

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

DO NOT DESTROY
PENDING LITIGATION

FEDERAL BUREAU

DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

of ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Bureau File Number

DATE 11/14/01 BY SPICER/CB

NEWSCLIPS

See also Nos.

DO NOT DESTROY
PENDING LITIGATION

1

(NEWSCLIPS ONLY)

44

CLASSIFICATION NO.

1740 SFI

Serials

15-143

Volume Number

44

1

7

4

0

1A

1

41

V

1

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Accidental or planted? Elusive Galt left web of confusing evidence

BY TOM LANKFORD
News staff writer

Some facts have emerged about the mystery man sought in Birmingham for questioning in the murder of Martin Luther King Jr., but the major fact is he left few clues and much confusion.

Known as Eric Starvo Galt, home address unknown, the suspect was sought by FBI agents days before his 1966 white Mustang was found abandoned in Atlanta late Thursday.

In Birmingham, the FBI still had no comment on the investigation.

The New York Daily News reported today it had learned that the FBI definitely had established the white Mustang abandoned in Atlanta was the same car seen driving away from the murder scene after the assassination.

The Daily News said witnesses in Memphis gave investigators the license number of the car. It quoted unnamed sources as saying the plate numbers matched those of the car found in Atlanta.

A WITNESS who saw the sniper flee, earlier had said the car bore an Arkansas car tag. Arkansas tags have red numbers over white and Alabama tags have white numbers over red.

Galt gave his occupation in Birmingham as an unemployed merchant seaman, but records reveal no seaman's papers issued under that name.

He established no credit in Birmingham, had no known job, and maintained only a safe deposit box at a local bank.

When he paid cash for the used Mustang last August to an employee of a lumber company here, Galt said he was divorced and lived in a Southside rooming house.

THE MANAGER of that rooming house denied Galt ever roomed there.

Officials of the bank in Birmingham said Galt had a safe deposit box but no checking or savings account. The box rent expired last December and was not renewed.

The man was not included in Alabama's birth records and has no record of military service with the Veteran's Affairs Office.

MEANWHILE, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said FBI agents have uncovered "very substantial" physical evidence as they pursue leads in the case.

"The FBI is devoting every possible resource to this investigation," Clark said. "While it remains impossible to predict when the killer will be arrested, I remain hopeful that it will be soon."

The search for the assassin has spread hundreds of miles from Memphis where the slaying occurred April 4. The hunt involves thousands of investigators.

News men in New Orleans, Mobile, Miami, Memphis, Atlanta and in Birmingham

seeking to question persons who might have information about the case are told repeatedly: "The FBI has already been here."

IN BIRMINGHAM, the federal agents have sworn each person they question to secrecy.

Charles Stevens, a roomer at the Memphis house from which the fatal shot was fired, said FBI agents had shown him two composite drawings of the suspected slayer — one a partial profile and the other a full face view.

Stevens said he could identify the partial view, but not the full face view. He said he saw the gunman flee after hearing a shot fired from a communal bathroom next door to his room.

The bathroom window affords a clear view of the motel balcony where King was standing when shot.

IN WASHINGTON, Rep. Charles W. Whalen Jr., R-Ohio, said a welter of "premature and contradictory statements" was clouding the investigation and the efforts to apprehend the guilty person or persons "hardly has been reassuring to a tense and troubled nation."

Galt's name reached headlines Thursday night after the FBI in Miami issued, then later withdrew, a pickup order for the man, who reportedly was driving a 1966 white Mustang with an Alabama license plate.

A car fitting the description and bearing the same license number as the Miami bulletin was impounded by FBI agents outside a housing project in Atlanta.

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

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
—Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 4-13-68

Edition: Dixie

Author: TOM LANKFORD

Editor:

Title: MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 14 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

44-1740-SF1-1

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

In King Slaying Probe

Galt Search Fruitless

Birmingham 'Link' May Be A 'Plant'

The FBI Friday remained quiet in the search for a man who may have established a false identity in Birmingham last year and is now wanted for questioning connection with the death of the Rev. Martin Luther King.

It was learned that Federal Bureau of Investigation agents have been searching for Eric Starvo Galt, listed as an unemployed merchant mariner, for almost a week.

A man using that name purchased a 1966 Mustang from an employee of a Birmingham lumber company in August, 1967, secured 1968 license plates and a driver's license under the same name.

However, there are no prior records of Galt either in the Birmingham area or the Alabama Capital.

No Birth Record

Newsmen learned he was not included in Alabama's birth or death records and

had no record of military service with the Veteran's Affairs Office here.

Nationally, records revealed no seaman's papers being issued under the name.

Galt's name reached the headlines Thursday night when the FBI in Miami issued — and later withdrew — a "locate and notify" bulletin for the man, who supposedly was driving a 1966 white Mustang hardtop with an Alabama license plate.

A car fitting the description and bearing the same license number contained in the Miami bulletin was impounded by Federal agents in Atlanta.

In Rooming House

In Birmingham, the FBI had preceded newsmen in questioning all persons known to have had dealings with Galt — in a rooming house at 2608 Highland-av, where he had stayed at one time, at the office and home of the man who sold Galt the car, and at a sporting goods store which may have sold the gun used in the killing.

