

SL 44-775

Source advised no further mail has been received at his residence for JOHN RAY.

Inquiry was made of source regarding the manner in which he first learned that subject RAY had escaped in April, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) and he furnished the following information in that regard:

After source's arrest in St. Louis on June 2, 1967, and while he was thereafter in the St. Louis City Jail in June, 1967, there were also confined in the jail three other persons all of whom had apparently been confined previously at the MSP and it was one or all of these three persons, according to source's recollection, who first informed him that subject RAY had escaped. One of these persons was DANNY GRINDSTAFF (DANIEL GEORGE GRINDSTAFF, FBI #443 4963, St. Louis Police Department #56472). Another was CHARLIE HAGERMAN (phonetic). Source cannot recall the identity of the third person and has never seen this third man again and does not know anything else about him.

Inquiry was made of source as to who it was that had come to his residence on the night of May 13, 1968, in an automobile and visited him there. He said that JIMMIE CRAWFORD (he was uncertain regarding the last name of this person but believed it was CRAWFORD or something like that) and another man had come to source's residence at about 8:00 p.m. or 8:30 p.m., May 13, 1968. Source had become acquainted with CRAWFORD following source's arrest on June 2, 1967, when source was first held for three or four days in the Central District Holdover of the Police Department before being transferred to the city jail. Source and CRAWFORD were cellmates during those few days in the holdover. Later while at the city jail in June, 1967, source also saw CRAWFORD a few times in the jail but they were on different tiers in the jail and they did not actually converse while in the jail. While they were celled together in the holdover, however, source learned from CRAWFORD that he had served sentences previously in the MSP.

When CRAWFORD came to source's residence on the evening of May 13, 1968, CRAWFORD was accompanied by another man and source believes CRAWFORD mentioned the other man's

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first name but source did not pay attention and does not remember the name. CRAWFORD and this other man were at source's residence about 10 or 15 minutes. When they first arrived CRAWFORD asked source whether there was anything doing and source understood from this that CRAWFORD meant did source have any burglary jobs going. Source told him there was nothing doing at this time.

During the conversation CRAWFORD indicated he was down on his luck and asked source for money for meals. Source gave him either \$3 or \$4 in cash. Also during this visit CRAWFORD asked source whether he knew JIMMIE RAY and source replied, "Hell yes, I know him well." CRAWFORD asked source whether the latter knew RAY was out and source replied to the effect that he knew RAY was out and heard it also that RAY was "red hot" and that they were really looking for him. Source said there was no further conversation that he could recall and that CRAWFORD and the other man left after they had been there about 10 or 15 minutes.

During the time that CRAWFORD and the other man visited source on the evening of May 13, 1968, a friend of source named J. H. MC CORMICK was present inasmuch as MC CORMICK was there visiting with source before CRAWFORD and the other man arrived. MC CORMICK had formerly stayed part of the time with JAMES H. RAMSEY while RAMSEY was occupying the residence on the first floor at 1805 South Eleventh Street. MC CORMICK now lives at 2115a Park, St. Louis, and is employed by the Bee Line Truck Company in St. Louis where he cleans up trucks. MC CORMICK very often visits source at the latter's residence in the evening after MC CORMICK gets off from work.

Inquiry was made of source concerning the bank robbery matter referred to by him in a previous interview and he was strongly advised and urged to furnish further details in that regard at this time. Source insisted he was not yet ready to furnish further details. He was advised that a review of the "Chicago Tribune" newspaper for the latter part of June and entire month of July, 1967, disclosed no reference to a bank robbery such as he had described. Source insisted that he had nevertheless read the news article concerning the robbery in the "Chicago Tribune" as he had previously stated, describing

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the news article as being a small article, either from the Associated Press or the United Press.

In reviewing with source the information he had previously furnished concerning the alleged bank robbery he referred at this time to the amount of the loot as having been \$48,000. He said that he had read of the robbery in the "Chicago Tribune" a short time after his release from jail on June 23 or 24, 1967, and when pressed for a more precise estimate of the time interval he said that it was within a few days or perhaps several weeks after his release from jail and could have been as much as a month after he was released from jail.

Source said it was either a few days or a few weeks after he had read of the robbery in the "Chicago Tribune" that the unnamed man gave him \$250. It was at the time of this man's first visit and on the occasion when the man gave source \$250 that the man told source the identity of the bank that the money in the valise had come out of and it was at the time of this same first visit that the man told source that JIMMIE RAY had been with him on the robbery.

Regarding the identity of the unnamed man source said he was not yet ready to reveal the identity of the man. He added that he does not actually know the man's name but had always known him only by a first name which he had always thought was probably a phony name and he said that he cannot now recall even this first name.

When inquiry was made of source as to how the man could have known where source lived and could have found source there, source said he assumed that the man learned such information from JIMMIE and he guessed that JIMMIE might have obtained that information from some of JIMMIE's relatives. Source, however, said he did not know specifically at all how the man might have found him.

Concerning the second and last visit of the man to source, source on this occasion said that this second visit occurred three or four weeks after the man's first visit to source. At that time the man indicated he was just coming through St. Louis and had merely stopped in briefly to see source. The man had a cup of coffee with source and subject

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RAY was not mentioned on the occasion of this second visit nor was the fact that the man had previously given source \$250 mentioned on the occasion of this visit.

Various inconsistencies in the foregoing information furnished by source on this occasion were pointed out to him, including the fact that source now said the man's second visit occurred three or four weeks after the first visit whereas he had previously said the second visit had occurred about six weeks ago. Source said he could not be sure and that "as I've told you, my brain doesn't always work right."

During the rather lengthy interview with source, efforts were made to identify the town in which this alleged bank robbery occurred during the summer of 1967. He indicated the bank was about eight blocks from the central business section of town in a city of about 50,000 to 60,000 population, that there was a residential area near the bank which was a new building in 1959, and was located on a corner with a parking lot adjacent to the bank. He indicated that it was not far from a bridge across the Mississippi River. During the getaway the individual who gave him the \$250 got out of the car and walked maybe one-fourth or one-half mile north of the bridge and with the loot walked across a railroad bridge while apparently subject RAY reportedly drove across the bridge. He indicated the police department was on the road leading from the bank to the bridge. At one time he indicated the city was Memphis. On another occasion he said that it could have been Memphis or was close to Memphis or was laid out like Memphis. At the conclusion of this extended inquiry concerning the location of the bank he again indicated that he would wait until he thought the time was right to tell us because he wanted a few more days to determine if someone else was also aware of the robbery in order that source might not be necessarily fingered as a source of the information. He said that he thought in a few days he might be able to work it out so that someone else might actually be blamed in that regard. He did say that the bank was on the east side of the Mississippi River. When pressed as to whether the story of the bank robbery which he had related and in which he had now furnished various conflicting details was

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actually true he insisted that the basic facts as he had related them were the truth.

Source was advised that information had been received to the effect that in about May, 1967, subject RAY had been reportedly seen on various occasions in the immediate vicinity of source's residence on South Eleventh Street, such information indicating that RAY was actually very possibly with source and that source may have been keeping him at that time. Source emphatically denied this and also denied that he had any contact with RAY since the latter's escape from the penitentiary in April, 1967. Source said that if RAY had in fact been seen near source's residence he certainly never contacted source or came in source's residence. He said that any information to the contrary was positively a "bum steer".

