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A review of the Springfield files regarding PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR. reflected him as subject of a 1963 Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement case, in which he was described as follows:

Name	PAUL ARTHUR LAIL, JR., Aka Paul Alvin Lail, Jr. Paul Lail, Jr. Paul Arthur Carter
FBI #	754 483 A
Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
DOB	[REDACTED]
POB	Marion, North Carolina
Height	6' 5"
Weight	170 pounds
Hair	Red
Eyes	Blue
Occupation	Sign painter electrician truck driver radio repair man
Social Security #	[REDACTED]
Teeth	No upper
Scars	Scar on left knee

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E. HILLIARD ALLEN SANDERS

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On 5-1-68, SA's FRANK E. CORN, SR., and ROBERT C. HAINES, interviewed HILLIARD ALLEN SANDERS, at 137 East Acton Street, Wood River, Illinois.

SANDERS stated that he was incarcerated in the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, on 1-20-52, upon conviction of an armed robbery charge at St. Joseph, Missouri. He said he was released on parole on 9-1-64.

SANDERS advised that he never became acquainted with or had knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY during the time he was incarcerated in the Missouri State Penitentiary. He said that while he was in the penitentiary, he worked at several trades and that the last two jobs he had in the penitentiary had to do with the sewing machine mechanical section and that the last job he had was a halltender from 1963 to 1964.

SANDERS said that upon parole he went to Gadsden, Alabama, where he lived and worked for approximately 18 months; that he then went to Camden, South Carolina, where he was employed by the firm of E. I. DUPONT for 9 months. SANDERS said that he then came to Wood River, Illinois, where he has been working on construction at the Shell Oil Company Plant in Wood River. He said that he arrived in Wood River in 7-67 and has resided in Wood River since that time.

SANDERS concluded by stating that when national publicity was released concerning the identification of JAMES EARL RAY, he viewed photographs appearing on television and in the news media and determined that he had never known RAY while both were at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

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F. WILBUR CONNORS

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On 4/20/68 WILBUR CONNORS, aka MANNY CONNORS, 825 South Fifth Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed by ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN and SA ELYON H. DAVIS and furnished the following information:

On that date was the first he had learned of his wife, KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK, had been arrested with WALTER RIFE and JAMES EARL RAY in Hannibal, Missouri, in 1955. He advised that he had never heard his wife mention JAMES EARL RAY and is quite certain that she did not know RAY or have much of any contact with him. He pointed out in 1955 his wife was only seventeen years of age and that she did not have a criminal record and for this reason he did not believe she had been involved with RAY and RIFE in any crime.

WILBUR CONNORS advised that his sister-in-law, LAURA CONNORS, owns the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois. CONNORS advised that he is in this hotel on almost a daily basis and can state that WALTER RIFE was certainly working each day at the restaurant and the Virginia Hotel from the period 3/27/68 through 4/4/68.

CONNORS advised that he personally does not know JAMES EARL RAY and does not have any information concerning RAY's activities or whereabouts.

On 4/20/68 LAURA CONNORS, owner, Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN and furnished the following information.

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Around 2/6/68 she had leased the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel to WALTER TERRY RIFE. She advised since that date the restaurant has been operated by RIFE and that RIFE has been working in the restaurant every day. She advised that RIFE's wife, JAN RIFE, gave birth to a baby in late 2/68 and for this reason WALTER RIFE had worked from approximately 7:00 each morning until 11:00 at night operating the restaurant. She stated that certainly WALTER RIFE was working during the period 3/27/68 until 4/4/68.

She advised that she does not know JAMES EARL RAY, FBI No. 306443A, and after viewing five different photographs of RAY advised that this is not an individual who she has ever known. She stated that MELBA MARIE RYAN does live at the Virginia Hotel and that she had learned on the previous night that MELBA MARIE RYAN was a sister to JAMES EARL RAY. She stated, however, in her conversations with MELBA MARIE RYAN, MELBA MARIE RYAN had denied any knowledge of the whereabouts of RAY and she does not believe that RAY has contacted the sister since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

On 4/20/68 ARTHUR CONNORS advised that he is the husband of LAURA CONNORS, owner of the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois. ARTHUR CONNORS advised that he can verify that WALTER RIFE was working at the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel during the period of 3/27/68 through 4/4/68.

ARTHUR CONNORS also viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306443A. CONNORS advised that this individual was completely unknown to him and he has never seen him at the Virginia Hotel.