And all persons who had contacted the wanted man said they had been told by the FBI to discuss the case with no one.

Because of the lack of records on Galt, speculation was that an unidentified man

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

1 BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD
Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 4-13-68

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor:

Title: MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SFI-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 13 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

had established an identity under the assumed name and left clues pointing to Birmingham.

Paid Cash For Car

It was learned that the man had purchased the Mustang with \$2000 cash.

In Washington Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said Friday that "physical evidence is very substantial" in the FBI investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther King.

"While it remains impossible to predict when the killer will be arrested, I remain hopeful that it will be soon," Clark said in a seven-line statement checked by the FBI, which has control of the investigation.

"The FBI is devoting every possible resource to this investigation," he said. Agents are working around the clock pursuing every lead.

Clark refused to talk to reporters or to read the statement before television and radio reporters. His public information office issued the statement.

A Justice Dept. spokesman said the statement was issued in response to persistent requests for some comment from Clark. Normally, he said, the policy is to refrain from making any comment on FBI investigations.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Death Probe Continues**FBI Takes Sales Records
Of Birmingham Gun Firm**By VINCENT J. BURKE
AND ED MEAGHER

The Los Angeles Times

BIRMINGHAM — The FBI has seized the gun sales records of the dealer believed to have sold the rifle used to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis last Thursday.

Using the rifle's serial number, the FBI obtained from the manufacturer, Remington Arms Co., of Bridgeport, Conn., the name of the wholesale distributor and apparently traced the retail sale to a sporting goods store near the Birmingham airport.

The firm's manager told The Los Angeles Times Thursday that he was first approached by the FBI agents last Monday, four days after the slaying.

He said he could not confirm or deny that his firm had sold a rifle of the type used in the slaying because the FBI agents had taken away the sales records.

The weapon, left by the suspected slayer as he fled the scene of the assassination, has been identified by Memphis police as a Remington 30-06 pump rifle, with a scope.

The dealer said his sale of

rifles of all types normally exceeds 10 a week. Sources close to the investigation said they understood that the murder weapon had been purchased several days before the assassination in Memphis.

There were indications that the interrogation by FBI agents of the manager and employees of the sporting goods store near the airport here had failed to identify the purchaser of the rifle.

One such indication was that FBI agents have been questioning other dealers here. The dealers are not being asked whether they sold the rifle. Instead, they are being asked whether any customer in the period preceding the assassination approached them to inquire about the known capacity of rifles of various calibers, the value of using a scope, and other such information.

This line of questioning tended to support speculation that:

1 — The FBI believes that the slayer was an amateur, rather than a professional killer.

2 — The FBI believes there is a chance that the slayer is a resident of the Birmingham area.

Instead of using a semi-automatic rifle, which would have enabled him to continue firing had his first shot missed, the assassin selected a pump rifle which limited him, in effect, to a single shot.

His first shot, fired from a distance of slightly more than 200 feet, inflicted a fatal wound on Dr. King. The shot was fired from a common bathroom of a seamy rooming house across an alleyway to the second floor runway of a motel where Dr. King was standing.

Had he missed, the killer would have had to pull the rifle in from the window and pump another cartridge into the chamber.

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

1A

THE ANNISTON STAR
ANNISTON, ALABAMA
TALLADEGA DAILY
HOME
TALLADEGA, ALABAMA

Date: 4/12/68

Edition: Final

Author: VINCENT BURKE &
ED MEAGHER

Editor: CODY HALL

Title: MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☒ Being Investigated

BH 44-1740 - SFT-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 12 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Carmichaels Come If Kings Blocked

In the eight months I have been in the Magic City I have been struck by carping criticism of Martin Luther King on your editorial page, vicious cartoons of him by your Mr. Brooks and frequent innuendos by your Washington correspondent, James Free.

In view of all this, your statement "one of the most important leaders in America in recent years" is not impressive, the less so as it leaves the question open how you rated this leadership.

In the same editorial you complain, "His techniques of protest . . . courted violence in the inflamed atmosphere of social revolution in the United States." There is the rub. You know very well that any protest against injustice is apt to cause violence because of the resistance of those who benefit from injustice. So you really blamed Dr. King for having done more than going through the motions of doing away with injustice.

Yet, violence can be avoided only by justice. If you don't want the Stokely Carmichaels to become the prophets of the promised land, you must not block the Kings in their march to it. I pray that you gentlemen will examine your consciences and ponder whether you have done enough to resist the "darker side of the American spirit" which we have seen so horribly exemplified in Memphis. Be more diligent in your service of a progressive South.

A. E. BRETTAUER,

1839 Shades Crest Road.

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

THE BIRMINGHAM
1 NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-12-68

Edition: Metro

Author: John W. Bloomer

Editor: " " "

Title: Assassination of
Martin Luther King Jr.

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 12 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Probe Involves B'ham Man

By GAYLORD SHAW

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) —

The FBI issued, then withdrew, a pickup order for Eric Starvo Galt, a Birmingham, Ala., white man as the widescale investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., entered its second week.

Federal agents refused to say why they were seeking Galt.

