

Brown, James W.

Mo Pen

SA Barrett
Saucier

XVII- 19

In MSP from 3/60 to 2/64. Met Ray through Valenti, who was in an robbery. Valenti said to have robbed Oil Company, with Ray in Atlanta. Ray and Valenti good friends. Ray made killing King comment to Valenti, talk of JFK, bounty.

Buckley, Glen Jefferson
inmate

Mo Pen

SA Homesley

X-137 Says he served time with "Jimmy" Ray and could find him. Ray hated Negroes. Ray spoke of Jackson, Miss.

Buckley rec'd information on Ray's escape from (FNU) Ous or Orr (ph), named Howard Nunn (ph) and Edward McClellan (ph) as being assigned to C-hall with Ray. Named Larry Ray as tender or C-hall.

Burns, Robert

Mo Pen

XI-26

Identified by former guard as
leader of prison protection organi-
zation.

Burns, Robert
#75811

Mo Pen

SA Weaver

XI-24

Refused to give any info.

Carpenter, Jerome (NMN)
#0304

Mo Pen

SA Ayers

X-27

Knew Ray but not well. Carpenter also knew Jerry Ray (brother) with whom Carpenter attended school in Quincy, Illinois. When Carpenter was 15, his (Carpenter's) mother ran away with Jerry Ray (believed to be James' father) and went to St. Louis, separated 2 years ago.

Knew Jimmy Carpenter who was released.

Did not know James Earl Ray in Quincy.

Craig, FNU

Mo Pen

XVII- 25

An informant said that Craig told him of Cooley's organization; arranged to give him membership card and settled one of informant's disputes (all in Cooley's organization). Ray ~~seemed~~ to work as delivery man with Craig.

Craig, Carl M.

Mo Pen

SA Mitchell

X1-15

Knew Ray but not well. Recalls
Ray always complained of stomach
trouble.

Curtis, Raymond

Missouri Penn

VI-112 in Penn with Ray - talked to Newspapers.

CURTIS, Raymond

Penn

A
7/5/68

Wrote 2nd letter (undated) to Charles Sanders of Ebony relating his friendship with Ray since 1954, and how Ray had discussed killing King, a job to be financed by the klan in Mississippi.

CURTIS, Raymond

Penn.


SA Millard
Henry

A
7/5/68

He and Ray participated in a burglary together in Joliet, Illinois in 1954. Curtis denied any actual participation in the planning or knowledge of a conspiracy.

Curtis drew 2 maps indicating the towns where kings frequented and could be stalked.

He did know of a man in a houseboat in Vicksburg on the river that would take Ray to New Orleans after the killing.

 CURTIS, Raymond

Penn.

SA Henry

A
7/5/68
p. 6

Curtis was reinterviewed; he showed the FBI the 20 page story he has written. The first 5 of 6 pages is Curtis' life of crime. The rest is the same as the interview in April. They pulled a burglary together in Quincey, Illinois in 1954. Later they were in prison together. After JFK was killed, Ray stated that King was probably next. In jail was FNU Willett (see Willey) from Vicksburg who talked of klan support for King's murder. Ray suggested he would kill King, and that he would leave

2-2 TIS, Raymond (continued) pg. 2 of 2 pages

a false gun and trail. That
he would go to Vicksburg, find
Willett, and go to New Orleans
or Canada.

CURTIS, Raymond

Penn.

A
7/8/68
p. 3

1st letter from him to
Johnson of Ebony Magazine 5/30/68
trying to sell story.

CURTIS, Raymond

Penn.

A
7/8/68
p. 5

2nd letter to Ebony dated 6/22/68
stating his friendship with Ray
in prison and the plans, with
kkk, to kill King.

CURTIS, Raymond

Penn.

A
7/8/68
p. 7

In Jackson County Jail, Kansas
City, Mo. with Ray & Ray's co-
defendant on check charge from
3/55 - 7/55, then all went to
Leavenworth.

CURTIS, Raymond

Penn.

A
7/8/68
p. 9

Curtis described his time in prison with Ray, the discussion of the bounty on JFK's head and klan money supporting King's murder. Said Ray talked of killing King. Last seen in 1966.

CURTIS, Raymond

Penn

A
7/22/68

Mrs. Nell Burnett denied knowing Curtis, or knowing anything about transporting criminals in her boat along the Miss. River.