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G. KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK CONNORS

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On 4/20/68 KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK, presently married to WILBUR CONNORS and residing 825 South Fifth Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed by ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN and SA DAVIS.

She advised that she had never met JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306443A, until one night during 1955 when WALTER RIFE, an acquaintance of her, approached her in a tavern in Quincy, Illinois, and asked her if she wanted to go with RIFE to Hannibal, Missouri. While in the automobile, she was introduced to JAMES EARL RAY and after arrival in Hannibal, Missouri, WALTER RIFE and JAMES EARL RAY were arrested concerning some postal money orders that had been stolen. She advised that she had never seen RAY before that date and has never seen him since. She stated that she had no information concerning the whereabouts of RAY or any information concerning the background of RAY.

She advised that her husband did not know RAY and had never heard of her being arrested with RAY and RIFE in Hannibal, Missouri.

She advised that she is acquainted with MELBA MARIE RYAN since MELBA MARIE RYAN resides at the Virginia Hotel but that she did not know that this was a sister of JAMES EARL RAY.

She advised that she would furnish any information of value that she might learn to the FBI concerning RAY or the RAY and RYAN family; however, she had none to furnish at the present time.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 24, 1968, ART CONNORS, whose wife LAURA CONNORS, owns the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois, advised that he had received no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY. He advised that he intends to cooperate in every way with the FBI in this matter and will immediately advise the FBI of anything concerning RAY's whereabouts.

He advised that RAY's sister, MELBA MARIE RYAN, has stated numerous times she has no information as to RAY's whereabouts. He advised that KATHERINE BUSKIRK, now married to CONNORS' brother, WILBUR CONNORS, known as MANNY CONNORS, has told him that she knew nothing concerning RAY other than she was arrested with RAY and WALTER RIFE at Hannibal, Missouri, in 1955. Inasmuch as she was not involved and knew nothing concerning the passing of the stolen money orders, she was released on the same day of the arrest and no charges pressed against her.

CONNORS advised he is certain in his own mind that neither MELBA MARIE RYAN or WALTER TERRY RIFE has any information concerning the whereabouts of RAY.

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H. JOSEPH ADAMS

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The following investigation was conducted at the Menard Branch, Illinois State Penitentiary, on April 26, 1968:

On April 26, 1968, MAX FRYE, Warden, Menard Branch, Illinois State Penitentiary, advised that one of the inmates by the name of JOSEPH ADAMS, who works in the Office rs Mess at the Penitentiary, indicated to him recently that he was acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY having been with him at the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Warden FRYE stated that he did not question him concerning his contacts or knowledge of RAY but thought it might be of value to interview him.

On April 26, 1968, JOSEPH ADAMS, also known as Shorty, who has Menard #11745 was interviewed at the penitentiary and advised after viewing a photograph of RAY that he was acquainted with RAY when RAY was at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

ADAMS advised that he left the penitentiary for Menard last October, 1967, and that when he got there, RAY was already there.

ADAMS advised that his only knowledge of RAY was that RAY brought food over to the hospital where ADAMS was working and he assumed that RAY apparently worked in the prison kitchen.

ADAMS advised that he never talked directly to RAY at any time nor did he ever observe him with any other inmates. He described RAY as a very quiet individual and this is all the information he had concerning him.

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I. JOHN EUGENE GAWRON

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JWD:jah

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The following investigation was conducted at Menard, Illinois, on May 1, 1968, by SA JEROLD W. DONALDSON:

Warden MAX FREY, Illinois State Penitentiary, Menard Branch, made available the prison records of JOHN EUGENE GAWRON, Illinois State Police #25261 (Joliet Penitentiary #489F). The file reflected the following background data:

NAME	JOHN EUGENE GAWRON
ALIASES	JOHN GAWRON JACK DAWSON JOHN GAWGGS JACK MORLEY
RACE	White
SEX	Male
DATE OF BIRTH	
PLACE OF BIRTH	Chicago, Illinois
HEIGHT	5'3"
WEIGHT	170 pounds
HAIR	Gray
EYES	Hazel
RELIGION	Catholic
EDUCATION	8th Grade, Chicago
NATIONALITY	Polish
MILITARY SERVICE	U. S. Marine Corps from May 6, 1916, to May 24, 1917. Marine Corps Serial No. 73896
PARENTS	Deceased, father died 1981, mother died 1981.
FBI NUMBER	134834
OCCUPATION	Cook and baker
CHARACTERISTICS	Smokes, chews tobacco, and drinks heavily