The bulletin distributed on the statewide police teletype network in Florida said Galt was driving a white Mustang. Witnesses in Memphis told investigators earlier they saw a man in a white Mustang drive away from the rooming house from which King was shot last Thursday night.

At about the same time the pickup order was sent in Florida, federal agents in Atlanta impounded a white Mustang that had been parked since last Friday at a public housing project near the Georgia state Capitol.

The message, withdrawn with the explanation that it was released by mistake, described Galt as a white male, 36 years old, about 5-foot-11 and 175 pounds with blue eyes and brown hair.

This roughly matched the description circulated by federal authorities the night of King's slaying.

Special Agent John Hanlong of the Miami FBI office, who withdrew the pickup order about four hours after it was issued

said, "I cannot comment," when asked for further details.

The Florida teletype message said Galt was last seen driving a white 1966 Mustang hardtop, Alabama license 1-38993. Birmingham police said this tag had been issued to Eric S. Galt, 2608 Highland Ave., Birmingham.

In Atlanta, the residents who first told police about the abandoned white Mustang said the car bore the same Alabama license as given out by the FBI and bore two stickers which said "Tourista." Earlier reports indicated the investigation had spread to Mexico.

"The FBI was all over the place," before the car was impounded, an Atlanta witness said. He said the vehicle was towed away between 5:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Thursday—about the time the Florida teletype message was sent.

Witnesses in Memphis who reported seeing a white Mustang pull away from the rooming house said the car had a red and white license plate. Alabama tags are red and white.

The Birmingham address given for Galt is a large white two-story house in what once was an elite residential area. A red neon sign flashes the word "rooms," but a knock on the door was unanswered.

A Birmingham newspaper, the Post-Herald, said residents of the rooming house confirmed they had been questioned by the FBI. It added the residents reported they had not seen Galt for about three months and could not recall what type car he owned.

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

1A

THE ANNISTON STAR
ANNISTON, ALABAMA
TALLADEGA DAILY
HOME
TALLADEGA, ALABAMA

Date: 4/12/68
Edition: Final
Author: GAYLORD SHAW
Editor: CODY HALL
Title: MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☒ Being Investigated

BH 44-1740

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 13 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

To throw off investigators
King's slayer
may have
planted false
clues pointing
to
Birmingham

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

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWSBIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-12-68
 Edition: Metro
 Author: Tom Lankford
 Editor: John W. Bloomer
 Title: MURKIN

Character: 44-1740-SF1-
 or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF1-1

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 12 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

'Break' on weapon fails to reveal purchaser

BY TOM LANKFORD, News staff writer

The killer of Martin Luther King Jr. may have deliberately left clues leading to Birmingham after the Memphis slaying of the civil rights leader April 4.

A gun thrown down mysteriously on a sidewalk after the assassination, a white Mustang with a Jefferson County license tag found in Atlanta, and other evidence sent investigators here.

But, according to sources connected with the investigation, the killer may be a man using a fictitious name and a fabricated past.

He may have left a trail of false clues, pointing mostly to Birmingham, to throw off authorities.

The first name given to the suspect was John Willard. That's the name found at the grimy, skid-row rooming house in Memphis where the shot was fired.

AND THURSDAY night, the FBI issued a "locate and advise" request for Eric Starvo Galt, a white man with a Birmingham address.

The FBI "locate and advise" request distributed on a statewide police teletype network in Florida said that Galt was driving a white Mustang.

Witnesses in Memphis told investigators earlier that they saw a man believed to be the killer flee the scene in such a car.

It could not be determined immediately if Galt had ever lived in this city.

RECORDS AT the Department of Public Safety in Montgomery showed that Galt, who listed his occupation as "merchant marine, unemployed," was issued a driver's license last Sept. 6 and that he took the driving test in Birmingham in a 1966 Mustang.

Director C. W. Russell said the records showed that Galt applied for a duplicate license March 1 and listed the same address, 2608 Highland Ave., South, in Birmingham.

The records also showed that he had held a Louisiana driver's license in 1962.

Galt's birthday was listed as July 20, 1931. His description was given as weight 175 pounds, height five feet 11 inches, blue eyes and brown hair.

Another dramatic break in the case that has led nowhere is a Justice Department official's flat statement that the .06 Remington pump-rifle with a telescopic sight has been traced by its serial number to a store in Birmingham.

The weapon has not led to the identity of its purchaser. AUTHORITIES SAID it is assumed the gun was bought under a false name.

Numerous gun shop operators and their customers questioned by the FBI have been sworn to secrecy, and records of one dealer have been seized, The News learned.

An FBI firearms specialist it is reported here, has been asking those questioned if they remember a man fitting the description of the sniper.

Late Thursday, FBI agents in Atlanta impounded a white Mustang in a housing project parking lot near the Capitol. The license tag number was found to be issued to Galt in Birmingham and led FBI agents to a Southside rooming house.

Galt's application for a driver's license listed a Peter Nicholas Cherpes as having accompanied him for the driving test last September.

Mr. Cherpes is the manager of the rooming house at 2608 Highland Ave.

THE CAR reportedly had two 1967 Mexican visa stickers on the window. It was those visas that caused a resident to call his minister, who in turn notified police.

