft in St. Louis.

The FBI said Eric Starvo Galt was one of a string of aliases used by Ray in frequent brushes with the law beginning when he was 21 years old, several years after he dropped out of high school in the 10th grade.

RAY WAS described as 5 feet, 10, inches tall, 163 to 174 pounds, with brown hair, blue eyes and small scars on his forehead and right palm. He was said to have a habit of tugging on an ear when nervous. His left ear protrudes slightly further than his right ear.

The FBI said acquaintances of Ray called him a loner, who likes beer and vodka, favors country and Western music and speaks with a rural twang.

In Washington, the FBI said it has been swamped with "rumor stories" in the King slaying and is checking them out. The agency had been asked about the revela-

tion yesterday that Ray was registered at the Provincial Motel, 1027 Chartres, from Dec. 17 through 19 last year.

LOMAX REPORTED that Ray met a man Lomax identified only as "a major New Orleans industrialist" at the motel on Dec. 17.

In a new dispatch today from Yuma, Ariz., Lomax reported that the search for the person or persons involved in the assassination has closed in on a mysterious Hollywood blonde who knew Ray better than anyone else and the equally mysterious New Orleans industrialist with whom Ray maintained constant telephone contact.

Although the FBI investigation seems to be stymied, Lomax yesterday wrote, "These facts can be reported as a result of this reporter's efforts".

"JAMES EARL RAY spent considerable time as a resident of the St. Francis hotel along Hollywood Blvd. in Los Angeles. Each evening at approximately 6 o'clock he entered a public telephone booth in the hotel lobby and made long-distance, pre-paid calls.

"The number of this booth is known and an intensive investigation is under way to discover whom Ray was calling.

"According to people who knew Ray, he had a doodling habit and the walls of the phone booth involved reveal that someone had written 'death before dishonor.' This is a slogan often used by Southerners who resent having lost the Civil War."

The writing on the phone booth wall is surrounded by drawings of swastikas and the Maltese Cross. Yet another doodling on the wall reads "Down with Mexicans, Niggers and Martin Luther Coon."

It is believed that Ray, then known as Galt, made the doodlings.

But this could be certified only when the FBI fingerprint experts match the writing on the wall with that on the back

of a TV set known to have belonged to Ray.

THE MYSTERIOUS blonde

friend of Ray has been traced first to Cincinnati and then to Milwaukee. It is certain that Ray purchased her ticket to visit her parents in the Midwest.

It is also certain that she left her parents three weeks ago and moved into a Milwaukee hotel under an assumed name and with a man who said he was her husband. The woman in question is not married.

On April 22, the woman, so far identified only as Jerri, wrote a Los Angeles friend a letter. The letter indicated that Jerri had moved into the motel a few days after King was assassinated and that she planned to return to Los Angeles in two weeks.

The woman is not a suspect in the case. Investigators hope she can give additional details about Ray's activities and contacts.

Lomax is now following Ray's trail from Los Angeles to New Orleans, where Lomax said Ray made contact with a man "who is probably an industrialist and a builder" shortly before last Christmas. Lomax' story continued:

"DURING THE trip Ray made several telephonic efforts to reach his New Orleans contact. The first three efforts resulted in a 'no answer.' On the fourth try, Ray got an answer but the evidence suggests that the party

he wished to contact was not there.

"It is further evident that Ray, during the fourth phone call, made a date to call his contact at 9 o'clock the following evening. This particular call was made from a phone booth near Yuma. At approximately 9 p. m. Dec. 16, Ray contacted his New Orleans ally, from a phone booth in Houston.

"LATE YESTERDAY afternoon, another startling development occurred. The woman known as Jerri, along with her 'husband,' suddenly vanished from the Royal Hotel, 435 Michigan st., Milwaukee.

"Shortly after a long distance call from this reporter, the woman and the man alleged to be her husband suddenly checked out of the motel," Lomax wrote.

"According to the relief clerk who works only on Wednesday, the description of the woman's husband is similar to that of James Earle Ray. This disclosure adds understanding to the FBI press release that they were searching for Ray near the Canadian border which is not too far from Wisconsin.

"Even so, the search for the bankrollers of Ray concentrates on New Orleans and it becomes increasingly certain that Ray's phone call from the phone booth in Houston will provide the clue."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mystery Girl In King Case 'Disappears'

A mysterious Hollywood blonde sought for questioning in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has disappeared, the North American Newspaper Alliance reported today.

Louis Lomax, the NANA writer who yesterday identified the woman as a confidante of James Earle Ray, the man charged with murder in the King slaying, said the blonde known only as "Jerri" vanished from her Milwaukee hotel room after he placed a long-distance telephone call to her.

LOMAX SAID the woman moved into the hotel three weeks ago with a man whose description is similar to that of Ray.

Meanwhile, Mexican authorities today questioned a U.S. citizen they said resembles Ray, the object of a continent-wide search, then released him without pressing any charges.

Daniel David Kennedy of Baltimore, who said he was on a walking tour of the state of Sonora, denied any connection with King's death. An FBI agent, identified only as Mr. Smith, said there was no resemblance between Kennedy and Ray.

LT. ROBERTO FLETCHER of the judicial police in Caborca, Sonora, had taken Kennedy into custody from a Caborca hotel.