The file revealed that GAWRON was originally received at Joliet, Illinois, Penitentiary on November 2, 1934, under sentence of one to life for burglary. GAWRON received Menard Branch, Illinois State Penitentiary on July 25, 1956, from Adams County, Illinois, as a parole violator. GAWRON paroled from Menard on March 21, 1959, to Veterans Administration Hospital,

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Wood, Wisconsin. He remained there three days and left without permission. GAWRON carried at that time in an absconder status until November 16, 1961, when he was returned to Menard Penitentiary. He was paroled on April 11, 1963, to the Soldiers and Sailors Home, Quincy, Illinois, but was never received at this home. GAWRON's address as of April, 1968, was shown as 1807 South 11th, St. Louis, Missouri.

The following individuals were listed as correspondents in GAWRON's file:

Miss MARY MCMICHOLES, cousin, 1010 Park Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri

Miss CAROL MAHER, later shown as Mrs. CAROL PEPPER, a friend, 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri, and ALBERT PEPPER, 1713 Lafayette Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

Questionnaires were filled out by the following individuals:

Date of questionnair not shown on file. LUCILLE MARY RYAN (friend), who lists an address of 701 1/2 Washington (date not shown) and 527 York, Quincy, Illinois, in July, 1967.

CAROL ANN MAHER (Second cousin), later shown as CAROL ANN PEPPER; 1913 Henry, St. Louis, Missouri

ALBERT BENNY PEPPER (friend), 1015 Allen, St. Louis, Missouri

JOHN LARRY RAY (friend), 1915 Hickory, St. Louis, Missouri

Also included in the file were 3 re-classification reports dated June 10, 1940; December 2, 1961; and September 2, 1956, which would be of pertinent background value.

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J. MELVINA "RUSTY" TYLER

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On May 9, 1968, BERNICE DUCKAN and ELIZABETH ZIMMERMAN, owners of the Jewel Lounge, 106 (rear) - 5th Street, Peoria, Illinois, advised that they have owned that tavern for approximately one year. Both are from the State of California and they advised that the Jewel Lounge was formerly known as the m & n Tavern and that the tavern is still commonly referred to as the "Old M & N". They advised that the former tavern owner (1959) called "Rusty" was unknown to them and they could furnish no information concerning her identity or whereabouts.

On May 10, 1968, LARRY ENNIGER, 1800 North Knoxville, Peoria, Illinois, former tavern operator, advised that "Rusty" was widely known in the Peoria, Illinois area inasmuch as during the 1950s she had tended bar at two or three different establishments.

On May 13, 1968, BETTY MEYERS, owner of the Beer Barrel Tavern, suggested "Rusty" whose name she did not know may be employed at the Piere Marquette Hotel in Peoria, Illinois.

On the same date, PHIL BUSSMAN, Sales Representative, Piere Marquette Hotel, identified "Rusy" as Mrs. RAY M. TYLER, also known as MELVINA TYLER, 408 Bryan Street, Peoria, Illinois and 213 Franklin Street, Bartonville, Illinois. He advised she has been employed as waitress in the lounge of the hotel for the past 6 years.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 16, 1968

MELVINA TYLER, also known as "Rusty", and "Mrs. Ray M. Tyler, 213 Franklin Street, Bartonville, Illinois, was interviewed at her residence regarding her knowledge or any prior association with JAMES EARL RAY, FBI # 405 942 G. She viewed photographs of RAY and advised that this individual is unknown to her and that she could furnish absolutely no information regarding this man.

She advised that she was the owner on record, and operated the M & N Tavern, 106 (rear) -5th Street, Peoria, Illinois, during 1958 and 1959. She said she purchased the tavern from MILLIE and MAC BURDIN who now operate the "Galley" a basement night club at the Hotel Jefferson, Peoria, Illinois. She said prior to 1958, she had operated bars at the Beer Barrel, 1034 Northeast Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois, and also the Pour House, 800 North Main Street, Peoria, Illinois. She advised she was born in Norfolk, Virginia, and came to Peoria, Illinois, at the age of 16. She advised that she married SAM ALLEN in early 1950 and she and ALLEN had had business interests in the above taverns between 1953 and 1959.

She stated she divorced ALLEN in 1958 and married RAY M. TYLER, a brick layer by trade, in 1960. She advised she is the mother of two children, ages 7 and 8. She stated she has been steadily employed as a waitress at the Piere Marquette Hotel, Peoria, Illinois, for the past six years.