The FBI in Birmingham refused to comment on the gun or car, saying only the case is under investigation.

It was known, however, that releases by the Justice Department, termed "premature and unwise," have caused chagrin on the part of FBI agents.

"Mr. Hoover firmly believes in not commenting while an investigation is underway," a Washington FBI official stated.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT has access to secret files of the FBI.

A HIGH-POWERED weapon, a pair of binoculars, and a bag full of clothes and extra bullets were ditched by the killer after he ran down the stairs of the rooming house a block from the Lorraine Hotel, where King lay dying on a second-floor balcony.

The binoculars have been traced to a sporting goods store in Memphis, about six blocks from the scene.

There are conflicting reports about how the killer found to be issued to Galt in Birmingham and led FBI agents to a Southside rooming house, and others said there were such cars.

Memphis Chief of Detectives William P. Huston said, "Frankly, I think he just vanished into thin air at that location."

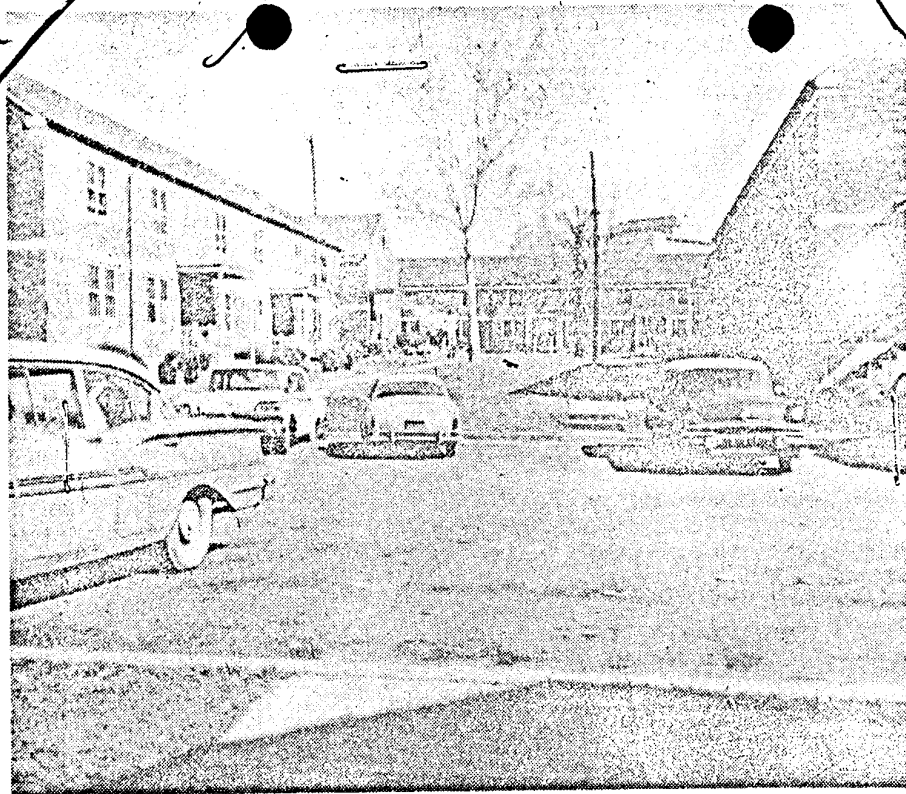
THE MEMPHIS Commercial Appeal reported that seven faked radio messages were heard on the Memphis police radio system just after the killing, apparently to confuse authorities.

If true, this would indicate a conspiracy involving someone with an expert knowledge of radio equipment and a knowledge of Memphis police procedures.

IN ATLANTA, the Rev. Ike Powell, minister of the Inner City Methodist church, said he told police about the abandoned Mustang Thursday morning, after receiving a call from a member of his church. He said the car had two stickers on it which said Turista.

"I think the policeman said they were Mexico inspection stickers," the minister said.

The Birmingham address given for Galt is a large white two-story house with a red neon sign flashing the word "Rooms." It caters to persons seeking low-cost lodging by the night or week.



THIS IS AREA NEAR CAPITOL IN ATLANTA WHERE SUSPECT'S CAR WAS FOUND
 ... Auto was parked in the empty space at the end of the sidewalk in the foreground //



SKETCH OF SUSPECT IN KING KILLING
 ... By Memphis Commercial Appeal artist //



REV. POWELL
 ... Reported car //

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

From Birmingham

King Killer Probe Shifts

BY TED BRYANT

Post-Herald City Editor

While the FBI retained its clamp on any comment about the search for the Rev. Martin Luther King's killer Sunday, the investigation appeared to have shifted outside the Birmingham area.

And key sources in the case around Birmingham, particularly those who had contact with a man known as Eric Starvo Galt, continued to keep quiet on orders from the FBI.

Federal agents in recent days have scoured the city showing sketches of a man's face and asking about Galt — but what they learned has been kept strictly secret.

A source indicated agents now may be concentrating their search on the Mid-West, but gave no reason for that particular section of the country.