Lomax today continued to follow the trail between Los Angeles and New Orleans, the path which he says Ray followed late last year. In his

dent of the St. Francis hotel along Hollywood Blvd. in Los Angeles. Each evening at approximately 6 o'clock he entered a public telephone booth in the hotel lobby and made long-distance, pre-paid calls.

"The number of this booth is known and an intensive investigation is under way to discover whom Ray was calling.

"According to people who knew Ray, he had a doodling habit and the walls of the phone booth involved reveal that someone had written 'death before dishonor.' This is a slogan often used by Southerners who resent having lost the Civil War."

The writing on the phone booth wall is surrounded by drawings of swastikas and the Maltese Cross. Yet another doodling on the wall reads "Down with Mexicans, Niggers and Martin Luther Coon."

It is believed that Ray, then known as Galt, made the doodlings.

But this could be certified only when the FBI fingerprint experts match the writing on the wall with that on the back of a TV set known to have belonged to Ray.

IN WASHINGTON, the FBI said it has been swamped with "rumor stories" about the assassination and is checking them out, including the revelation yesterday that Ray was registered at the Provincial Motel, 1027 Chartres, from Dec. 17 through 19 last year.

Lomax reported yesterday that Ray met a man Lomax identified only as "a major New Orleans industrialist" at the motel Dec. 17.

In the dispatch from Yuma, today, Lomax reported that the search for the person or persons involved in the assassination has closed in on the mystery blonde who knew Ray better than anyone else and the equally mysterious New Orleans industrialist with whom Ray "maintained constant telephone contact."

Although the FBI investigation seems to be stymied, Lomax yesterday wrote, "These facts can be reported as a result of this reporter's efforts."

JAMES EARLE RAY spent considerable time as a resi-

THE MYSTERIOUS blonde friend of Ray has been traced first to Cincinnati and then to Milwaukee. It is certain that Ray purchased her ticket to visit her parents in the Midwest.

It is also certain that she left her parents three weeks ago and moved into a Milwaukee hotel under an assumed name and with a man who said he was her husband. The woman in question is not married.

On April 22, the woman, so far identified only as Jerri, wrote a Los Angeles friend a letter. The letter indicated that Jerri had moved into the motel a few days after King was assassinated and that she planned to return to Los Angeles in two weeks.

The woman is not a suspect in the case. Investigators

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

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-25-68

Edition: RED FLASH

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC

STARVO GALT, JAMES

EARL RAY

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673A-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Callender

hope she can give additional details about Ray's activities and contacts.

Lomax is now following Ray's trail from Los Angeles to New Orleans, where Lomax said Ray made contact with a man "who is probably an industrialist and a builder" shortly before last Christmas. Lomax' story continued:

"DURING THE trip Ray made several telephonic efforts to reach his New Orleans contact. The first three efforts resulted in a 'no answer.' On the fourth try, Ray got an answer but the evidence suggests that the party he wished to contact was not there.

"It is further evident that Ray, during the fourth phone call, made a date to call his contact at 9 o'clock the following evening. This particular call was made from a phone booth near Yuma. At approximately 9 p. m. Dec. 16, Ray contacted his New Orleans ally, from a phone booth in Houston.

"LATE YESTERDAY afternoon, another startling development occurred. The woman known as Jerri, along with her 'husband,' suddenly vanished from the Royal Hotel, 435 Michigan st., Milwaukee.

"Shortly after a long distance call from this reporter, the woman and the man alleged to be her husband suddenly checked out of the motel," Lomax wrote.

"According to the relief clerk who works only on Wednesday, the description of the woman's husband is similar to that of James Earle Ray. This disclosure adds under-

standing to the FBI press release that they were searching for Ray near the Canadian border which is not too far from Wisconsin.

"Even so, the search for the bankrollers of Ray concentrates on New Orleans and it becomes increasingly certain that Ray's phone call from the phone booth in Houston will provide the clue."

In Baltimore, Mrs. Pearl E. Kennedy said an FBI agent told her Mexican authorities were holding her son, Daniel David, because a Mexican police officer said he resembled Ray.

"It was impossible for him to do it," said Mrs. Kennedy. "He wouldn't hurt a fly, let alone kill a human being."

FLETCHER SAID he picked up Kennedy about 6 p.m. yesterday in a cafe in Caborca, about 80 miles southwest of Nogales, Ariz.

The FBI announced April 17 it was seeking a man identified as Eric Starvo Galt in connection with King's slaying in Memphis April 4. Two days later, it said fingerprints revealed Galt and Ray, a 40-year-old drifter and prison escapee are the same man.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Came Here With Brother-- Gretna Woman

A Gretna woman who saw the man sought in the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on his December, 1967, visit to New Orleans described the accused slayer today as a shy, slight man and a big spender.

Mrs. Leroy Lee, the former Marie Stein, first saw James Earl Ray the evening of Dec. 17 when he drove in from Los Angeles with her brother, Charles Stein, 38.

He was introduced to her as Eric Starvo Galt, which the FBI says is the alias Ray frequently used.

In other developments today in the investigation of the assassination of the civil rights leader,

in the case disappeared from her Milwaukee hotel room, the North American Newspaper Alliance reported.