During the course of this interview it was ascertained from source that he had in the previous interview erroneously referred to the name of the bar in St. Louis which he and subject RAY frequented in 1959. He said this bar was not Ruby's Bar but at that time had the name Opal's Bar and was later known as the Haven Bar.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 5-24-68

Source was recontacted on May 22, 1968. Source advised that no additional information regarding the possible whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY had come to his attention. He advised that within the past several days he had not had occasion to talk with CAROL PEPPER, although during that period he had talked a couple of times with JOHN RAY, but the latter mentioned nothing concerning JAMES EARL RAY on those occasions.

Source stated he was not aware that JOHN RAY may have made a trip to California or elsewhere in the summer of 1967.

With regard to a bank robbery to which source had referred in previous interviews, source at this time furnished the following information. The bank which was robbed was a bank in Alton, Illinois, but source does not remember the name of the bank. The amount of loot obtained in the robbery was approximately \$28,000. In previous interviews source had intentionally furnished incorrect information regarding the location of the bank and the amount of the loot in order that the bank robbery to which he had referred might not be identified. However, the other information which he furnished regarding the bank robbery in previous interviews was correct.

Source was released from the St. Louis City Jail on about June 23 or 24, 1967. About a couple of weeks later he read in the "Chicago Tribune" and in one of the St. Louis newspapers about the robbery of the bank in Alton in which approximately \$28,000 in cash had been obtained. The news article indicated that the robbers had missed an additional \$20,000 because they ducked out too quickly while a teller went to the vault to get additional money.

Upon reading in the newspaper of this bank robbery, source recognized the bank as one which he and JAMES EARL RAY had cased in 1959.

A few days after reading in the newspaper about this bank robbery, a man came to see source at the latter's

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On 5-22-68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SA WILLIAM M. WARFIELD
SA ALBERT J. RUSEING AJR/ral Date dictated 5-23-68

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home. This man's first name is JIMMIE, and source cannot remember his last name. Source had originally become acquainted with JIMMIE in 1959 in the vicinity of Sarah and Olive Streets in St. Louis, and he believes he introduced RAY to JIMMIE in 1959. The name CRAWFORD, which source had furnished in a previous interview as the possible name of this man JIMMIE, was in error, and source now is certain that the man's sir name is not CRAWFORD. When JIMMIE came to source's home a few days after source had read of the robbery in a newspaper, he came by himself and was carrying a valise or briefcase, which he opened and which contained a lot of money which was strapped. JIMMIE told source this money was from the bank robbery in Alton, the same robbery of which source had read in the newspaper. JIMMIE told source that JIMMIE and RAY had pulled this robbery. Source inquired of JIMMIE as to how they got by any road blocks. JIMMIE told source that one of them had crossed the Mississippi River in an automobile via the Lewis and Clark Bridge into Missouri, and the other one walked across a railroad bridge over the Mississippi River, these two bridges being within view of each other. JIMMIE did not tell source whether it was he or RAY who drove across the river in the automobile and did not say which one of them carried the loot. In talking to source, JIMMIE did not indicate that more persons than JIMMIE and RAY were involved in the robbery, but source assumed that there might well have been a "wheel man" to drive the car, and he would have been in addition to JIMMIE and RAY. JIMMIE told source that he and RAY were not masked during the robbery but wore "tips", which source understood to mean they wore tips on their fingers which had been cut from rubber gloves. JIMMIE told source that when they left the bank the police were already on the way there. During this visit JIMMIE asked source how he was fixed financially, and source told him "not too good". JIMMIE then gave source \$250 from the valise or briefcase. This money consisted of two packages of \$1 bills totaling \$100 each, these two packages being strapped, and one \$50 bill. When JIMMIE left source on this occasion, JIMMIE commented that he would see source later. During this visit and their conversation, JIMMIE did not indicate to source any further information regarding the whereabouts of RAY, either at this time or any other time.

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At a time which source estimates to be two or three months after the above visit, JIMMIE again came to source's residence. JIMMIE was alone and came in an automobile, but source did not observe this car sufficiently to be able to describe it at all. On the occasion of this visit, JIMMIE merely passed the time of day with source and had a cup of coffee with him. JIMMIE commented that he was "going down south" but did not specify where or why he was going. There was no mention made during this visit of the bank robbery or of RAY or of the \$250 JIMMIE previously gave source.

Source believes he did not see JIMMIE again on any other occasion until Monday, May 13, 1968, when JIMMIE came to source's residence at about 9:00 p.m., after dark. Another man whom source never had seen before came with JIMMIE. JIMMIE introduced the other man by the first name JOHNNIE. JOHNNIE told source he was from New Orleans and mentioned that he had "taken a pinch" in Kansas City but did not say when this occurred; source believes JOHNNIE said it was a murder rap. JIMMIE asked source if the latter had any money and stated he and JOHNNIE needed something to eat on. Source thereupon gave JIMMIE \$2. JIMMIE asked source whether the latter had a "heater" (gun). Source told JIMMIE he did not have a heater right now but could have one the next day. JIMMIE then told source he and JOHNNIE would come back later. JIMMIE and JOHNNIE then left after having been at source's residence about ten or fifteen minutes.

Later that same night, May 13, 1968, source went out and saw a friend in St. Louis from whom he borrowed a .38 caliber revolver, make unknown, which was nickel plated, had a six-inch barrel and had a regular brown-colored grip. This was a five-shot revolver, and when source obtained it from his friend, one chamber was empty and the other four chambers were loaded with live ammunition. Source does not desire to reveal the identity of the friend from whom he borrowed this gun stating, however, that the friend is in St. Louis.

The next evening, May 14, 1968, at about 9:00 p.m., JIMMIE and JOHNNIE both came back to source's residence, and after they had a couple of beers with source in the latter's

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backyard, they went inside source's residence. Source at that time gave JIMMIE the gun he had borrowed from his friend. During their conversation at this time, JIMMIE commented to the effect, "I'm on the north side this time", by which source understood JIMMIE was living in the north part of St. Louis. Neither JIMMIE nor JOHNNIE specified to source the purpose for which they desired the gun, but source understood from their remarks that they wanted it for some unspecified robbery. JIMMIE commented to source to the effect that "I'll have to skip. I've about \$1,000 worth of clothes which I'll bring here for you to hold for me." Source expressed to JIMMIE his willingness to hold the clothing for JIMMIE.

During their conversation at this time, JIMMIE or JOHNNIE noted that a piece of the gun located at the rear of the cylinder was broken off in such a manner that the bullets in the cylinder could fall out. Either JIMMIE or JOHNNIE asked source whether he had any adhesive tape, and source did then produce a roll of adhesive tape. JIMMIE and JOHNNIE then put tape on the gun behind the cylinder so that the bullets would not fall out.

It is the recollection of source that his friend, JOE MC CORMICK, arrived at source's residence, but not until after JIMMIE and JOHNNIE had departed, and he believes MC CORMICK did not see them there.

Source has not had any subsequent contact at all with JIMMIE or JOHNNIE, and they have not returned the gun. Source has been carefully watching the newspapers and listening to news reports, but has not heard of any job which he believes they might have pulled. Source recalls that on the occasion when he gave JIMMIE the gun, JIMMIE commented to the effect, "I'll see you tomorrow or the next day", and also to the effect, "We'll remember you for the heater."

Source describes JIMMIE as a white male, about 45 to 50 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches and of slender build. He does not recall a description of JIMMIE's hair. Source recalls that JIMMIE at sometime mentioned that he served time in Arkansas and spoke also of having served time in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City.

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Source describes JOHNNIE as being about 30 to 35 years of age, clean cut in appearance, black hair, sharp dresser, somewhat shorter and heavier than JIMMIE.