All indications are that a man spent several months in Birmingham last Fall establishing an identity as Galt. A source confirmed that FBI

agents were exploring the likelihood that Eric Starvo Galt was an assumed name.

Few Remember Him

Few people here have any recollection of him, and there are no records such as birth, marriage, divorce, credit, forwarding address, real estate and voter lists.

A 26-year-old tile company employe who lived in the Southside boarding house to which Galt was traced, was quoted as saying, "My memory of him is so dim."

"I don't guess there's any such thing as a typical person," the roomer was quoted as saying. The best he could recall was that Galt's general description was brown hair and blue eyes, about 5', 11".

Apparently, the person who knew Galt best was the owner-manager of the building, Peter N. Cherpes, who refuses to talk on the request of the FBI.

To this point, events in the search for Galt are as follows:

—An FBI agent in Miami last Thursday released a bulletin on Galt, describing him as 36 years old, and saying he was driving a white 1966 Mustang.

—Also on Thursday night, the Mustang, bearing Jefferson County license plates, was impounded by agents in Atlanta.

—Tracing the license plate, newsmen learned a man known as Galt had lived at the Economy Grill and Rooms, the rooming house on Southside, when the plate was issued last August.

—Tracing the title of the car, it was learned that the same month, Galt purchased the car for \$2000 cash from the sales manager of a Birmingham lumber company. The money reportedly was taken from a safety deposit box at a Birmingham bank.

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

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS1
BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-15-68

Edition: Final

Author: Ted Bryant

Editor: Duard Le Guard

Title: Murkin

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SFT-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 15 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

—FBI agents earlier had scoured the city's sporting goods stores in search of the firm which sold a 30.06 Remington rifle similar to one used to kill King in Memphis more than a week ago. The gun reportedly had been traced to a Birmingham store.

—Immediately following the shooting, a false chase broadcast over a citizens' band radio in Memphis drew attention to the northern portion of the city, indicating more than one person was involved in the murder.

An FBI source emphasized Galt is wanted only for questioning. No charges have been filed against anyone.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Evidence Is Mounting In Assassin Manhunt

MEMPHIS — The killer of civil rights leader Martin Luther King continued today to elude probably the most massive manhunt in history. But, his hours are apparently numbered if authorities are correct.

The reward grew today to \$150,000.

"We are getting very close," said U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who was informed of the shooting six minutes after it occurred Thursday night.

Eleven minutes after the shooting—as the Nobel Peace prize winner was in St. Joseph Hospital here near death — President Johnson instructed Clark to enter the investigation.

The investigation is even greater than the one in Dallas when President Kennedy was assassinated, mainly because King's slayer has apparently escaped the immediate area, and may be out of state, authorities said.

"I don't know if an arrest will be made in the next hour, in six hours, or in 12 hours," said Clark at a Friday afternoon press conference in the federal building here.

The attorney general said the federal government entered the case under a federal law which makes it a crime to deny a person of his civil rights.

"I told the President there was clear federal jurisdiction," he said.

In addition to the .30-06 Remington pump rifle—with a telescopic sight—and a suit case, other "physical evidence" has been collected by the FBI, Clark said.

He said federal authorities, working closely with local agen-

cies, have more items of evidence than ordinarily collected at such an early stage "of an investigation of this type."

Clark has the FBI's third ranking officer here.

"Real progress is being made," he said, adding "I'm fully confident this crime will be solved eventually."

The most important clue may be a palm print found on the rifle, which is now at an FBI laboratory in Washington.

King was shot to death as he stood on a second story walkway outside his downtown

Memphis motel. The shooting occurred at 6:01 p.m. Thursday. He died about an hour later at St. Joseph Hospital of a gaping neck wound caused by a rifle slug which severed his spinal cord, authorities said.

Today's hunt centers on who Clark said is a lone sniper, a white man.

Ironically, Memphis remains calm today while the rest of the nation braced for rioting.

Historic Beale Street, where it all began nine days ago, when King led a march there, is deserted—no Negroes, no police, no guardsmen.

Most other streets in Memphis are deserted.

Nearly 4,000 national guardsmen and a group of riot-trained state troopers remain on duty today, but on the outskirts of the downtown district and out of sight of citizens.

"Over action or under action can lead to rioting," said Clark.

This time, Memphis is trying the in-between.

Mayor Henry Loeb announced "in view of the tragic circumstances" the city would not object to a mass memorial march Monday in King's memory, where 40,000 marchers are expected.

Earlier, the city had gained a federal court injunction banning the march — which King had planned to lead despite the order.

Loeb also said, after an emotion-packed confrontation with 350 ministers, the negotiations in the garbage workers strike will be reopened. The eight-week-old strike of the city's predominantly Negro sanitation workers—98 per cent of 1300—has formed the background for the demonstrations.

Rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the assassin passed the \$150,000 mark today as the Memphis City Council met and guaranteed a minimum reward of \$100,000. Earlier newspapers had offered \$50,000.

Immediately after assuming command of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, along with other aides of the SCLC, went to R. S. Lewis and Sons Funeral Home, here Friday.

Loeb said restoration of King's neck took five hours. The wound is now barely visible.

King lay on a satin lining, wearing a black suit, white shirt and black tie with a slight design. Abernathy selected the clothing.