Mexican authorities questioned a U.S. citizen they said resembles Ray, the object of

States-Item First

a continent-wide search, but released him without pressing any charges.

Mrs. Lee, who then lived in the French Quarter, said her brother brought Ray into the apartment and said:

"This is Marie. Say hello to Eric."

She said they arrived the evening of the 17th and were supposed to leave the next

RAY STAYED at the Provincial Motel, 1027 Chartres. Charles Stein stayed with Mrs. Lee.

Describing Ray's actions, Mrs. Lee said:

"He kind of hung his head. He just stood there and didn't say anything."

She described him as "skinny, with light hair. I think his eyes were light colored."

SHOWN A PICTURE of Ray, she said the man she knew as Galt "didn't even look like the guy." However, Charles Stein has reportedly identified Ray and Galt as the same and the FBI has tied them together through fingerprints.

Mrs. Lee said her brother described Ray as "a godsend. He's a swell buy. He won't let me pay for anything."

Charles Stein told his sister he left California with a \$20 bill and still had it when he reached New Orleans.

MRS. LEE said both her brother and their cousin, Marie Martin, work at the Tan Room, a Los Angeles bar. She said Ray agreed to drive Charles to New Orleans if he, Marie and another sister, Rita Rosas, would sign a petition to get Alabama ex-Gov. George C. Wallace on the California

presidential ballot on the American Independent Party ticket.

They agreed and Ray agreed to bring Stein and his two nieces, (Rita Rosas' daughters) ages 7 and 8, to Los Angeles from New Orleans.

Mrs. Lee said she last saw Galt the morning of the 19th when he drove the Mustang to her Burgundy st. apartment and honked the horn. She looked out and said:

"Charlie, there's that guy."

They loaded the car and Charles and Ray picked up the girls from Mrs. Lee's mother, who also lives in the French Quarter. The four then left for Los Angeles.

Mrs. Lee said the mother, Mrs. Clovina Alonzo, has been questioned several times by the FBI, first on Easter Sunday, then again several days ago. (Personnel at the Provincial motel were also questioned on Easter Sunday.)

But Mrs. Lee, the only member of the family besides Charles to actually see Ray here, has never been questioned.

Mrs. Lee is an attractive brunette, with a dark complexion and brown eyes.

Her disappearance of the brother, identified as a writer for the American Newspaper Alliance. Yesterday, Lomax identified the woman as a close confidante of Ray. Today, he said she vanished from her Milwaukee hotel room after he placed a long

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

PAGE 1

States-Item
First
New Orleans, La

Date: 4-25-68
Edition: Final
Author: George A. H. G.
Editor: George A. H. G.
Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT, JAMES EARL RAY
Character: RM
or
Classification: 157-10673A
Submitting Office: N.O., LA.
☐ Being Investigated

157-10673A-22

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

distance telephone call to her. is a slogan often used by
Lomax said the woman moved into the hotel the weeks ago with a man whose description is similar to that of Ray.

Lomax today continued to follow the trail between Los Angeles and New Orleans, the path which he says Ray followed late last year. In his story, datelined Yuma, Ariz., he reported, "It becomes increasingly certain" that Dec. 16, 1967, phone call Ray made from Houston to New Orleans "will provide the clue" as to who paid for King's assassination.

IN WASHINGTON, the FBI said it has been swamped with "rumor stories" about the assassination and is checking them out.

Lomax reported yesterday that Ray met a man in New Orleans industrialist with whom Ray "maintained constant telephone contact."

In the dispatch from Yuma today, Lomax reported on the search for the person or persons involved in the assassination has closed in on the mystery blonde who knew Ray better than anyone else and the equally mysterious New Orleans industrialist with whom Ray "maintained constant telephone contact."

Although the FBI investigation seems to be stymied, Lomax yesterday wrote, "These facts can be reported as a result of this reporter's efforts":

"JAMES EARL RAY spent considerable time as a resident of the St. Francis hotel along Hollywood Blvd. in Los Angeles. Each evening at approximately 6 o'clock he entered a public telephone booth in the hotel lobby and made long-distance, pre-paid calls.

"The number of this booth is known and an intensive investigation is under way to discover whom Ray was calling.

"According to people who knew Ray, he had a doodling habit and the walls of the phone booth involved revealed that someone had written 'death before dishonor.' This

is a slogan often used by Southerners who resent having the Civil War."

The writing on the phone booth wall is surrounded by drawings of swastikas and a Maltese Cross. Yet another doodling on the wall reads "Down with Mexican

Niggers and Martin Luther King."

It is believed that Ray, then known as Galt, made the doodlings.

But this could be certified only when the FBI fingerprint experts match the writing on the wall with that on the back of a TV set known to have belonged to Ray.

THE MYSTERIOUS blonde friend of Ray has been traced first to Cincinnati and then to Milwaukee. It is certain that Ray purchased her ticket to visit her parents in the Midwest.

It is also certain that she left her parents three weeks ago and moved into a Milwaukee hotel under an assumed name and with a man who said he was her husband. The woman in question is not married.

On April 22, the woman wrote a Los Angeles friend a letter. The letter indicated that Jerri had moved into the motel a few days after King was assassinated and that she planned to return to Los Angeles in two weeks.