JIMMIE is the same person who shared a cell with source in the St. Louis Police Department Holdover for two or three days after source was first arrested in early June, 1967, and JIMMIE is the same person whom source later saw during the month of June, 1967, in the St. Louis City Jail, although they were not on the same tier in the jail.

Source feels certain that the bank which was robbed as reflected in the newspaper and as referred to by JIMMIE is the same bank which source and JAMES EARL RAY cased in 1959. This bank is in Alton, Illinois. Source and RAY cased it on two or three occasions in 1959. They planned that in the robbery source would carry a sawed-off shotgun which he already had in his possession and would stand inside the bank door with the shotgun while RAY carrying a pistol would take the money from the bank tellers. It was planned that source would guard the door at the bank until RAY completed taking the money from the tellers, and then they would both leave the bank. They planned to use as their getaway automobile an old car of some sort which RAY then had and which they planned to park in the bank parking lot immediately adjacent to the bank. They planned to use a stolen license plate on the car. After the robbery they planned to go to a rooming house in Alton, where they would already have obtained a room and where they would already have stored food and necessary supplies. They planned to remain in this rooming house for at least a week after the robbery. Source had already spotted the particular rooming house where they expected to obtain a room, and he had located it because it had a sign in front showing there were rooms for rent there. Source and RAY planned to park their automobile in an area immediately behind the rooming house which is reached off a small street or alley behind the house, and by parking the car in this position immediately behind the house, it would be substantially concealed.

Source on May 22, 1968, accompanied interviewing Agents to Alton, Illinois. He directed Agents to a location

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where he pointed out the Bank of Alton, and he stated this was the bank to which he had referred. In the course of locating the bank, source commented that he had not been in Alton since 1959, but he remembered that there was a drugstore near the bank bearing in its name the word "Dick's". He also commented during the course of locating the bank that he remembered that a Washington Avenue bus passed on the main street in front of the bank. Upon locating the bank building and viewing it, source commented that the building had apparently been remodeled since he last saw it in 1959. He said that in addition to the present main front door there had been in 1959 a side door on the side of the bank where there are now located drive-in windows. He recalled that in 1959 the drive-in windows were not on the side of the building where they are now located, but were on the back wall of the building. Source then accompanied Agents and directed them to the rooming house to which he had referred. The house to which he directed Agents and which he then pointed out is a house bearing the address 1209 Fourth Street in Alton. Upon viewing this house at this time, source commented that there were steps going down from the front of the house to a basement level and it was the basement level in which he and RAY had hoped to obtain a room in 1959.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 6, 1968

1.

A source, 1807 S. Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was recontacted May 31, 1968.

Source advised that no further information whatever had come to his attention bearing on the possible whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY. Source said he had not seen JOHN RAY or CAROL PEPPER during the preceding week but he thought he might see CAROL PEPPER within the following day or two since he owed her \$40 he had borrowed from her and he expected she might come by to see him in order to collect.

A photograph of JAMES H. CARPENTER, Federal Bureau of Investigation #30243, was exhibited to source. He identified this photograph as being a photograph of the person he had referred to in the previous interview who visited source in about July, 1967, and told source at that time that he and JAMES EARL RAY had robbed the bank at Alton, Illinois. He identified the photograph as being of the person previously referred to by source as JIMMY who gave source \$250 on the occasion referred to above. He further identified the photograph as being of the person he referred to as JIMMY who visited source on May 13, 1968, and May 14, 1968, with JOHNNY (last name unknown), and to whom source had provided a .38 caliber revolver.

Source was then advised that it had been determined that the person depicted in the photograph was actually in the St. Louis City Jail at the time of his alleged visits to source in 1967, and at the time of the robbery of the bank at Alton, Illinois. It was pointed out to him that the information he had provided in that regard was, therefore, false. Source then said he had realized for the past eight days that he had given the Federal Bureau of Investigation

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On 5/31/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY
SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR:bam Date dictated 6/3/68

2.

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"a bum steer" and that the information he had previously furnished was a "bum beef" concerning JIMMY with regard to the Alton bank robbery. In referring to JIMMY at this time source referred to him as JIMMY CARPENTER saying he now recalled that CARPENTER was the last name of the JIMMY he had been referring to.

Source said that during the past eight days he had been thinking about this matter and had decided it was actually some other JIMMY who had given him the \$250 and told him he had robbed the bank with JAMES EARL RAY.

Source reiterated that JIMMY CARPENTER was the person who visited source with JOHNNY on May 13 and 14, 1968, and to whom source gave the gun. Source said he now realized he actually became acquainted with JIMMY CARPENTER for the first time in June, 1967, when they were in jail together in St. Louis. He said the other JIMMY he had referred to, the one who gave source \$250 and told source he had robbed the bank at Alton with RAY was a person with whom source had become acquainted in 1959 in St. Louis. He insisted he did not know the last name of this JIMMY and said he could not think of anyone at all who might know this JIMMY except JAMES EARL RAY. Source insisted that it was his recollection he had introduced JIMMY and RAY in 1959.

It was pointed out to source that since the information he had furnished about JIMMY CARPENTER and the bank robbery now appeared to be false, source might also be lying about the participation of RAY in the bank robbery. Source insisted that the otherwise unknown JIMMY (last name unknown) had visited him in 1967, as previously stated and told him of RAY's participation with JIMMY in the robbery.

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AJR:amb

RE: JOHN EUGENE GAWRON, ASSOCIATE OF SUBJECT RAY

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

On 5-14-68, SA ALBERT J. RUSPINE checked records of the St. Louis Police Dept. for pertinent information regarding the arrest of JOHN EUGENE GAWRON on 6-2-67, by the St. Louis Police Dept. The following copies of reports and correspondence pertinent to that matter were obtained from the St. Louis Police Dept.:

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA HAROLD R. DOBSON
Date: June 25, 1968

Office: ST. LOUIS

Field Office File No.: SL: 44-775

Bureau File No.: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR -
VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: RAY unknown to St. Louis Bartenders' Union, and did not seek employment as bartender at country clubs, St. Louis or St. Louis Co., Mo. MSP inmate JAMES D. WALLACE alleged he and wife observed subject and JAMES LOAMA OWENS at entrance of Jefferson-Gravois Bank, SLMO, Summer, 1967. OWENS claimed he was alone only time he met WALLACE at that location 1965. MRS. WALLACE unable to recall incident. Bank has no record of any business with RAY or OWENS, 1967. Former inmate JAMES H. CARPENTER alleged he observed subject three times between 5/10 and 17/67, in 1800 block of South 11th St., SLMO; that subject borrowed \$10 and indicated he desired gun. Neighborhood negative this area. Former inmate JOHN PAUL VELANTI alleged former inmate RUSSELL P. BRANNEN told him he had observed RAY briefly in 1800 block of Miss. Ave., SLMO, two weeks following MSP escape. BRANNEN denied. No 1800 block of Miss. Neighborhood surrounding area unproductive. SLPD Field Interrogation Reports of individuals questioned, but not arrested in above areas for 1967 negative as to persons of RAY's name and aliases. No unidentified cadavers, St. Louis - St. Louis Co., Mo., 4-4-68 to date. RAY unknown to Salvation Army and other charitable type missions. JAMES DAVID DAILEY denied acquaintance or association with RAY. Interviews with fellow prisoners set out. Relatives JERRY RAYNES, CAROL PEPPER and JOHN LARRY RAY repeatedly denied contact with RAY or knowledge of his whereabouts subsequent to MSP escape. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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SL: 44-775

I. RAY BACKGROUND

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SL: 44-775
CBB:klr

RE: RAY BACKGROUND: EDUCATION

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent CLETIS B. BIDEWELL, at St. Louis, Missouri, on May 22, 1968:

ROBERT ODELL BROWN, 9030 Eager Road, Brentwood, Missouri, Apartment 1C, advised upon interview that he has been teaching commercial subjects in the Parkway High School District for the past eleven years. He went to grade school in Ewing, Missouri, and his picture recently appeared on the front page of Life magazine in a group photograph, along with subject JAMES EARL RAY and other members of the Ewing grade school.