Several hundred persons filed past the opened coffin. Many became extremely emotional, some threw their hands into the air, sobbing uncontrollably.

Finally, Abernathy shut the coffin, and it was carried into

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

1 THE HUNTSVILLE TIMES

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-6-68

Edition: DAILY

Author: CHRISTOPHER REIL

Editor: LEROY A. STIMS

Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

44-1740-SFI-6

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

Search Pushed For Assassin

a waiting black and white hearse outside.

As it was carried, Abernathy quoted the Bible. "The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away," he said above the weeping.

"The king is dead. . . long live the king," King's close advisor for 15 years said.

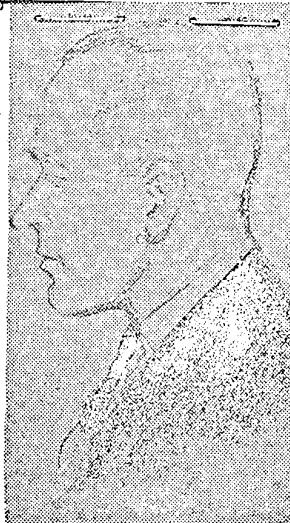
A procession of more than 50 cars drove from the Negro neighborhood onto an interstate highway and to the Memphis Metropolitan Airport where a four-engine American Airlines plane, chartered by Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, later arrived.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. King never left the airplane, although she was seen as the casket was slowly placed onto a large conveyer belt. Abernathy returned with the plane to Atlanta, to return here Monday to lead the march.

He also vowed to lead the "poor peoples" march on Washington, although delaying the original April 22 date.

"We have decided that as he died for the poor, so we must work for the poor," the new leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference said.



SUSPECT SKETCHED

. . . King Murderer?

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Early arrest talk in King case fades

The task of finding the person who killed Martin Luther King Jr. apparently has settled down to the grueling police routine.

THERE WAS NO talk of an early arrest, as there had been shortly after King was assassinated last Thursday night. Robert G. Drewry and John C. Moore, the two U. S. commissioners here, said they had not been approached to issue a fugitive warrant by either the FBI or the U. S. attorney.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal reported today that the city's fire and police director is investigating the possibility that someone used the police radio frequency to draw officers off the trail of the fleeing assassin.

The paper said in a copy-right story that Frank C. Holoman, Memphis fire and police director, "would only say last night that such a possibility is under investigation."

THE PAPER said radio transmissions indicated Lt. R. W. Bradshaw in police car 160 was speeding after a white Mustang, suspected as a possible getaway car, following the shooting.

Holoman "did confirm that Lt. Bradshaw in car 160 was in the area of the reported chase, but not involved in the chase" the paper said.

"I was not chasing a white Mustang," the paper quoted Bradshaw as saying. "Any other information will have to come from the chief."

The police dispatcher relayed seven transmissions — supposedly from Lt. Bradshaw in car 160 — between 6:35 p.m. and 6:47 p.m. last Thursday," the paper said, "little more than a half hour after Dr. King was shot by a sniper outside the Lorraine Motel."

THE PAPER said the messages described the route of the chase, said that a blue Pontiac was also chasing the Mustang and said shots were fired from the Mustang at the Pontiac.

The Commercial Appeal quoted a police source as saying officers in a sheriff's patrol car and a Tennessee Highway Patrol cruiser stationed along the route of the chase "neither heard the shooting in the area, nor did they see the autos supposedly involved in the chase."

As federal officials pressed their manhunt, there were reports of arrests in various parts of the country and of a widespread search in Mexico. All proved false.

It was learned that the gun found abandoned in a doorway next to the building from which police say the shot was fired was not among those stolen from a sporting goods store two days before the slaying.

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

20
THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
4-10-68

Date: FINAL
Edition: CLARENCE B. HANSON
Author: CLARENCE B. HANSON
Editor: MURKIN
Title:

Character:
or 44-1740-SFI-7
Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM
☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Killer May Have Left False Clues

MEMPHIS — The killer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. may have left a trail of false clues to confuse his pursuers.

Shortly after the murder, the police said they had never seen a case where there was so much evidence left behind.

The assassin not only left fingerprints and hand prints in his room and in the bathroom from which he shot Dr. King, but he also left a blue piece of luggage and a rifle on the sidewalk outside.

Tuesday, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were reported to be looking in such widely diverse areas as Birmingham, Ala., Memphis, Chicago, and Mex-

ico for the young, long-nosed man believed to have shot the civil rights leader.

In Birmingham, at the request of the FBI, airline agents shuffled through passenger lists at two airlines for last week, checking several names.

FBI agents in Birmingham were also reported to be checking the records of gun shops.

Within minutes after Dr. King's slaying, the Memphis police had confiscated the Remington 30.06-caliber rifle that the assassin dropped outside the rooming house from which he fired the fatal shot. The rifle was new.

A new weapon can almost always be traced from the manufacturer to the retailer by its serial number.

Copies of a sketch made from the descriptions furnished to the police at Memphis were distributed to officers at the United States-Mexico border and inside Mexico.