The woman is not a suspect in the case. Investigators hope she can give additional details about Ray's activities and contacts.

Lomax said Ray made contact with a man "who is probably an industrialist and a builder" in New Orleans shortly before last Christmas. Lomax' story continued:

"DURING THE trip Ray made several telephonic efforts to reach his New Orleans contact. The first three efforts resulted in a 'no answer.' On the fourth try, Ray got an answer but the evidence suggests that the party he wished to contact was not there.

"It is further evident that Ray, during the fourth phone call, made a date to call his contact at 9 o'clock the fol-

lowing evening. This particular call was made from a phone booth near Yuma. At approximately 9 p. m. D. Ray contacted his New Orleans ally, from a phone booth in Houston.

LATE YESTERDAY afternoon, another startling development occurred. The woman known as Jerri, along with her 'husband,' suddenly vanished from the Royal Hotel, 435 Michigan st., Milwaukee.

"Shortly after a long distance call from this reporter, the woman and the man alleged to be her husband suddenly checked out of the motel," Lomax wrote.

"According to the relief clerk who works only on Wednesday, the description of the woman's husband is similar to that of James Earle Ray. This disclosure adds understanding to the FBI press release that they were searching for Ray near the Canadian border which is not too far from Wisconsin.

"Even so, the search for the bankrollers of Ray concentrates on New Orleans and it becomes increasingly certain that Ray's phone call from the phone booth in Houston will provide the clue."

The American questioned by Mexican authorities today was Daniel David Kennedy of Baltimore, who said he was on a walking tour of the state when he learned of Ray's death. Kennedy said there was no resemblance between Kennedy and Ray.

Lt. Roberto Fletcher of the judicial police in Caborca, Sonora, had taken Kennedy into custody from a Caborca hotel.

In Baltimore, Mrs. Pearl E. Kennedy said an FBI agent told her Mexican authorities were holding her son, Daniel David, because a Mexican police officer said he resembled Ray.

"It was impossible for him to do it," said Mrs. Kennedy. "He wouldn't hurt a fly, let alone kill a human being."

FLETCHER SAID he picked up Kennedy about 6 p.m. yesterday in a cafe in Caborca, about 80 miles southwest of Yuma, Ariz.

The FBI announced April 17 it was seeking a man identified as Eric Starvo Galt in connection with King's slaying in Memphis April 4. Two days later, it said fingerprints revealed Galt and Ray, a 40-year-old drifter and prison escapee are the same man.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Suspect Called 'Shy, Thin, a Spender'

A Gretna woman who saw the man accused of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has described James Earl Ray as shy, thin and a big spender.

Mrs. Leroy Lee, the sister of Charles Stein of Los Angeles, who hitched a ride to New Orleans with Ray (alias Eric Starvo Galt) last year, said she first saw Ray on Dec. 17, 1967.

When introduced, Ray was using the name of Galt. Mrs. Lee said that she was living on Burgundy st. at the time she met him.

Galt drove Stein to her apartment and she was introduced to him as "Eric."

"He just kinda hung his head. He just stood there and didn't say anything."

MRS. LEE SAID he was "skinny, with light hair. I'm positive he had light hair and I think his eyes were light."

Her brother told her that getting a ride from California with Ray was "a Godsend," adding that Ray was "a swell guy. He wouldn't let me pay for anything. I left with \$20 and I got here with \$20." Mrs. Lee said her brother told her.

Ray stayed at the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres, while Stein stayed with Mrs. Lee on Burgundy.

Ray had planned to leave the next day, Dec. 18, but Stein told his sister that Ray was going to "have to stay another day on business."

Ray checked out of the Provincial Motel on Dec. 19.

THE ACCUSED assassin took Stein and two of his nieces back to Los Angeles in his white Mustang. The two girls, about 7 and 8, had been visiting with Stein's mother, Mrs. Clovina Alanzo, who lives in the French Quarter. The children are the daughters of Stein's sister, Mrs. Rita Rosas of Los Angeles.

Mrs. Lee said she last saw Ray when he drove his white Mustang up in front of her house and honked the horn. "I looked out and said, 'Charlie, there's that guy.'"

They loaded the car, picked up the children from Mrs. Alanzo's and left, she said.

Mrs. Alanzo has been contacted several times by the FBI, the first coming on Easter Sunday, the same day agents questioned employees of the motel where Ray stayed.

MRS. LEE, the only member of the family in New Orleans who saw Ray, has not been contacted by the FBI.

Louis Lomax, a writer for the North American Newspaper Alliance, has said that a New Orleans industrialist financed Ray in the assassination of Dr. King.

Lomax wrote yesterday that his investigation indicates that a "Dec. 16, 1967, phone call Ray made from Houston to New Orleans will provide the clue as to who paid for King's assassination."

A former prison buddy of Ray's has been quoted as saying that Ray told him he was offered a huge sum to kill Dr. King.

Galt Contradictions Played Down by FBI

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI officials are quietly trying to play down contradictory descriptions of the appearance and habits of James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, the elusive escaped convict charged with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The discrepancies have fueled speculation that perhaps Ray and Galt actually are two persons, or that two or more persons used the name Galt.