A letter written by BROWN appears in the current issue of Life magazine on the page reserved for letters to the editor.

According to BROWN, this letter has been edited to the extent that it is hardly recognizable from the letter he actually sent to Life magazine. He stated his reason for writing this letter to Life magazine was to register a protest with the magazine in connection with the story they ran about subject RAY in a recent issue in which he was described as a "mean kid" and a "bully."

BROWN, after graduating from high school at Ewing, Missouri, in 1946, attended the Gym City Business College at Quincy, Illinois; the State college at Kirksville, Missouri; and the University of Wyoming. He does not recall having seen subject RAY since their grade school days at Ewing and has no information whatever as to where subject might be at the present time.

Mr. BROWN advised that in the event he receives any information in the future concerning the possible whereabouts of the subject as a result of his letter to Life magazine or any other reason, he will immediately furnish same to the St. Louis FBI Office.

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SL 44-775
JAD:pjh

RE: FORMER NEIGHBOR: LAFAYETTE DILTS

Information was received from the Springfield Division that one LAFAYETTE DILTS, former bootlegger, had formerly resided in the same neighborhood as subject's family in Quincy, Illinois, during the 1940's. It was believed DILTS currently resides at LaGrange, Missouri.

The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY:

The following persons, all long-time residents of the village of LaGrange, Missouri, were contacted in an effort to locate LAFAYETTE DILTS, formerly of Quincy, Illinois, and his girlfriend, MAHALA LA MARR, but none had ever heard of either:

Mrs. AZALINE MAIERS, Cashier, LaGrange State Bank,
May 29, 1968;

Mrs. JENNIE MYERS, May 29, 1968;

Mr. GEORGE RICHIE, Richie Garage, May 29, 1968;

Mr. CHARLES BROWER, Commercial Fisherman, May
29, 1968.

Mr. BERT SMITH, Commercial Fisherman, on May 29, 1968, advised that LAFAYETTE DILTS has never lived in LaGrange, Missouri. He stated that he knew DILTS as a commercial fisherman several years ago, and his last account of him was that he lived in Quincy, Illinois. He advised that DEWEY LOCK, a commercial fisherman who lives in Quincy, Illinois, will know DILTS' whereabouts. He stated LOCK can be located, and probably DILTS also, by contacting YANCEY'S FISH MARKET at the foot of Broadway in Quincy, Illinois.

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SL 44-775
JAD/ral

Re: RAY Associates

Prison records, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, reflected that subject listed as "friend" "JERRY RYAN, Box 113, Lancaster, Missouri", while an inmate there 1955-1958.

The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY:

On May 7, 1968, Mr. THOMAS MITCHELL, Cashier, Bank of Lancaster, Mr. HARRY MELVIN, President, Bank of Lancaster, Judge WALTER HIGBEE, Mrs. FLORA REDMAN, County Clerk, who maintains the permanent Voters Registration for Schuyler County, Mrs. MARSHA JUDD, Clerk of Magistrate Court, and Sheriff GLEN LEFLER, Sheriff's Office, all Lancaster, Missouri, and life residents, each checked his records and advised there is no record of any JERRY RYAN, JERRY RAYN, or JERRY RAYNES. None could recall any such person as ever living here. Mrs. TOM WEBSTER stated she knew no such person.

On May 8, 1968, Mrs. GEORGIA WILSON, Manager, Adair County Credit Bureau, Kirksville, Missouri, which also covers Schuyler County, advised there is no record for any JERRY RAYN, RAYN, or RAYNES.

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CBB:amb
SL 44-775

RE: RAY EMPLOYMENT

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

On May 16, 1968, Mrs. NANCEE TROXEL, Office Clerk, Local #51, Bartenders Union, 3630 Grandel Square, St. Louis, Missouri, advised SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL after checking her records that they contained no information concerning subject JAMES EARL RAY under his true name or any of his known aliases.

MRS. TROXEL advised Local # 51 is the only Bartenders Union in the St. Louis - St. Louis County area, and covers bartenders at country clubs in that area.

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SL: 44-775
HRD:wma

COUNTRY CLUB PROJECT

Due to the possibility that subject could have inquired of country clubs concerning employment as a bartender, the following country clubs in St. Louis and St. Louis County, Missouri, were contacted on dates indicates, with the result that no one person of subject's appearance was found to have sought such employment personally and no person of subject's name or aliases was found to have inquired or applied by mail:

<u>CLUB</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AGENT</u>
BATH AND TENNIS CLUB A. BRUCE CORNELL - Manager	1600 Log Cabin Lane	5-21-68	JAMES T. DEARBORN
BELLEFONTAINE COUNTRY CLUB, C. E. FREDERICKS - Manager	900 Fry	5-21-68	" "
BELLERIVE COUNTRY CLUB MICHAEL DREAS - Manager	12925 Ladue Road	5-21-68	" "
BOGEY FOLF CLUB STANLEY COULTER - Owner	9266 Clayton Road	5-21-68	" "
CRYSTAL LAKE COUNTRY CLUB VID ESSEN - Owner	2224 Bopp Road	5-21-68	" "
DEER CREEK CLUB JACK BURROUGHS - Manager	9861 Deer Creek Hill	5-21-68	ALAN E. MCELWAIN
FOREST HILLS COUNTRY CLUB RAY KARR - Manager	Clayton and Clarkson	5-21-68	ALAN E. MCELWAIN
GLEN ECHO COUNTRY CLUB MIKEY BIERMANN - Office Manager	Lucas and Hunt Road	5-21-68	" "

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HRD:wma

GREENBRIAR HILLS COUNTRY CLUB, J. H. DIEKROEGER - Manager	12665 Big Bend	5-21-68	ALAN E. MCELWAIN
HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB JOSEPH W. SMITH - Manager	8100 Fine	5-21-68	" "
LOG CABIN CLUB J. V. TAYLOR - Owner	9456 Clayton Road	5-21-68	JOHN O. TRETHWAY
MEADOWBROOK COUNTRY CLUB HELEN WALLERSTEIM - Secretary	CLAYTON and Kehrs Mill Road	5-21-68	" "
NORWOOD HILLS COUNTRY CLUB DORIS SCHAEFER - Secretary	5500 Lucas and Hunt	5-21-68	" "
OLD WARSON COUNTRY CLUB ELLEN CAPRA - Secretary	9841 Old Warson	5-21-68	" "
ST. LOUIS COUNTRY CLUB THOMAS HACKETT - Manager	400 Barnes Road	5-21-68	" "
SUNSET COUNTRY CLUB JAMES ELTON - Manager	9555 Geyer	5-21-68	LAWRENCE B. CURTIN
TRIPPLE A GOLD AND TENNIS CLUB ERNEST SCHWARTZ - Secretary	Forest Park	5-21-68	" "
WESTBOROUGH COUNTRY CLUB MARIE CANTONY - Secretary	631 South Berry Road	5-21-68	" "
WESTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB CARLO RADDE - Manager.	11801 Conway Road	5-21-68	" "

SL: 44-775

II. ALLEGED APPEARANCES IN ST. LOUIS,
MISSOURI, SUBSEQUENT TO MISSOURI
STATE PENITENTIARY ESCAPE.

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SL: 44-775
DRS:mjb

RE: FELLOW PRISONER: JAMES L. OWENS

The following investigation was conducted by SA DEAN R. SHUMWAY:

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

On May 14, 1968, the Kansas City Division advised that a review of Missouri State Prison records reflected OWENS was employed as a boiler maker for the Combustion Engineering Company in 1947.