She was advised that it had been reported that she may have associated socially with RAY and that she had been termed "a girl friend of RAY" about 1959. She stated that due to her association with the general public for the past several years as a waitress, she had become widely known in the Peoria, Illinois area due to her natural red hair, however, she advised that in many instances she would not know or recall customers who may have remembered her by name. She advised she is positive that she has never known RAY socially and has never corresponded with him. She advised that she would immediately notify the FBI should any information con-

On 5/13/68 at Bartonville, Illinois File # SI 44-561

by SA ELIAS WILLIAMS, JR. & SA QUENTIN P. STINSON skt Date dictated 5/15/68

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cerning this individual come to her attention.

The following physical description was obtained from observation and interview and comments made by Mrs. TYLER:

Name:	MELVINA TYLER
Aliases:	"RUSTY"
Address:	Mrs. RAY M. TYLER 213 Franklin Street Bartonville, Illinois
Sex:	Female
Race:	White
Age:	40
Height:	5'5"
Weight:	130 lbs.
Hair:	Red (shoulder length)
Complexion:	Fair, freckled
Marital Status:	Married (1960)
Husband:	RAY M. TYLER
Occupation:	Brick layer
Previous addresses:	408 Bryan Street Peoria, Illinois
Telephone number:	Unlisted 697-0122
Occupation:	Waitress

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K. JAMES LAOMA OWENS

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RLW:skr

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA ROY LEE WILKERSON, JR. at Springfield, Illinois:

On May 15, 1968, WILLIAM KAUFFMAN, Division of Supervision of Paroles, 103 National Guard Armory Building, Springfield, Illinois, advised that his office has a file concerning JAMES LAOMA OWENS and OWENS has been incarcerated at the State Prison in Menard, Illinois, and the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri. KAUFFMAN advised that JAMES OWENS has a prison registry number for the State Prison of Menard, Illinois, being 20208. OWENS' registry number for Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, is 69846. KAUFFMAN advised that the only description that he has in his file is as follows:

NAME:	JAMES LAOMA OWENS
RACE:	White
SEX:	Male
FBI NUMBER:	1-397-707
AGE:	27 on March 12, 1947
HEIGHT:	5'2½"
WEIGHT:	129
HAIR:	Charcoal medium
EYES:	Dark Black
COMPLEXION:	Fair
OCCUPATION:	Clerk
CHARACTERISTICS:	Top of head bald.

OWENS was incarcerated at the Illinois State Penitentiary, Menard Branch, Menard, Illinois, having number 20208, received from St. Clair County, Illinois, March 12, 1947, on the crime of robbery.

KAUFFMAN advised that the most current address that his files reveal is an address of 3904 Folsom Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, and this address was current as of August 15, 1965, as a communication sent to OWENS on this date was not returned. KAUFFMAN stated that on August 15, 1965, OWENS was issued a Certificate of Restoration of the Rights of Citizenship. KAUFFMAN stated that JAMES OWENS was discharged on June 27, 1965, at the expiration of his sentence from the State Prison, Menard Branch, Missouri.

SEARCHED ☒ INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒

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Illinois. KAUFFMAN advised that he has not had any further communication or correspondence with OWENS since August 15, 1965.

KAUFFMAN stated that any additional information needed concerning OWENS could be obtained from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, or the State Penitentiary of Menard, Illinois, and this information at the penitentiaries would be more current than the information that he has, especially information concerning description and background information.

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L. ANDREW WILSON "BLACKIE" DE CORE

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Menard Prison records reflect on May 17, 1968, ANDREW WILSON DE CORE, also known as De Cora and Blackie De Core, Menard #23415 received Menard Prison, June 15, 1953, on a transfer from Joliet, Illinois prison to serve a sentence of 1 to 20 years for robbery.

DE CORE was paroled June 15, 1959 to Rev. JAMES WINENEGAR, St. Louis Rescue Mission, St. Louis, Missouri, and was returned as a parole violator to Menard, July 19, 1960. He was paroled January 15, 1965 to Baptist Rescue Mission, Collinsville, Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois. He was returned to Menard as parole violator, May 28, 1965. He was discharged upon expiration of sentence, December 20, 1966. Upon discharge, he expressed intention of going to his sister's residence, Mrs. YALANDA DI CASOLA and her husband, VINCENT, 37555 Glenmore Drive, Freemont, California. Other friends and relatives contained in prison records are as follows:

Brother

ANTHONY DE CORE
713 South Claremont,
Chicago, Illinois or
1938 North 70th
Melrose Park, Illinois ;