No official statement has been issued to rebut this theory. However, as the massive search for King's killer entered its fourth week, FBI sources, who had refused to discuss any aspect of the investigation insisted, though not for attribution, that Ray and Galt are the same person.

"We know there's only one person involved here," said one official. "We've got his fingerprints and we know who he is."

Although the FBI now insists the man it seeks is Ray, it never has amended a conspiracy complaint against Galt—charging that Galt had conspired with "an individual he alleged to be his brother" to violate King's civil rights—to change the name to Ray.

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

PAGE 42

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-26-68

Edition: RED FLASH

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT, JAMES EARL RAY

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 26 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

157-10673A-24

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Confusion About Ray Increases

By LOUIS LOMAX

(©, 1968, North American Newspaper Alliance)

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.

—An FBI search of the 1966 white Mustang driven by James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, the alleged slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., unearthed Green Stamps that were issued as a result of a purchase at a Birmingham, Ala., gas station in mid-February of 1968.

This reporter learned of the Green Stamps while here in San Antonio and was able to confirm the finding by telephone.

The Birmingham gas station owner said the stamps were issued at his station, and he also identified a picture of Ray as that of the

(NANA writer Louis Lomax continues to investigate the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for the States-Item and other NANA subscribers. This is one of a series of articles his efforts have produced.)

man involved in the transaction. The state owner recalls the transaction because the white Mustang had a clutch problem.

FBI REPORTS consistently place Ray in Los Angeles as a student at dancing and bartending schools at the time of the gas station transaction. However, these reports are boldly challenged by the statement of the Birmingham gas

station owner.

This is but one of a series of disturbing contradictions and apparent FBI distortions discovered during this reporter's

four-day retracing of Ray's December, 1967, automobile trip from Los Angeles to New Orleans. Ray made the trip on Dec. 15 with the Hollywood songwriter Charles Stein as a driving companion. Stein is making the drive with this reporter.

THE FBI REPORTS indicate that cigarette butts and ashes were found in the ash tray and on the floor of the white Mustang when it was found in Atlanta. I have been on the road with Stein, Ray's December driving companion, for two days and he distinctly recalls that Ray did not smoke.

The FBI reports indicate that Ray was in Los Angeles until March 27; he is reported to have bought the murder weapon in Birmingham on March 30. This reporter disclosed last week that Ray delivered a package to the New Orleans family of one of his Hollywood girl friends during his last week there.

THE SEQUENCE of events, then, is clearly impossible. The FBI interviewed the family following my disclosure of the incident and confirmed that Ray had delivered the package. The trip from Los Angeles to Birmingham via New Orleans is in excess of 2,500 miles. Ray could not have driven that route, particularly in a Mustang, in the short period between March 27 and March 30.

There is an outside chance that the trip could have been accomplished if Ray had a driving companion as he did in December. There have been no indications that he did have a companion.

These contradictions and confusions are compounded by others that have occurred during the investigation into the slaying of Dr. King. The FBI issued a report that Ray

had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans during a time the agency's other reports and records showed that Ray was in prison.

THE FBI HAS been forced to admit that the fingerprints, circulated during the early days of the manhunt, were not those of Ray. The blame for this, according to the FBI, must be assumed by the warden of the Missouri State Penitentiary. The warden, the FBI claimed, issued mistaken fingerprints on Ray when the convict escaped from prison in April, 1967.

This means two things: (1) Had Ray been arrested after his escape from prison, he would not have been held by the local arresting officers as a fugitive; (2) had Ray been arrested immediately after the slaying of Dr. King the mistaken fingerprints would have confused the investigation and possibly would have led to his release.

THE SIGNIFICANT fact is that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation had mistaken fingerprints of Ray up until last Wednesday. Had Ray been arrested in Atlanta, then, on the day he parked the white Mustang, the Georgia authorities would have been attempting to identify him by matching his fingerprints against a set of

prints that belong to somebody else.

There were the incredible omissions that have been discovered during this reporter's trip back into the life and activities of Ray. Apparently it never occurred to the FBI to retrace Ray's trip with Stein as this reporter is doing in search of the phone booth from which Ray made hasty calls to someone in New Orleans.

Apparently it also did not occur to the FBI to investigate the possibility that Ray was in telephone contact with New Orleans while he was still in Los Angeles. This reporter located the phone booth used by Ray in the lobby of the St.

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

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-29-68

Edition: RED COMET

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT, JAMES EARL RAY

Character: PM

SENT BUREAU

Classification: 157-10673A

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673A-25

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Callender

Francis Hotel last Wednesday. The walls of the booth were covered with graffiti. One line read "Down with Mexicans, niggers, and Martin Luther Coon."

THE FATAL oversight was the FBI's failure to uncover the console television set Ray gave to a Hollywood girl friend in return for her portable TV set. The swap occurred around Valentine's Day—February 14—and Ray told the girl he was leaving town.

This reporter found both the girl friend and the television set. The back of the television set contained handwriting believed to be that of Ray and can be matched against the graffiti on the walls of the telephone booth.

A clear reading of this makes it all but certain that Ray took three trips to New Orleans between Dec. 15 and the end of March. There was the trip of Dec. 15, which Stein and I are now retracing; there was a second trip that began on Valentine's Day. Finally there was the trip that began a few days before the end of March and culminated in the death of Dr. King.