On May 15, 1968, Mr. ROBERT E. SCHLOEMAN, Personnel Director, Combustion Engineering Company, 5319 Shreve Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that his company has no record of JAMES OWENS' employment, but he personally recalls OWENS was employed there approximately twenty years ago. He explained that Combustion Engineering has been subjected to a records retention evaluation, and as a result personnel records are now maintained for only ten years.

OWENS was a fair employee, a good worker, but was ultimately discharged for raffling off stolen guns on company property. SCHLOEMAN advised that OWENS had been suspected of the activity for some time before finally discharged upon being caught in the shop with a loaded rifle. SCHLOEMAN advised he has no knowledge of any associates of OWENS still working at the plant but that one GEORGE SPINK would be able to advise if any of OWENS' friends still remained.

On May 15, 1968, Mr. GEORGE SPINK, 846 Newport Street, St. Louis, Missouri, advised he knew JAMES OWENS at the Combustion Engineering plant nearly 20 years ago but has not heard of him since OWENS was fired for raffling stolen guns. SPINK advised he knows of no one who is an associate or friend of OWENS at the plant, and has no idea of who else might know OWENS or where he is at.

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SL: 55-775
dr:wma

RE: FELLOW PRISONER JAMES LOAMA OWENS

The following investigation was conducted by SA DOUGLAS ROSENBERGER; May 15, 1968:

AT ELVINS, MISSOURI

IDA OWENS stated her son is currently employed as a salesman at the Chevrolet Agency, Crystal City, Missouri. She stated she could furnish no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY or his possible current whereabouts.

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Date May 17, 1968

JAMES LOAMA OWENS, Rural Route Number 3, Sunrise Lake, DeSoto, Missouri, (Jefferson County), telephone number - JUstice 6-2044, who stated he is currently employed as an automobile salesman by the Arnold Chevrolet Company, Crystal City, Missouri, furnished the following information:

In 1959 OWENS, while on parole from the Illinois State Penitentiary at Menard, Illinois, on a conviction for robbery, was residing at the St. Louis Rescue Mission located at approximately 4200 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri, which was a sort of "half-way" house where ex-convicts and parolees resided. It was at that Mission in 1959 that OWENS first met and became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY. OWENS recalls that "BLACKIE" AUSTIN, who was also on parole out of Menard, was also residing at the same Mission in St. Louis at that time and brought RAY around to the Mission as a friend and it was as a result of this that OWENS became acquainted with RAY.

OWENS, as one of the conditions of his parole, was employed at that time at the St. Louis Rescue Mission, as a barber.

After OWENS became acquainted with RAY, he learned that RAY's mother and grandmother were then operating a rooming house on Hickory Street near Mississippi Avenue in St. Louis and OWENS assumed that RAY was living with the mother and grandmother there, although he did not have specific information in that regard. OWENS does recall on one or two occasions he accompanied RAY to the rooming house operated by the mother and grandmother.

OWENS has always liked RAY, characterizing him as a quiet fellow, who never pried or bragged. He was a thinker and a reader. He read a wide variety of things and OWENS does not recall that he had any special interest in any particular subject or topic of reading material. RAY also liked automobiles and liked guns. The type of guns which RAY apparently liked and the only type of guns OWENS knew of him to have were pistols and handguns, not rifles or shotguns.

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On 5/16/68 at Jefferson County, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR:jfb 5/16/68
SA ROBERT L. BENDER Date dictated _____

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OWENS learned that RAY was an excellent shot and that RAY sometimes went to secluded spots for target shooting. OWENS once went with RAY somewhere in Illinois for target shooting, at which time RAY had with him two .38 caliber pistols. OWENS shot with RAY on this occasion and observed that RAY was extremely expert and could shoot at a can and keep it bouncing by firing at it and hitting it repeatedly before it stopped rolling.

In association with RAY in 1959 OWENS learned that RAY was a moderate drinker, who did not drink beer and whose favorite drink appeared to be Bourbon highballs. OWENS knows of no particular tavern where RAY frequented but observed that RAY usually drank at taverns in the vicinity of Sarah and Olive Street in St. Louis, which was in the vicinity of the Mission where OWENS usually saw RAY when the latter came by the Mission.

OWENS observed that RAY had no employment during this time but was obviously a professional thief who apparently pulled mainly robberies and occasionally some burglaries.

OWENS characterizes RAY as a "pistol man." RAY was definitely a "loner."

In conversations, OWENS learned from RAY that RAY had served a Federal sentence following a theft of money orders with another man and it appeared from comments made by RAY that he mistrusted other people and would not go on jobs with another person.

RAY impressed OWENS as having sympathy for common people and for the working man and RAY expressed a philosophy that he would only hit places of businesses such as would probably be covered by insurance.

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On two or three occasions RAY came to the Mission with an older man, about sixty years of age, whose first name was JACK and whose surname was something like GOAN (phonetic). OWENS learned that this man JACK was on parole out of Menard and was considered by RAY as an old friend. OWENS cut this old man's hair once or twice at the Mission. He gained the impression that this old man, JACK, was an old professional burglar and that he was "kinky" (still pulling burglaries) even then. OWENS has no definite information as to whether RAY and JACK ever went on any jobs together but observed that they were obviously very friendly.

During this period in 1959 RAY always appeared to have money and to be "well-heeled," although he never worked. It was obvious to OWENS that RAY was obtaining his money from robberies and burglaries. RAY was thrifty and appeared to save his money. On one occasion, at RAY's request, OWENS drove RAY to a bank in St. Louis located on South Broadway near the Anheuser-Busch Brewery and RAY told OWENS on this occasion that he had an account at that bank. OWENS waited in the car outside while RAY went in the bank and RAY then returned to the car and showed OWENS \$1,000.00 worth of Travelers Checks, which OWENS understood had been purchased by RAY in the bank. OWENS did not positively know whether RAY had taken cash into the bank to purchase these Travelers Checks or had withdrawn the necessary funds for the purchase from the account which RAY said he had in the same bank. RAY told OWENS that he had purchased these Travelers Checks for the purpose of taking a trip to Canada.

It was about a month later when OWENS next saw RAY, at which time RAY said he had been to Canada. RAY did not at any time explain to OWENS why he had gone to Canada. This was characteristic of RAY, however, who was always extremely closed-mouth and did not generally explain his activities to anyone.

With regard to the possibility of any other money that RAY might have had in a bank, OWENS has some vague recollection in the back of his mind that RAY might have at some time mentioned having money in a bank other than the one referred to

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above, but OWENS can recall no specific information in this regard.

OWENS can recall only one additional associate or acquaintance of RAY during the 1959 period and that person was "BLACKIE" DE CORE, who was from Chicago and who was a gambler and former professional prize fighter. DE CORE was then about forty years of age and was on a life parole out of Menard and was staying at the St. Louis Rescue Mission at the time. DE CORE did not appear to be nearly as close or as friendly with RAY as did "BLACKIE" AUSTIN and the old man named JACK.

RAY did not gamble and did not fool with narcotics or "junk" of any kind. He seemed to have the attitude regarding women that they were something to use and forget. Actually he appeared to prefer a girl who was a "bum" and was not known to have had any girlfriend as such or any continuing association with any girl or woman.