Sister

Mrs. MARTHA BUTTITTO,
husband - BENNIE
9241 North Maple Court,
Morton Grove, Illinois;

Sister

NANCY COSENTINO
502 East Memorial
Bensonville, Illinois;

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Niece

Mrs. GEORGE ROGERS
2020 North Le Clare
Chicago, Illinois;

Cousin

PAT COLLESE
1641 North Latrobe,
Chicago, Illinois

Fiance

Miss HELEN HARE
3020 West Madison,
Chicago, Illinois;

Brothers

HARRY DE CORE and NICK DE CORE
addresses unknown

Friend

Miss MARY SAWYER
City Hospital Number 1
1515 Lafayette Street
St. Louis, Missouri.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA
EDWARD A. CARPENTER:

At East St. Louis, Illinois

On May 22, 1968, Reverend DAVID BLISS, Pastor of the Baptist Rescue Mission, located in East St. Louis, Illinois, was contacted and advised that ANDREW WILSON DE CORE is unknown to him, and according to his records, he could not identify him in the East St. Louis, Illinois area and could not identify him as having given any service at the Rescue Mission.

Reverend BLISS advised that in the event that DE CORE should contact the mission, that he would make this fact known to the FBI.

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V. INVESTIGATION AT ILLINOIS STATE PENITENTIARY
PONTIAC BRANCH

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A. RECORDS RE JAMES EARL RAY

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STOW E. SYMON, Supervising Sociologist, Illinois State Penitentiary, Pontiac, Illinois on April 25, 1968, advised his file contains little information concerning RAY who was a model prisoner while incarcerated Pontiac, July 7, 1952 until discharged March 12, 1954. He stated RAY was confined on a charge of robbery under Criminal Court, Cook County, Illinois case 52-1155 which sets forth in statement of facts subject at time of arrest, in Chicago, Illinois was wounded in both arms by police bullets. No information was located at Pontiac describing wounds or location of scars. Subject RAY at Pontiac assigned Honor Farm, August 12, 1952 until discharge. This is dormitory type housing rather than cell type. Subject was assigned to the kitchen as a cook and also on officers quarters detail.

The following inmates were identified and are set forth with their last known addresses furnished the prison at their time of release:

LEE MILLER
Pontiac Number 19200
6538 North Talman Street and
3542 SouthPort
Chicago, Illinois;

EDWARD PAUL RIVERA,
Pontiac Number 19294
515 West 63rd Street,
Chicago, Illinois;

GUS MARZAHN
Pontiac Number 19095
1620 West Nelson Street,
Chicago, Illinois;

CHARLES REED
Pontiac Number 18492
2286 Street
Madison, Illinois

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FRED M. PETRAKIS
Pontiac Number 18516
Route 1
Peoria, Illinois
518 Sanford Street,
Peoria, Illinois;

KENNETH D. FOSDYCK,
Pontiac Number 19218
Route 1
Bushnell, Illinois;

DWIGHT ROWE
Pontiac Number 19086
432¹/₂ South Vine,
Kewanee, Illinois.

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**B. INTERVIEWS WITH POSSIBLE INMATES
OF JAMES EARL RAY**

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On 4/23/67, FRED PETRAKIS, 2904 North Avalon Place, Peoria, Illinois, a former inmate at Pontiac Penitentiary, was shown a 1955 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY without effecting an identification.

PETRAKIS advised that for about one and one-half months in late 1953, he served as a barber at the Pontiac Honor Farm in the penitentiary, however, he does not recall RAY. Prior to this, he cut inmates' hair at the main prison and served thirty-three months at Pontiac from 1950 to early 1953 before being paroled. PETRAKIS advised that he took inmate NORMAN DEAN's place as a barber and that DEAN may recall RAY.

On 5/1/68, NORMAN DEAN, barber, 927 Court Street, Pekin, Illinois, a former inmate at Pontiac Penitentiary, was shown a 1955 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY without effecting an identification. DEAN advised that he was discharged from Pontiac during the winter of 1952 and never cut hair on the Honor Farm. He possessed no information regarding RAY and was not aware that RAY was confined at Pontiac during the time of his incarceration.

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On 4/28/68, CHARLES E. REED, was interviewed by SA LARRY W. GREEN concerning his knowledge of the present location of JAMES EARL RAY.

It is noted that the referenced teletype contains the address of REED, as 223 - 6th Street, Madison, Illinois. This address should be corrected to show REED's address as 2023 - 6th Street, Madison, Illinois.