Curtis, Raymond L Mo Pen SA Berry

XVI-D-44 With Ray in Jackson Co. Jail, from 3/55
to 7/55. Then all went to Leavenworth.

Curtis, Raymond L.

Mo. Pen

SA Henry

XVI-D-47 With Ray 1955-Jackson Co. Jail Ray kept in spending money by someone Curtis never saw. Also had friend big in ~~Hal~~en syndicate. Played cards with Ray. Ray talked of underworld Id connections.

Together in MSP 62-66. talked of bounty on Kings' head after JFK died. Talked of King, KKK money etc. Talked of going abroad after killing.

Curtis, Raymond Louis

Mo Penn

X-95

Pertinent prison data.

Curtis, Raymond Lewis

Mo Penn

X-74

Cell assignments 5/15/62 -
6/27/66

Dickson, James R.
former capt. of guards

Mo Pen

SA Ayers

XI-26

Resigned 5/31/68, now running a night club. Recalls Ray and his "hide out" attempt in prison. Says if Ray had drugs, they would have come from Neal Aeby, a big supplier. Says Robert Burns is leader of a prison protection organization, which put pressure on inmates and their relatives. Another drug peddler is Jimmy V. Bradley.

Dowda, Lewis Raymond

Mo Pen

SA Flick, Shea
Beverstein

XVI D-29

Knew Ray at MSP for 3 yrs. Released 12/23/66.
was chief cook.

Said Ray was loner; had rash on head; burn
scar on forearm. Talked of life in St.
Louis; of girlfriend at Gaslight; wore
~~xxx~~ ring made in prisons on left hand.
In 1966, prison riot where 3 Negroes killed.
Ray possibly involved. Ray definitely hated
hated Negroes. Said several times if price
were right, he would kill King.
Ray tried and failed at escape while Dowda
there.
Never mentioned dancing. Liked Western music.
Sold dope in jail. Used it, costing Ray \$35-40
a week. Took heroine and amphetamines. Never

(continued)

lacked money.

Went to California in 11/67. Did not see Ray or knew he escaped.

Dowda, Lewis Raymond
#08207

Mo Penn

X-88

Pertinent prison data.

Dowda, (FNU)
inmate

Mo Penn

X-22 Said to be Ray's friend, a racist, a dope peddler with Ray in prison. Called on former prison chef; later called twice from Calif for maney. Father owns Mustang, runs cafe in Atlanta or Montgomery.

Dowda, "Whitey"

Mo Penn

X-13

Said to have known Ray in prison kitchen.
Had beers with 2 guards.

Drake, Carl
ex-con

Mo Pen

X-24 Said to have been friendly with Ray.

Drake, Carl

Mo Pen

Xl-13

Said to be closely connected with
Ray in pushing drugs.

Drake, Carl Benton
#00189

Mo Penn

X-90

Pertinent prison data
Discharged 6/1/65

Ealey, Chester

Mo Pen

XVII- 18

J. Brown says above heard Ray's
remark re killing King and getting
\$10,000.

Eden, "Nonnie"

Mo Pen

XVII- 17

J. Brown says friend of Rays

- 18

J. Brown says above heard Ray's
remark about killing King and
getting \$10,000.

Edmondson, George Ben
Inmate

Mopen

SA Ayers

X-47 Said Ray was associate of Ray Curtis with whom Edmondson had served time in Springfield, Mo., jail and Mo. Pen. Said Edmondson's wife did not know Ray.

Said he (Edmondson) had obtained passport in Montreal under ~~his~~ name of Alexander Pettes Bosmann. Described procedure for getting Canadian passport. Characterized it as "very easy."

Garcia, Mateo Lopez
as Lopez, Mateo Garcia

Mo Penn

X-57

Ray often mentioned him to cellmate
as running a small smuggling operation
and living near Campeche, Mexico.

Goodin, Benjamin

Mo Penn

XVI-D-32

civilian in charge
Dowda says above was ~~civilian in charge~~
of kitchens. Friendly with Ray. Disclosed
hiding place of Ray's in attempted escape
1966.

Goodin, Ben
Former chef

Mo Penn

SA Ayers

X-22

Was Ray's boss for 6 yrs and knew him well. Ray was good friend of one Dowda (bland), who hated Negroes. About yr ago, Dowda came to Jefferson City with wife and stopped to see Goodin. Dowda driving VW but said father had Mustang and operated chicken-fry cafe in Atlanta or Montgomery. Later Dowda called twice from Calif asking for maney Goodin refused. Goodin said we thought Ray and Dowda peddled dope in pen.