THE VALENTINE'S DAY trip explains the Green Stamp transaction in the middle of February. It also explains the mysterious phone call to the Alabama Department of Motor Vehicles requesting that a duplicate of "Galt's" driver's license be sent to a Birmingham boarding house.

The license was mailed on March 1, the day before Ray is alleged to have graduated from a Los Angeles dancing school. It is clear that Ray "dropped out" from the school for several days to make the second trip.

The one unassailable fact is that Ray did make these trips. And that he was in telephone contact with someone in New Orleans. Ray told Stein that his contact was an important person—a contractor and builder.

The key, then, lies in locating the phone booth along the highway from which these calls were made. Telephone company officials believe they can trace the calls if the booth can be located.

Charles Stein remembers graphically the gas station from which the calls were made. We are now in the general area of the station. Our hope is to locate these phone booths before completing the journey.

was responsible for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., according to U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark.

Clark made the statement when questioned by newsmen about a possible conspiracy behind the King death.

"We could make a long, long list— as long as the imagination of man runneth— of people who could possibly be involved in this," Clark said, "but there's no significant evidence that it does beyond the single actor."

The attorney general made no mention by name of James Earl Ray, who has been charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with conspiracy in the April 4 murder of King.

Clark did say he still feels sure an arrest will be made soon.

"I was hopeful an arrest would be obtained before now," he said. "The individual being sought is a very difficult situation and it will be difficult for him to avoid arrest."

Clark was in Atlanta over the weekend to speak at an Emory University Law Day luncheon.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Saw Ray Here in 1967, Gretna Woman Reports

Says Fugitive Was with Her Brother

A Gretna woman said Thursday that she saw James Earle Ray, the man sought in the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., during his December, 1967, visit to New Orleans.

She described the accused man as a shy, slight man and a big spender.

The woman is Mrs. Leroy Lee, the former Marie Stein, who said she first saw Ray the evening of Dec. 17 when he arrived after driving from Los Angeles with her brother, Charles Stein, 38.

Ray was introduced to her as Eric Starvo Galt, which the Federal Bureau of Investigation says is an alias that Ray used frequently.

Mrs. Lee, then living in the French Quarter, said her brother brought Ray into the apartment and said:

"This is Marie. Say hello to Eric."

In other developments Thursday, the mysterious Hollywood blonde sought for questioning in the case disappeared from a Milwaukee hotel room, according to the North American Newspaper Alliance, and Mexican authorities questioned and then released a U. S. citizen they said resembled Ray.

DELAYED DEPARTURE

Mrs. Lee said that Ray and her brother arrived on Dec. 17 and were to leave the next day, but stayed another day because of what Ray called "business."

Ray stayed at the Provincial Motel, 1027 Chartres, and Stein stayed with Mrs. Lee. In describing Ray's actions, she said:

"He kind of hung his head. He just stood there and didn't say anything." She said he was "skinny, with light hair. I think his eyes were light colored."

'PAID FOR EVERYTHING'

Stein has reportedly identified Ray and Galt as the same, and the FBI had connected them through fingerprints.

Mrs. Lee said her brother said Ray was a "godsend. He's a swell guy. He won't let me pay for anything." Stein had told his sister that he left California with a \$20 bill and still had it when he arrived here.

Mrs. Lee said both her brother and their cousin, Marie Martin, work at the Sultan Room, a Los Angeles bar. She said that Ray agreed to drive Stein to New Orleans if he, Marie, and another sister, Rita Rosas, would sign a petition to get Alabama ex-Gov. George C. Wallace on the California presidential ballot on the American Independent Party ticket.

They agreed and Ray agreed to bring Stein and his two nieces, Rita Rosas' two young daughters, to Los Angeles from New Orleans, said Mrs. Lee.

LEFT ON DEC. 19

She said she last saw Ray on Dec. 19 when he drove his Mustang to her Burgundy st. apartment and honked the horn. She looked out and said: "Charlie, there's that guy."

They loaded the car and Stein and Ray picked up the girls from Mrs. Lee's mother, and the four left for Los Angeles.

Mrs. Lee said the mother has been questioned by the FBI several times, first on Easter Sunday, then again several days ago. Personnel at the Provincial Motel were also questioned on Easter Sunday.

The disappearance of the Hollywood blonde, who has been identified only as "Jerri," was reported by Louis Lomax, a writer for the North American Newspaper Alliance.

Lomax identified her as a confidante of Ray in a story on Wednesday, and on Thursday said she vanished from

her Milwaukee hotel room after he placed a long distance telephone call to her.

He said she had moved into the hotel three weeks ago with

a man whose description is similar to that of Ray.

FOLLOWING TRAIL

Lomax on Tuesday was following the trail between Los Angeles and New Orleans, the path he says Ray followed last year.

His story was datelined Yuma, Ariz., and he wrote: "It becomes increasingly certain" that a Dec. 16, 1967 telephone call Ray made from Houston to New Orleans "will provide the clue" as to who paid for King's assassination.

In his first report Wednesday, he said Ray met a man here Lomax identified only as "a major New Orleans industrialist" at the local motel.