REED stated that he was at the Pontiac State Farm, Pontiac, Illinois, in 1952. He stated that he entered Menard State Penitentiary at Chester, Illinois, in late 1949 and was subsequently transported to Pontiac Prison, Pontiac, Illinois, in late 1950. He stated he remained there on a farm until he was released August 29, 1952. REED stated at the time he was on the prison farm, there were about 150 persons working there. He stated that his job was to deliver the mail to each dormitory daily and that he was familiar generally with every person located on the farm at that time.

When questioned about the subject, REED stated that he does not recall the name nor does he remember associating with a person named JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that he was familiar with the name since it had been in the news frequently in recent days, but it had never come to his attention until now that RAY may have been at Pontiac State Farm while he was there. He further stated that he does not recall any particular person who may have been friends with the subject. It is noted from the referenced teletype that subject entered the farm at Pontiac August 12, 1952. REED recalls that he was dismissed from Pontiac, August 29, 1952. He stated that he was 19 years old at the time he was on the farm. He further

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related that he has not kept in contact with anyone he met while at the farm and knows nothing of the whereabouts of any of the inmates who were incarcerated at the farm while he was there.

REED is described as:

Age	Approximately 38
Height	5' 6"
Weight	140
Hair	Blonde, crew cut
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Ruddish
	Limps due to a crippled right leg
Marital	
status	Single, lives with his mother
	at the above noted address
Employer	Sanitation worker
	riding on sanitation trucks
	in the Madison-Granite City, Illinois area

REED has 5 brothers living in the Madison-Granite City area and 1 sister. It is noted from a criminal check at the Madison city PD that CHARLES E. REED has had some credit problems as well as being arrested for speeding and disorderly conduct since his release from Pontiac. (also from Granite City PD records)

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The following investigation was conducted by SA
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On May 2, 1968, Deputy Sheriff, JOHN BLIVEN, Mc Donough County, Macomb, Illinois, advised that KENNETH D. FOSDYCK no longer resides in Bushnell, Illinois, but resides in Macomb, Illinois. He stated that FOSDYCK has a criminal record and is holder of FBI #442 181 A. He advised that FOSDYCK is presently employed by Burell Florists in Macomb, Illinois, and resides at 321 College Street, Macomb, Illinois. He advised that the record of FOSDYCK shows he was first arrested on October 14, 1948, for tampering with a motor vehicle and has later arrests for robbery, petty larceny, auto larceny, probation violation; however, Deputy BLIVEN advised that the last known arrest for FOSDYCK was on December 3, 1954 when he was returned to the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet, Illinois, for parole violation.

He furnished the following physical description of
FOSDYCK:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Height	5'10"
Weight	155 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Build	Slender
Education	8th Grade

On May 2, 1968, ELMER BURELL, Owner, Burell's Florists, Macomb, Illinois, advised that KENNETH D. FOSDYCK is employed by him and has been for a number of years. He stated that FOSDYCK resides at the Florist at 321 College Street, Macomb, Illinois, and that during the past several years FOSDYCK has been working regularly. He advised that FOSDYCK was working during the period of March 27, 1968, through April 4, 1968.

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A number of photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were exhibited to ELMER BURELL. He advised that he has never seen anyone with FOSDYCK remotely resembling RAY. He also advised that he had never heard FOSDYCK mention RAY and felt certain that this individual had not been in Macomb in the recent past.

On May 2, 1968, KENNETH D. FOSDYCK was interviewed at 321 College Street, Macomb, Illinois. A number of photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were exhibited to FOSDYCK. FOSDYCK furnished the following information:

The photographs of JAMES EARL RAY are vaguely familiar to him as someone he has seen in the past.

FOSDYCK advised that he (FOSDYCK) was assigned to the Illinois State Penitentiary Honor Farm at Pontiac, Illinois, from September 15, 1952 until February 5, 1954. He advised that there was not a large number of individuals residing at this Honor Farm and it is quiet possible that he knew JAMES EARL RAY vaguely during this period of time. FOSDYCK advised that he certainly has not seen RAY since February, 1954, and has had no information concerning RAY's whereabouts.

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On 5/7/68 Chief of Police DEAN WATSON, Kewanee, advised that he knew of a DWIGHT ROWE having formerly lived in Kewanee, but advised that he had not seen him in years. He further advised that both of ROWE's parents were deceased, but that he believed ROSE V. JACABSON, 111 Hollis Street, Kewanee, was related in some way to ROWE.