The investigation apparently spread to Mexico after the Mexican consul at Memphis, Rolando Veloz Canales, reported to the police that a young man resembling the police sketch, which he had seen in a Memphis newspaper, had got a Mexican travel card on the day before Dr. King was killed.

"I remembered him because of his long nose," Veloz said.

A long sharp nose was the one thing most witnesses remembered about the young man who checked into the shabby rooming house about three hours before Dr. King was shot to death on the balcony of a nearby motel.

The address and telephone number given by the man on his application for the Mexican travel permit were improper.

The address given for a Chicago street needed either a north or a south to make it complete. The telephone number given was for Antioch, Wis.

The age given by the young man on his application was 21 years.

"I thought he might be a little younger," said Veloz.

Most of the witnesses at the rooming house who saw the man believed to be the assassin said that he was in his late 20's.

Veloz said the man produced an Illinois voter registration certificate as proof of citizenship. No such name as

the one on the voter certificate was contained in the Illinois files of registered voters.

A white Mustang automobile was parked in front of the rooming house at the time of the assassination.

Two witnesses indicated they believed that the man had doubled back. They said they saw the Mustang being driven off at a fast rate of speed a moment or so after the man had come out of the rooming house.

There was also a report by the police that a white Mustang and a blue Pontiac were seen on a highway leading from Memphis shortly after the shooting, with occupants of the two automobiles

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

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

4-10-68

Date: METRO

Edition: MARTIN WALDRON

Author: DUARD LE GRAND

Editor: MURKIN

Title:

Character:

or

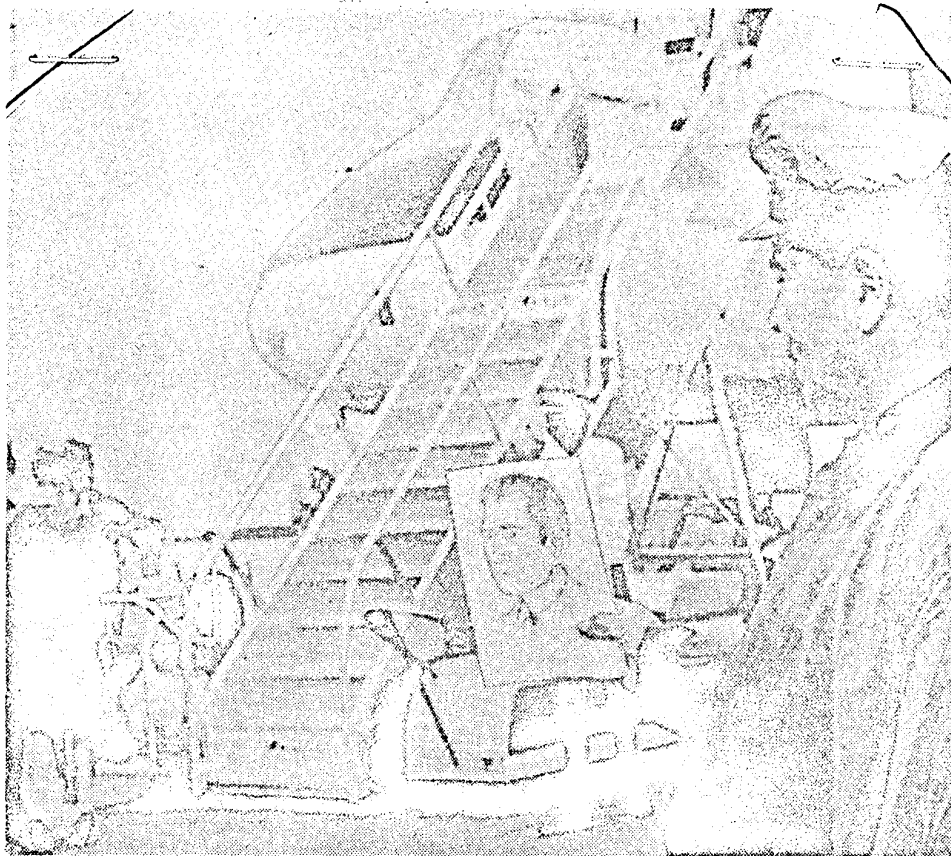
44-1740-SFI-8

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☒ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 16 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	



MANHUNT—Policeman Gilberto Vazquez studies an artist's drawing of the alleged killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Mexico City's International Airport Tuesday after a Mexican consulate alerted authorities to watch the Mexican border for the assassin. (UPI Telephoto).

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

2nd white Mustang in King case

Presence of a second white Mustang near the doorway which police say the slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used to escape gave rise today to published reports that it may have been the getaway car.

THE MEMPHIS Commercial Appeal said the car with Arkansas license and a similar vehicle, parked a short distance north, both left the scene within 15 minutes after King was fatally shot a week ago today.

Both vehicles were within 100 feet of the doorway to the second-floor rooming house where police said the assassin waited and shot King as he stood on the balcony of a motel across a rear street.

The killer was believed to have walked out of the Main Street entrance to the rooming house, turned south and dropped the murder weapon in front of a business firm next door.

GUY CANIPE, owner of the firm, said he saw the young white man drop the package which contained the gun, but did not see his face.