On the one or two occasions when OWENS was at the rooming house on Hickory Street operated by RAY's mother and grandmother, OWENS also learned that RAY had a young kid brother named "BUZZY," who resided with the mother and grandmother. OWENS has never known or heard specifically of any other relatives of RAY.

RAY always appeared absolutely to have no dislike for Negroes. On the contrary, he always seemed to take a man for what he was, regardless of color. In OWENS' opinion, if RAY killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, as alleged, he did not do so out of any kind of racial hatred and such an act in OWENS' opinion would have had to be for money.

During the period of their association in 1959 RAY used various names, always with the first name JIM. The only three surnames which OWENS can recall as having been used by RAY were the names O'CONNOR, RYAN and RAY. When OWENS initially became acquainted with RAY at the St. Louis Rescue Mission

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RAY was using the name JIM O'CONNOR. The name ERIC STARVO GALT is completely unknown to OWENS and he has no idea where RAY might have obtained or thought of such a name.

Regarding the robbery of the Kroger Store in St. Louis by OWENS and RAY in 1959, OWENS furnished the following information:

Contrary to what OWENS regards as RAY's usual characteristic of carefully planning anything he did, the robbery of the Kroger Store was a stupid job which occurred "at the tail-end of a drunk." Although RAY did not normally drink to excess at all, RAY and OWENS on this occasion had been drunk and were still under the effects of that when the robbery was pulled, and it was merely an effort to get additional money to continue their drinking. RAY informed OWENS that somebody had spotted this supermarket which should be good for several thousand dollars. RAY had already cased it. RAY had with him the same two .38 caliber guns which OWENS and RAY had previously used in target shooting and RAY furnished one of these guns to OWENS for this robbery.

RAY had stolen an old Ford automobile which was their first get-away car and they then switched to OWENS' automobile, at which time some witness apparently obtained the license number on OWENS' car. OWENS and RAY, immediately following the robbery, went to a rooming house on Park Avenue near Mississippi Avenue in St. Louis where RAY then had a room. They went to RAY's room and a few minutes later, when OWENS came out to his car, he found the car surrounded with police who arrested OWENS.

The police then went into the house and arrested RAY also. Neither RAY nor OWENS were ever released on bond following their arrest. OWENS entered a plea of guilty to the robbery charge and received a sentence of seven years. RAY, however, insisted on going to trial and was sentenced to twenty years.

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OWENS, after his plea of guilty, preceded RAY to the Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, and had already been there several months when RAY arrived to serve the twenty-year sentence.

OWENS was released from the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1963 upon completion of his sentence and was immediately thereafter returned to the Illinois State Penitentiary at Menard as a Parole Violator on the robbery conviction. OWENS owed twenty-three months on that parole violation. He completed all of that term and received his outright release in May, 1965, from Menard.

OWENS thereafter returned to St. Louis and was briefly employed as a Fuller Brush Salesman in St. Louis, following which he was employed from October, 1965, to February, 1966, as a maintenance man at Washington University in St. Louis. In February, 1966, OWENS went to California, where he resided with his mother and brother and he was employed there with White Heat Company, 2508 Randolph Street, Huntington Park, California, for about ten months as a maintenance man. He was then employed by the W. W. Henry Company, Beckett Street, Huntington Park, California, until he returned to St. Louis, Missouri, in December, 1966.

Upon his return to St. Louis in December, 1966, OWENS took a vacation for about a month and was in Las Vegas and Arizona during that time. He was thereafter employed by the Lindell Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, as a maintenance man. Thereafter, he was employed as the chief engineer at the Liggett and Meyers Tobacco Company in St. Louis until he began his present employment, about five weeks ago, as an automobile salesman with the Arnold Chevrolet Company, Crystal City, Missouri.

OWENS has resided at his present address in Jefferson County, Missouri, since July 23, 1967. His last previous address

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was the Missouri Apartments, Delmar Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, across the street from St. Luke's Hospital, where he lived for about five months until he moved to his present address.

While in the Missouri State Penitentiary, OWENS and RAY were never assigned in the same residence hall, nor were they assigned in the same working area at any time. OWENS worked the entire time in the plumbing shop in the Penitentiary. RAY worked in the prison cleaning shop and in the bakery during the time OWENS was in the Penitentiary. However, OWENS did see RAY from time to time outside on the Penitentiary yard and occasionally talked to RAY there.

There has never been any animosity of any kind between OWENS and RAY and the latter has never indicated any resentment or any cause of resentment toward OWENS in connection with the Kroger Store robbery or for any other reason. RAY has always appeared to be entirely friendly toward OWENS and has never indicated in any way that he felt OWENS did anything wrong in connection with the robbery or at the time of their arrest in St. Louis.

While in the Missouri State Penitentiary, OWENS became aware that RAY was apparently dealing in pills, such as Benzedrine and amphetamine, which RAY was in some manner obtaining outside the Penitentiary and was selling to inmates in the Penitentiary. OWENS occasionally saw exchange of money to RAY from other inmates. OWENS never knew the manner in which these pills were being conveyed to RAY in the penitentiary but was aware that this type of practice was being carried on by other prisoners in addition to RAY and that there were various means wherein such items could be brought into the penitentiary. It has been OWENS' general understanding for example that sometimes guards have been used to bring in such items, as well as relatives of the inmates on the occasions of their visits, or such items have been brought in by prisoners who work on the Honor Farm and who are not carefully searched when returned inside the walls.

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OWENS did not acquire any knowledge as to how much money RAY made in this practice but would estimate that he might earn as much as \$500.00 or \$1,000.00 in the course of a year or two. OWENS does not know how RAY may have gotten his money outside the penitentiary but again is aware that there are various means by which inmates have been able to accomplish this.

OWENS also became aware while in the penitentiary that RAY was apparently engaged in making small loans to inmates. Although RAY himself did not ever comment to OWENS concerning this business, OWENS at one time had a cellmate who OWENS understood had borrowed money from RAY. OWENS understood that it was the general practice for inmates such as RAY who made loans to receive repayment at the rate of \$3.00 for \$2.00. OWENS does not believe on the basis of his general knowledge and information that RAY might have accumulated an amount such as several thousand dollars as a result of his handling pills and loans in the penitentiary.

OWENS was still an inmate in the penitentiary on the occasion when RAY, while working in the cleaning plant, attempted to escape by putting two old ladders on the wall behind the cleaning plant. According to what OWENS heard immediately after this attempted escape, the ladders broke with RAY, as a result of which he was injured, knocked out and discovered by the prison guards.

Subsequent to OWENS release from the penitentiary, he heard of the incident in which RAY allegedly hid out for a few days inside the penitentiary. OWENS recalls that on one occasion, while in the penitentiary, RAY mentioned to him that he was too young to remain in the penitentiary and serve his entire sentence and RAY spoke in general terms of the possibility that he might some day attempt to escape. RAY referred to no specific plans in this regard, however.

During OWENS association with RAY, he learned from RAY that prior to OWENS becoming acquainted with RAY in 1959 RAY had

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made several trips, apparently at least a dozen trips, to Mexico. RAY spoke of having been in various places and the only specific places OWENS can recall which were mentioned by RAY were Mexico City, Veracruz, Acapulco and Nogales. RAY did not at any time discuss with OWENS the details of his trips to Mexico, although RAY did mention in at least one instance that he had gone to Mexico to "cool off." RAY did not discuss with OWENS the details of his activities in Mexico or who he knew there, but did briefly mention on one occasion that one time when he was in Mexico City he had become involved in an altercation with a man in an alley, who came at RAY with a knife, at which time RAY struck the man in the head with a pistol and thereafter had to leave Mexico City.