Lomax reported that the search has closed in on the mystery blonde and the New Orleans industrialist. He wrote:

"James Earl Ray spent considerable time as a resident of the St. Francis Hotel along Hollywood blvd. in Los Angeles. Each evening at approximately 6 o'clock he entered a public telephone booth in the hotel lobby and made long distance pre-paid calls.

"The number of the booth is known and an intensive investigation is under way to discover whom Ray was calling.

"According to people who knew Ray, he had a doodling habit and the walls of the phone booth reveal that someone had written 'death before dishonor.' This is a slogan often used by Southerners who resent having lost the Civil War."

DRAWINGS FOUND

He continued that the writing on the phone booth wall is surrounded by drawings of swastikas and the Maltese Cross. Another doodling on the wall reads,

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

PAGE 1

SECTION 1

TIMES PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-26-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT, JAMES

EARL RAY

Character: RM

or

Classification: I57-

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 6 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

157-106734-26

"Down with Mexicans, Niggers and Martin Luther Coon."

Lomax reported that it is believed that Ray, then known as Galt, made the doodlings."

He said this could be certified only when the FBI fingerprint experts match the writing on the wall with that on the back of a TV set known to have belonged to Ray.

The blonde friend of Ray was traced first to Cincinnati and then to Milwaukee. Lomax said it is certain that Ray bought her ticket to visit her parents in the Midwest. He said it is also certain she left her parents three weeks ago and moved into a Milwaukee hotel under an assumed name and with a man who said he was her husband. The woman is not married, he wrote.

On April 22, Lomax's story continued, the woman wrote to a friend in Los Angeles, indicating that she had moved into the hotel a few days after King was assassinated and that she planned to return to Los Angeles in two weeks.

NOT SUSPECT

The woman is not a suspect. Investigators hope she can give additional details about Ray's activities and contacts.

Concerning Ray's trip to New Orleans last December (Lomax said the man he contacted "is probably an industrialist and a builder") his story continued:

During the trip Ray made several telephonic efforts to reach his New Orleans contact. The first three efforts resulted in a 'no answer.' on the fourth try, Ray got an answer but the evidence suggests that the party he wished to contact was not there.

"It is further evident that Ray, during the fourth phone call, made a date to call his contact at 9 o'clock the following evening. This particular call was made from a phone booth near Yuma. At approximately 9 p. m., Dec. 16, Ray contacted his New Orleans ally, from a phone booth in Houston.

"Late yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon, another startling development occurred. The woman known as Jerri, along with her

husband,' suddenly vanished from the Royal Hotel, 435 Michigan st., Milwaukee.

SIMILAR DESCRIPTION

"Shortly after a long distance call from this reporter, the woman and the man alleged to

be her husband checked out of the motel.

"According to the relief clerk who works only on Wednesday, the description of the woman's husband is similar to that of James Earle Ray. This disclosure adds understanding to the FBI press release that they were searching for Ray near the Canadian border which is not too far from Wisconsin.

"Even so, the search for the bankrollers of Ray concentrates on New Orleans and it becomes increasingly certain that Ray's phone call from the phone booth in Houston will provide the clue."

The American arrested by Mexican officials because they thought he resembled pictures of the man wanted in the slaying of Dr. King was released Thursday after questioning.

Daniel David Kennedy, 41, of Baltimore, had nothing but praise for Mexicans upon his release.

According to police in Hermosillo, an FBI agent identified only as Mr. Smith said Kennedy did not look like James Earl Ray, the fugitive wanted on charges of slaying King.

DETAINED 24 HOURS

He had been detained 24 hours after police in nearby Caborca arrested him.

"I guess anyone else would be mad, but I can't be angry with these people," Kennedy said. "They thought I looked like James Ray and they were only doing their duty."

Kennedy arrived in Mexico March 27 and was hiking to Baja California when he was arrested about 80 miles south of the border.

"I just wanted to get out by

myself and think," he said.

"I just hope Americans don't think Mexico is a bad place to go after this. I've never met people like the ones who have given me their homes these past few weeks."

After police finished questioning Kennedy they took him to a restaurant for breakfast and then drove him back to Caborca.

"I've got a lot of friends in Caborca," he commented. "I want them to know I'm not the man who killed Martin Luther King. I don't know what kind of a man that would be."

"I'm just sorry the police had to waste their time on me instead of continuing their search for the real killer."

In Jefferson City, Mo., Warden Harold R. Swenson of the Missouri Penitentiary said Thursday that an erroneous set of fingerprints was circulated briefly a year ago when Ray escaped from confinement there.

Swenson said the mistake was discovered immediately by the Kansas City Police Department and the correct prints were promptly mailed to all those points that had received the original wanted poster issued on Ray.

The mistake "has had no effect" on the search for Ray, claimed Swenson.

In Atlanta, Ga., however, Maj. Barney Ragsdale, director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, disagreed with Swenson, claiming that his office had never received the correct prints.

Atlanta Detective Supt. Clinton Chafin said his office did not get the revised flier either, and

the same negative report came from state police Georgia and Alabama.

"They never sent us one," said Ragsdale. "If they had, we would have corrected it."

Ragsdale went so far as to say that there was a possibility that Ray might have been arrested at one time and released because of incorrect identity by officers using the wrong flier.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Phone Booth Pinpointed in Search for Ray

(This is the fifth of a series of reports by Louis Lomax, Negro reporter, who has been retracing the route of James Earl Ray and Hollywood songwriter Charles Stein from Los Angeles to New Orleans, seeking clues to Ray's action.)