On 5/7/68 Mrs. ROSE V. JACABSON, 111 Hollis, Kewanee, advised that DWIGHT ROWE was her first husband's brother. She further advised that ROWE quite often visits her children, but has not done so since the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING. She has never heard him mention JAMES EARL RAY. Mrs. JACABSON advised that ROWE presently resides at 905 Third Street, Green Rock, Illinois.

On 5/7/68 attempts were made to contact ROWE, 905 Third Street, Green Rock, Illinois, but were unsuccessful.

On 5/8/68 DWIGHT PIERSON ROWE, 905 Third Street, Green Rock, Illinois, advised that he had served time at Pontiac, Illinois, but stated he did not remember JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that to the best of his knowledge the first he had ever heard of RAY was when his picture appeared in the newspapers in regard to KING. ROWE advised that he met so many other men while in Pontiac using so many different names that he could have met RAY and not realized it.

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VI. PRIOR THREATS AGAINST MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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DAVID V. LANSDEN, Attorney, Cairo, Illinois, advised on April 27, 1968, that he has had BENNY K. PINKSTON, FBI #314 7431 as a client on 2 or 3 occasions. LANSDEN states that PINKSTON is a heartless individual who professes to be a separationist and usually acquires small amounts of money from businessmen in the white community by soliciting donations in \$1 and \$2 amounts to promote his separation of the races program.

LANSDEN stated that PINKSTON usually carries a quantity of JOHN BIRCH literature and distributes same and generally operates in the Sikeston, Missouri, or Forrest City, Arkansas area.

LANSDEN was unable to recall any conversation wherein PINKSTON threatened the life of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. nor does he recall PINKSTON ever consulting him as to what might happen if he killed KING. LANSDEN states to the best of his knowledge, PINKSTON is probably in Forrest City, Arkansas where he has a mother and other relatives. LANSDEN stated to the best of his recollection, he last saw PINKSTON 3 or 4 years ago.

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VII. "INTEROFFICE" LOOKALIKES AND POSSIBLE SUSPECTS

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A. VINCENT DE PALMA

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On April 6, 1968, RONALD LORENZEN, Managing Editor, Times Democrat, Davenport, Iowa, advised he received a telephone call from EDWARD BUMGARDNER of 917 - 6th Avenue, Erie, Illinois on April 5, 1968. BUMGARDNER advised him that the photograph displayed on television of the assassination suspect appears to be that of one VINCENT DE PALMA. BUMGARDNER also advised that he is a former Minuteman and the assassination may have been committed by a member of the Minutemen.

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B. CARL RICE

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JUDITH LOTT, 1103 West North Crest, Peoria, Illinois, telephonically advised on April 5, 1968, she viewed a composite drawing of suspect in slaying of captioned individual on Channel 25 WEEK television, Peoria, Illinois, which individual resembles CARL RICE, Minneapolis, Minnesota. LOTT was described as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5' 11"
Age	32
Hair	Blonde
Eyes	Blue
Weight	155 pounds

LOTT continued by saying RICE was previously involved in narcotics and racial matters. He attended Blake School, Minneapolis, resided with father, Doctor CARL RICE, suburb of Edina, Minneapolis, approximately 10 years ago. HARLEN BARRD, WEEK TV, Peoria, Illinois, advised the composite drawing of suspected slayer of captioned individual was shown on television April 5, 1968, which drawing was from UPI Wire Photo Service.

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C. WILLIAM RAY KING

SI 44-561

On April 7, 1968, Detective Sergeants JOHN COLEMAN and ROY WEST, Rock Island Police Department, advised an anonymous telephone call was received at the Police Department that a white male wearing gold colored clothing was at the Ft. Armstrong Hotel in Rock Island Illinois, either had a gun or guns or made statements that he had killed someone or that he had been in Memphis, Tennessee, when MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was killed. The voice was very muffled and the exact comments could not be distinguished.

Both proceeded to the Hotel where they immediately located BILLY RAY KING whom they checked for a gun. In subsequent conversation, they determined that KING came from Louisiana and spoke very bitterly of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He stated he got what he deserved and when asked if he had killed him, this person responded that even if he had he wouldn't tell them. They decided to take him to the Police Department for further investigation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 11, 1968

BILLY RAY KING was interviewed at the Rock Island, Illinois, Police Department, by ROBERT A. WICKWIRE and CHARLES E. SMITH who identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI. KING was warned of his rights and he waived them as shown on an executed warning and waiver form.