OWENS is of the belief that RAY could not speak Spanish, despite his trips to Mexico. In that regard, OWENS said he knows a few words of Spanish but RAY did not know any Spanish.

OWENS believes that on the basis of RAY's having made trips to Mexico in the past, RAY might have conceivably gone to Mexico after his escape in 1967. OWENS has also been aware from RAY that the latter was a military policeman in Germany while in military service and OWENS would assume that RAY might, therefore, also go to Germany.

OWENS characterizes RAY as very smart, a thinker and not a talker. RAY plans every angle before he makes a move. OWENS feels that upon RAY's having escaped from the penitentiary and even before the incident involving the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING, RAY would not be expected to be in contact with relatives or previous acquaintances at any time after the escape.

OWENS felt, however, in the event RAY had an outside contact who was assisting him in his illicit traffic within the penitentiary and who might owe either money or a favor to RAY in connection with this business, RAY might quite logically contact this party after his escape.

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With regard to the old man named JACK, who was friendly with RAY in 1959, as previously referred to, OWENS has never seen or heard of that man again since 1959 with the exception that OWENS did hear somewhere afterward that JACK had gone back to Menard as a Parole Violator.

OWENS has had checking accounts at the following banks in St. Louis, since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary at Menard, in May, 1965:

The Jefferson-Gravois Bank, where OWENS opened a checking account in 1965, which was closed in about February, 1966, when OWENS went to California;

The Manchester Bank, where OWENS opened an account in January, 1967, and where there is still a balance in the account of about \$3.00 or \$4.00, the account having been inactive in recent months.

Since October, 1967, OWENS has had a checking account at the American Bank, DeSoto, Missouri, where he currently has an account.

Except for the above, OWENS has had no banking business, including accounts of any kind, loans or safe deposit boxes, at any other bank in St. Louis since his release from Menard in 1965.

Since OWENS' release from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, he has had no contact of any kind, either direct or indirect, with RAY and they have never had any correspondence. OWENS has also had no contact whatsoever with any of RAY's relatives, since OWENS was released from the Missouri State Penitentiary. The last contact OWENS has had with anyone known to him to be an associate or acquaintance of RAY, was "BLACKIE" AUSTIN, who was in the Illinois State Penitentiary

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at Menard, while OWENS was there 1963 to 1965. "BLACKIE" AUSTIN was still at Menard when OWENS was released there.

Since about February, 1966, OWENS has not on any occasion been inside the Jefferson-Gravois Bank, nor has he been on foot outside that bank on any occasion during that period. At the very most, he may have passed by the bank in an automobile on one or two occasions.

While OWENS was at the Missouri State Penitentiary, he became acquainted with JAMES WALLACE, who was an inmate there. He did not know JAMES WALLACE at all until he became acquainted with him in the penitentiary. OWENS definitely was not raised with WALLACE.

In 1965, during which time OWENS had a checking account at the Jefferson Gravois Bank in St. Louis, he recalls an occasion when he parked his car on the bank parking lot to go to the bank. As he started in the door of the bank for the purpose of making a deposit to his account, he saw JAMES WALLACE, who was standing on the street corner outside the bank, with a girl. As OWENS was going into the bank, WALLACE stated to the effect, "Are you taking some out or putting some in?" OWENS replied to the effect, "I'm putting some in." They had no further conversation.

OWENS was definitely alone on this occasion. OWENS never on any other occasion saw or knew the girl who was with WALLACE and he paid very little attention to her, as a result of which he cannot describe her, except he had impression that she was a white girl, who was rather heavy-set and "was no raving beauty." OWENS is certain that this encounter at the Jefferson-Gravois Bank occurred in the summer time, because he recalls that the girl was not wearing a coat and that both he and WALLACE were wearing short-sleeve shirts and warm weather clothing.

The checking account of OWENS at the Jefferson-Gravois Bank, as previously referred to, was a joint checking account held by OWENS and his mother and was in the names of JAMES and IDA OWENS.

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OWENS denied that he was ever in the company of JAMES EARL RAY at the Jefferson-Gravois Bank on the occasion referred to above or on any other occasions, since OWEN's release from the Penitentiary.

He repeatedly reiterated his denial that he has seen RAY or had any kind of contact with him or any knowledge of his whereabouts since RAY escaped from the penitentiary in 1965.

OWENS cannot recall ever having known anyone by the name of "COOLEY," either in the Missouri State Penitentiary or elsewhere and that name has no meaning or significance to OWENS.

OWENS, without hesitation, stated he would be entirely willing to notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation if he should at any time receive any information which might be of assistance in locating JAMES EARL RAY and stated he would certainly do so.

1Date May 17, 1968

Mrs. JAMES (MILDRED) OWENS (nee SLONE), Rural Route Number 3, Sunrise Lake, DeSoto, Missouri, (Jefferson County), who stated she is a registered nurse, currently employed as a nurse at the Bonne Terre Hospital, Bonne Terre, Missouri, was present during an interview conducted by Special Agents ALBERT J. RUSHING and ROBERT L. BENDER with her husband at the residence on May 16, 1968.

At the conclusion of the interview with Mr. OWENS, Mrs. OWENS advised that she and her husband were married on March 9, 1967, at St. Louis County, Missouri; that they have continuously resided together as man and wife since their marriage; that she has never seen JAMES EARL RAY in her life and never heard of him until there was recent publicity regarding him, at which time her husband told her of his previous knowledge of RAY.

Mrs. OWENS said she has no information in addition to that furnished by her husband which might be of assistance in locating JAMES EARL RAY.

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On 5/16/68 at Jefferson County, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR:jfb 5/16/68
SA ROBERT L. BENDER Date dictated _____

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.

1Date May 24, 1968

JAMES LOAMA OWENS, Rural Route 3, Sunrise Lake, DeSoto, Missouri (Jefferson County) telephone Justice 6-2044, was contacted by telephone and inquiry was made of him as to what publications were habitually read by JAMES EARL RAY.

OWENS said that RAY was indiscriminate in his reading and that he read almost anything and everything he could get his hands on. OWENS said he did not believe he could identify any specific publication which RAY read. OWENS said however, that RAY read all the newspapers he could lay his hands on and particularly read the two major daily newspaper publications in St. Louis.

Inquiry was made of OWENS as to whether, in view of RAY's interest in automobiles and guns, as previously indicated by OWENS, RAY might not have read magazines pertaining to automobiles and guns. OWENS said he could not recall that RAY read any particular magazines devoted to those subjects but he did now recall that among all the various things that RAY read were included various sporting magazines. OWENS said that although he could not recall what specific magazines would have been included, he believed that the type of such magazines read by RAY would have included the type represented by Field and Stream and Argosy.

OWENS said he could not be more specific in describing or identifying publications read by RAY.

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On 5/16/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING/leh Date dictated 5/22/68

Date May 21, 19681.

JAMES LOAMA OWENS, RFD 3, Sunrise Lake, De Soto, Missouri (Jefferson County), telephone JUstice 6-2044, was contacted by telephone, and he advised as follows:

The name of "BLACKIE" DE CORE (phonetic) which was mentioned by OWENS in an interview on May 16, 1967, is the name of that individual as OWENS knew it. He believes the name was actually spelled DE CORE, but is not certain in that respect. He feels definite in his recollection that the name was not pronounced DE COOK. The man OWENS knew as DE CORE was certainly not as big as six feet one inch, and 240 pounds, but was approximately five feet nine inches, and 180 pounds. DE CORE definitely had a criminal record and was on parole from the Illinois State Penitentiary, Menard, Illinois, at the time OWENS knew him in 1959.