Goodin knew Ray wanted to escape, was strictly a _____, had no feelings about Negroes.

Grider, Lawrence Albert
former inmate

Mo Pen SA Ayers

XL-21

Released January, 1968. Knew Ray
but not well. No information.

Guinan, Frank Joseph
#09297

Mopen

SA Weaver

X-37 Ray addicted to "bennies" and amphetamine
which he obtained from a guard named Stout.

Jimmy Carpenter knew Ray.

Haynes, Frank
#07844

Mo Pen

SA Ayes

XI-29 knew Ray, but no info.

Hill, Sterling Junior
inmate

Mo Penn SA Melton

X-62

Worked in prison hospital. Knew Ray
but not well.

Says Ray was loner, seldom smiled
Hill's nickname in prison was
"shotgun".

Hurtt, Kenny
inmate

Mo Penn

X-59

Ray received some money from
illegal prison activities and wanted
to conceal it. So he had Hurtt send
a money order to a Stationery Co.
in St. Louis. 1966

(says Lillibridge)

Hurtt, John Kenneth
#75502

Mopæn

SA Weaver

X-49 Knew Ray but not well. Once sent a \$15 Money Order for Ray to someone named Pepper at a stationary company in Kansas City or St. Louis, supposedly for some paper.

Did not know anything about Ray's escape or allegation that Ray sold dope.

Did not know Oss or McClellan.

Did not know of bounty for King's death.

Informant

Mo Pen

Unnamed

(Reliability Unknown)

XVII- 22

Went into MSP 9/65. Assigned to J Hall; met Ray who took orders for cigarettes, candy, etc. Ray moved *freely* around hall.

First conversation: Source reading B'ham Newspaper. Source from Wallace Co., Ala. in a detailed way; said stayed there and visited. Ray asked to have source's paper each day. Ray as (each day.)

Ray never talked a family or background. Source gave Ray his address and phone #. Ray said he made call when released.

Ray quiet; only interest was money. Ray said he was one day going to get himself a lot of money. Said his plan was "The Businessmen's Association had offered \$100,000 to kill King." When asked what the association was, Ray said he didn't know but would find out. They never talked about plans again. Ray said he always worked alone and had a hiding place picked. Ray ran one lottery on J hall, and Valenti ran other. With "Boston." Never saw Ray run drugs. Never saw Ray with a large amount of money.

"Cooley's organization" was a protection and enforcement group at MSP. First informed of Cooley's organization by an ex-con returning to MSP named Craig. At MSP source gave Craig \$10.00 initiation fee, and Ray came to cell that night with source's card. Never talked

with Ray about group. Card said "membership Cooley's Club" on it. Source had grievance once, went to Craig who said he would settle it for 50% of what owed source. Ray came to source that night with the cigarettes owed source.

Before Craig transferred to prison farm, asked Craig who to take grievances to Craig only said to mess hall or yard.

Source thinks Cooley's organization is dangerous; run by trustees or old ex-cons in A Hall. Never saw Ray after his, Ray's attempted escape.

Never heard of Ray being involved in death of 3 Negro prisoners.

I.D. many pictures of Ray. Ray slough footed; clift chin; heavy drunker; normal sex life.

Johnson, Donald
#10987

Mo Penn

SA Weaves

X-53

Knew who Ray was, but didn't know him personally. Recalls that he loaded bread box on date of Ray's escape and does not believe Ray escaped in the box. No knowledge of escape.

Does not know of bounty on King.

Johnson, Donald Ray

Mo Pen

SA Ayes

XI-29 Said by guard to have helped Ray escape.

XI-29 Reinterviewed. Denied that he helped Ray
or had info.

Jones, George
#05516

Mo Pen

SA Ayes

XI-29 Said by guard to have helped Ray escaped.

XI-29 Reinterviewed. Antagonistic. Refused to
give info. Not sorry to see King killed.

Jones, George Harold
#45516

Mo. Penn SA Ayers

X-10

Worked in bakery at time of Ray's escape. Denied helping Ray. Described bread box. Does not know Raymond Lewis Curtis. Ray is not type to kill King; Ray never mentioned Negroes.

Does not know whether Ray took drugs or was a homosexual.

Keller, JR

Mo Pen

X-120

Associate of Ray, Leavenworth left prison
2/20/57