BILLY RAY KING advised he has resided for ten years at 102 Arlington Street, Lake Providence, Louisiana. He has been employed as a deck hand on different boats in the Mississippi River since he was 18 years of age. He stated for the last three months he has been employed as a deck hand on a towboat for the K.G.W. Towing Company out of Greenville, Mississippi.

He added that he had been injured on his boat approximately twenty days ago and had been treated at the Greenville, Mississippi, General Hospital, but had been recuperating at his home in Lake Providence, Louisiana. He had recovered and arranged to catch his boat, which is the George Weathers, at Quincy, Illinois. His Personnel Director, JERRY WILSON, with the K.G.W. Towing Company in Greenville, Mississippi, had given him an airplane ticket from Greenville, Mississippi, to St. Louis, Missouri, to Quincy, Illinois, for April 5, 1968; however, he determined that all planes were full and was instructed to take a bus to Memphis, Tennessee, to catch a plane to St. Louis. He left his home by Trailway Bus around noon on April 4, 1968 and proceeded to Memphis, Tennessee, which is about 175 miles. He arrived in Memphis sometime in the afternoon, probably around 4:00 p.m. While at the Trailway Bus Depot, the riots broke out due to the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He advised that the bus depot was closed. There was no busses allowed to leave or enter and the people in the bus depot were forced to remain in the depot all night long. He advised that the depot was only two or three blocks from the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, where KING was shot. He advised that he knows where this motel is located as he had stayed there on previous occasions. He added that it was general knowledge in all the papers that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was in Memphis and staying at the Lorraine Motel.

On 4-7-68 at Rock Island Illinois File # SI 44-561
by SA CHARLES E. SMITH
SA ROBERT A. WICKWIRE /ras Date dictated 4-9-68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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KING stated that he did not shoot MARTIN LUTHER KING but hastily added even if he had done so, he would not tell. He also stated that MARTIN LUTHER KING got just what he deserved and that the people in the North are getting just what they deserved on this racial problem as they caused the whole thing. When asked if he was a member of the KKK, KING stated that he was not a member but also added even if he was, he would not tell.

KING then stated during the early hours before daybreak, the busses started to move and he was able to take a taxi to the airport. He recalled that the fare was somewhere around \$4.65. When he arrived at the airport, he determined that there was only one plane that he could catch to Quincy, Illinois; however, this plane was full and he was placed on stand by. When the plane left and he could not get on, he then made a long distance telephone call to his boss JERRY WILSON who then told him to catch a bus to St. Louis and a bus to Quincy where he could catch the boat. He advised that he took a cab back to the bus depot where he boarded a Trailway Bus for St. Louis, Missouri. He advised this was early in the morning and arrived in St. Louis sometime around noon. He then caught a bus from St. Louis to Quincy; however, this bus made many different stops and he arrived too late in Quincy to catch the boat. He then took another bus to Rock Island, Illinois, where he now awaiting for the boat which is due to arrive at 12:00 midnight.

KING stated that he owns a 1967 bright blue Mustang which is at his home at Lake Providence, Louisiana. He explained that the papers for this car are in the name of his friend TRAVIS SHEFFIELD, who lives approximately three blocks away on Foster Street. He stated he bought this car from SHEFFIELD and is making the payments but he has not had the papers changed over to his name. The car is at his home. KING also admitted that he owned a .38 pistol and a shotgun which are both at his home.

The following description was obtained from observation and interview:

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Name
Sex
Race
Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Complexion
Address

Occupation
Education
Marital Status
Employment

Mother
Arrests

BILLY RAY KING

Male

White

St. Joseph, Louisiana

6'1"

185 pounds

Dark Brown, Curly

Blue

Medium to ruddy

102 Arlington

Lake Providence, Louisiana

Deck Hand, Towboat

Seventh Grade

Single

K.G.W. Towing Company

Greenville, Mississippi

GERTRUDE FRITH

Admits arrest at the age of 18
for carrying a pistol at Lake
Providence, Louisiana, fined
\$200.00 and \$37.00 costs and
two years probation.

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D. UNKNOWN SUSPECT

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TOM MOSS, Chief of Police, Kankakee, Illinois, advised on April 5, 1968, he received an anonymous telephone call stating that a young white man staying at the West Lane Motel, Marion, Arkansas, had told a female employee of this motel that he was a Chicago police officer and that he was on his way to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. No further information was obtained from the anonymous telephone call.