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On 5/17/68 at Jefferson County, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING:bam Date dictated 5/20/68

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1.

AJR:bam
SL 44-775

The following is the FBI Identification Record as of May 15, 1968, pertaining to JAMES LOAMA OWENS, also known as JAMES LAOMA OWENS, JAMES LOMA OWENS, JAMES LONA OWENS, FBI #1 397 707:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

5-15-68 154 J

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 1 397 707, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD, St. Louis, Mo.	James Loma Owens #42884	3-6-37,	robbery	10-8-37 7 yrs. in Mo.S.Int. Ref
St. Int. Ref., Jefferson City, Mo.	James L. Owens #2445	10-28-37	robbery 1st.	7 yrs. - *escape 6-27-38 ret. san day trans. to Mo SPr. as #51226
SP., Jefferson City Mo.	James L. Owens #51226	7-19-38	PG robbery 1st (3 chgs)	7 yrs. - par. by the Governor 8-3-
ONI, Wash DC MID, Wash. DC	James Loama Owens #---	applicant for position Combustion Engr. Co. Inc. Maine Boiler Division St. Louis, Mo. 6-15-41		
Capt. of the Port New York, N.Y.	James Loama Owens, #031-1085614-B	ident. card 6-17-43		
SOS War Dept.	James Loama Owens #32-ORS	welder 7-17-43		
C.S. Comm., Wash., D. C.	James L. Owens Residence: H.P.D. San Fran. Calif. Born: [redacted]	F.P. 8-17-45 Hunters Point, San Fran. Calif.	Position: electric welder, U.S. Naval Drydocks, Hunters Point, San Fran Calif.	
PD East St. Louis, Ill.	James Loama Owens #3769	9-4-46	armed robbery	

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	
<i>K. L. King</i>	

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Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARREST RECORDS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

5-15-68 154 JL

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

2 The following FBI record, NUMBER 1 397 707, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SP, Menard, Ill.	James Owens #20208	3-12-47	robbery	1-20 yrs. 6-28-52 paroled paroled 7-7-59 disch 6-27-65
PD, St. Louis, Mo.	James Loma Owens #42884	1-24-48	inquiry	
PD St Louis Mo	James Loma Owens #42884	8-8-54	sus burg	1-29-55 PG sent on ea chg to 6 yrs in Mo SP to run concurrently on chg of burg 2nd deg & larc rape passing worthless checks 2 chgs larc of auto
SP Jefferson City Mo	James Loama Owens #69846	5-18-55	burg 2nd & larc obt money & goods b/m of bogus ck obt money b/m of a bogus ck (3 chgs)	6 yrs paroled 6-8-57 on chg of burg & larc
SP Menard Ill	James Owens #20208	6-8-57	robb etc	1-20 yrs (par viol)
PD St Louis Mo	James Loma Owens #42884	10-10-59	susp robbery	
PD St Louis Mo	James Loma Owens #42884	10-16-59	susp fug Alton Ill-susp rob susp parole viol	
SPen Jefferson City Mo	James Laoma Owens #00134	2-5-60	PG: robb 1st means of D & D	7 yrs disch 1-2-64
SPen Menard Ill	James Owens #20208	1-2-64	PV etc (rob etc)	1-20 yrs

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

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J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 1 397 707 , is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Long Beach Calif	James L. Owens #226302	10-15-66	intox	BF
USCG	James Loama Owens #Z-512077 AP	FP 1-20-67		
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Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, con-

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SL 44-775
AJR/ral

RE: FELLOW PRISONER -
JAMES D. WALLACE

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

On May 21, 1968, Mrs. JAMES D. (BETTY J.) WALLACE, 1031 Lynch, St. Louis, Missouri, who operates a small neighborhood food shop at the same address, was interviewed by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING, at which time she furnished the following information:

Mrs. WALLACE received a letter from her husband, JAMES D. WALLACE, an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, which was dated April 25, 1968, and which included the following: "I guess you should remember the one guy that we met that time at the bank. He's the one that they are trying to rap that King's death on." Upon receiving the letter, Mrs. WALLACE realized from her knowledge of the publicity pertaining to the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING that the above portion of the letter referred to JAMES EARL RAY. However, the comments of WALLACE in the letter were puzzling to Mrs. WALLACE because she has been unable to recall any occasion or incident such as that which her husband seemed to be referring to in the letter.

Mrs. WALLACE's husband was released on parole from the Missouri State Penitentiary in the spring of 1965 and was immediately thereafter confined for about four weeks at the Cochran Veterans Administration Hospital in St. Louis for surgery of the ear. From the time of WALLACE's parole until April or May, 1967, Mr. and Mrs. WALLACE resided together at 2244A Missouri, St. Louis, and they thereafter resided together in the 2200 block of South Jefferson, St. Louis, until December, 1967, or January, 1968, when they moved to 1031 Lynch, where Mrs. WALLACE continues to reside. They resided together at the latter address until WALLACE was returned to the Missouri State Penitentiary in March, 1968.

From the time of WALLACE's parole in the spring of 1965 until about the end of July, 1967, or the first of August, 1967, neither Mr. or Mrs. WALLACE had any banking business of any kind at any bank. During that period Mrs. WALLACE is certain they had no occasion to be at the Jefferson-Gravois Bank in St. Louis. On July 21, 1967, Mrs. WALLACE's father died, and she thereafter shared in proceeds from Government savings bonds and insurance of her father. From these proceeds

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SL 44-775
AJR/ral

Mrs. WALLACE and her husband opened a joint checking account at the Jefferson-Gravois Bank, and this occurred at about the end of July, 1967, or the first of August, 1967. This account is in the name of JAMES D. and BETTY J. WALLACE. Mrs. WALLACE also opened a savings account on August 11, 1968, at the Jefferson-Gravois Bank in the name of herself and her mother, Mrs. DOROTHY STEPHENS.

It is Mrs. WALLACE's best recollection that she and her husband went together to the Jefferson-Gravois Bank in late July, 1967, to cash the Government bonds which had been her father's. She believes her husband also went to the bank with her at the time they opened the joint checking account. It is possible, according to her recollection, that her husband may also have accompanied her to the bank on one or two other occasions during that same period of time in the summer of 1967. Mrs. WALLACE recalls no occasion during this period of time in the summer of 1967 when she and her husband drove to the bank by automobile, but instead they walked to the bank on each occasion from their residence on South Jefferson, which was in proximity to the bank.

Upon searching her memory at this time, Mrs. WALLACE believes that she does recall a specific instance when her husband accompanied her to the bank during the period referred to in the summer of 1967. She recalls that they went to the bank on this occasion at approximately 6:00 p.m. or between 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. It was still daylight on this occasion, and she feels certain that it would have been on a Friday since the bank closes at 2:00 p.m. on other days of the week, but is open on Fridays until 7:30 p.m. Mrs. WALLACE recalls that on this occasion it was very warm summer weather, there had been a summer rain earlier that day and the weather was cloudy and grey. She vaguely recalls that as she and her husband walked out of this bank on this occasion, her husband waved to someone outside the bank. Mrs. WALLACE glanced very briefly at the person at whom her husband waved, and she believes the person was a white male, but since she glanced at him very quickly, she does not recall his appearance otherwise and is unable to describe him further in any respect. She does not recall that there was any conversation at all between her husband and the man on this occasion. After her husband had waved at the man, Mrs. WALLACE inquired of her husband as to