By LOUIS E. LOMAX

(©, 1968, North America Alliance)

SAN ANTONIO — The station phone booth from which James Earl Ray, alleged slayer of Martin Luther King, talked long distance with his New Orleans contact on the night of Dec. 16, 1967, has been located.

The call was one of two telephone contacts Ray made that night with the New Orleans man who is believed to be the "cashman" behind Ray, then known as Eric Starvo Galt.

CHARLES STEIN, the Hollywood songwriter who made the Dec. 15 trip with Ray, and this reporter located the gas station at about 1 a.m. Identification of the phone booth climaxed a 24-hour search in the area.

Telephone company officials in Texas are now attempting to locate records that will show precisely whom Ray was calling. From conversations between Ray and Stein as they drove from Los Angeles to New Orleans, it has been established that Ray said his contact was a New Orleans industrialist.

The exact location of the phone booth is being withheld until telephone company

officials can locate the records.

Before leaving Los Angeles, Stein gave me a detailed description of the gas stations where the two phone calls were made. The first

was placed at approximately 8 p.m. Dec. 16 in a relatively small town. Highway 90 ran through the town. Stein recalled that Ray drove into the station, on the right hand side of the road.

RAY, ACCORDING to Stein, got out of the car, told the attendant that he did not want gas, and raced to the booth left of the station and out of Stein's view. Stein recalled the station had a long roof that jutted out from the main building to the gas pump area. He said the jutting roof area was flooded with continuous light.

The first 24 hours of the search proved fruitless because of the manner in which Stein's memory works. He never wears a watch and has great difficulty recalling if an event occurred in the morning or in the afternoon. He knew, for example, that he left Los Angeles on Friday, Dec. 15, and arrived in New Orleans on Sunday, the 17th, but he could not recall the approximate departure or arrival times.

Cross checks with Stein's family in Los Angeles establish that he and Ray departed at about noon on Dec. 15. A check with Stein's mother in New Orleans disclosed that he and Ray arrived at her home shortly after noon on Sunday.

After having plotted the trip as carried out with the two men taking turns at the wheel, we determined approximately where they would have been at 9 p.m. Dec. 16, the night the two calls were placed.

THIS TIMETABLE pointed to the Houston area. Only after a search of that area failed

to locate the gas stations involved did Stein begin to completely relive the trip. He remembered that after the last phone call, he, Stein, took over the driving and immediately hit a road under construction.

After three hours of driving and covering more than 125 miles, we found the stretch of highway. The location of the "bump road" suggested that our original calculations were off by 500 miles.

Then Stein's memory produced these facts: he and Ray drove through a snowstorm on their first night out, Dec. 15. Before, they detoured south deeper into New Mexico to get out of the storm.

The two men ate breakfast at Las Cruces, N. M., early on the morning of Dec. 16. They then drove into El Paso, Tex., 30 miles, where Ray bought a new tire for the white Mustang. The tire was not put on the car there. Ray drove on into San Antonio and skidded off the icy road. Stein took the wheel and drove to the next small town, where they pulled into a small gas station. Ray had the new tire put on, reasoning that his skid had been caused by a smooth tire.

A CHECK WITH the weather bureau confirmed the snow and the icy roads. Stein's breakfast in Las Cruces and the weather factors, it became clear that the phone calls were made somewhere after El Paso rather than between San Antonio and Houston as first thought.

Stein, struggling to recall details of a five-month-old trip that meant nothing to him at the time, remembered that Ray was short on gas as he drove through a small town. As they passed the last gas station in the town, Ray remarked that the station was across the road, which had a divider, and that he would get gas at the next station, which he guessed would be a few miles down the highway. Ray drove about three miles without coming on a gas station. Stein recalled this clearly.

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

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-30-68
Edition: RED COMET
Author:
Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY
Title: MURKIN; ERIC STARVO GALT, JAMES EARL RAY
Character: RM
or
Classification: 157-
Submitting Office: N.O., LA.
☐ Being Investigated

157-10613A-27

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 30 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Ch. Healy

cause once they returned to the highway they ~~indeed~~ did come upon a gas station about a mile from where Ray made the U-turn back to the small town.

STEIN AND I found the town. The road divider is there and we bought our gas at the same Phillips 66 station where Ray bought his.

From these fixed points it was just a matter of time before Stein, who was driving my rented car at the time, slammed on the brakes and then pulled into a gas station.

"This," he shouted, "is it. Thank you, Jesus!"

The station has the jugged roof. The lights are continuous. And as I sat in the car, as Stein had done with Ray in December, and watched Stein race around the left side of the station to the hidden phone booth, I became convinced that indeed this was the place.

The location of the booth is so uncommon and an abutment which makes it all but invisible even from the front of the gas station are so unique, even in Texas, the odds are a million to one against the existence of two such phone booths.

But only Stein's identification of the booth matters. A citizen of the semi-underworld, Stein is a ruthlessly honest man when he wishes to be. Stein's only reward, or payment, for taking the trip along with me would be to help provide critical information that ~~lead to~~ those involved in the death of Martin Luther King.