The Commercial Appeal speculated that the man then walked a few steps farther along, got into the dirty white Mustang with Arkansas tag and sped away.

The second Mustang, parked north of the rooming house entrance, also left the scene near the time of the shooting.

POLICE SAID they would investigate reports that a supposed police chase in northeast Memphis — eight miles from the scene — 30 minutes after the shooting may have been a decoy to allow the killer to escape.

A recording of the police radio dispatcher's transmissions showed seven calls in 12 minutes from a lieutenant's car in the northeast section of the city detailing the chase.

The lieutenant said Tuesday he did not make the calls.

This led to speculation that someone other than police may have sent the calls on the police frequency to draw officers away from the escape route.

The Mississippi state line is about 10 miles directly south of the shooting scene, and the bridge leading to Arkansas is about two miles southwest of the motel where King was slain.

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

1 THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-11-68

Edition: METRO

Author: CLARENCE R. HANSON

Editor: CLARENCE R. HANSON

Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

44-1740-SF-9

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

APR 13 1968

FBI — BIRMINGHAM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

For Questioning City Man Sought In King Death

White Auto Is Found In Atlanta

Has Jefferson
License Plates,
It Is Reported

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is searching for a man driving a white Mustang with Jefferson County license plate, for questioning in connection with the slaying of the Rev. Martin Luther King, it was learned Thursday night.

He was identified as Eric Starvo Galt, 36.

Residents of 2608 Highland av, Galt's last known address, confirmed they had been questioned by the FBI concerning Galt.

The Birmingham and Washington offices of the FBI would make no comment on the search.

Sources indicated no formal charges had been made.

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

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-12-68

Edition: FINAL

Author: DUARD LE GRAND

Editor: DUARD LE GRAND

Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification:

44-1740-SF-10

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 13 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

Galt was reported driving a white, 1966 Mustang with the Alabama license number 1-38993. He was described as 5 feet, 11 inches tall, 175 pounds, blue eyes, brown hair and 36 years old.

Residents at 2608 Highland av, a rooming house, said they had not seen the person in question for about three months. They did not recall the type car he owned.

Meanwhile, The Atlanta Constitution reported federal agents there had impounded a white Mustang with an Alabama license plate. It was not definite if the two cars were the same.

The car had been left parked at a public housing project near the Georgia State Capitol, the newspaper reported.

It said two residents of the housing project were known to have seen a young man whom they said looked like the description of the sniper.

The news story said the FBI agents swarmed around the car most of Thursday snapping pictures and taking fingerprints. It said the car was taken to a federal building and locked up.

The paper quoted a 13-year-old boy as saying the car had two 1967 Mexican visa stickers on the window. The boy said there were cigaret ashes all over the car floor and red mud on the interior on the driver's side.

It was the visa stickers that prompted the boy's mother to call the FBI Wednesday night, the paper said, adding that she had heard on television earlier that a man fitting the description of the suspected assassin had visited the Mex-

ican consulate in Memphis prior to the King murder and obtained a visitor's pass.

The Rev. King was slain a week ago at a Memphis motel. At least one white Mustang, and possibly two, were thought to be used by the killer.

The police bulletin said the man, who has no record of arrests in Birmingham, has not been charged.

There have been several indications of a Birmingham connection with the slaying. Earlier, the FBI was checking local gun dealers to determine if the rifle used in the shooting was purchased here.

There has been no indication of what the investigation turned up.

In New York, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said a progress report would be made to the nation soon on the manhunt for the slayer of King.

"We will report on some ing to its commander."

Col. Daniel Meadows, head of dental services for the Veterans Administration Hospital in Birmingham and commander of the 650th Medical Detachment of the Army National Guard, said his 33-man unit received orders from the Defense Dept. to

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Does FBI Know King Killer

WASHINGTON — Five days after the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., some officials here said today that, while Clark's earlier statements may have been too optimistic and therefore perhaps misleading, they were based on information

We are continuing the in- from both local and federal investigation in every which law officers and almost certainly reflected the attorney's anxiety to display a calm, positive attitude.

At a press conference in Memphis last Friday, Clark which had indicated the case would be solved quickly, including the manager of the rundown rooming house from which was fired the single fatal shot at King as he stood on his Memphis motel balcony. — Clark was quoted as saying he was "confident" of a quick solution.

In an appearance on TV (Meet The Press) Sunday Clark maintained his optimism, saying: "Our judgment of the evidence at this time is

we have evidence of a man on the run."

"We know quite a bit more today than we knew two days ago and we hope we can show you a picture of exactly what he (the assassin) looks like before too long," Clark said.

Remain Optimistic

"We have a very substantial amount of physical evidence. We remain optimistic and, as I said in Memphis Friday, are very hopeful that we can have an early and successful conclusion to our investigation followed by indictment, prosecution and conviction."

But in still another TV appearance Monday on the Today Show, Clark warned against over-optimism. He said:

"The focus is sharpening and we are quite close, we think, but that depends upon how some of the leads that we have develop. And to get too optimistic wouldn't be fair."

been matched with prints, in FBI files here.

Time-Consuming

A spokesman said the FBI has 186 million fingerprints on file and that when it is not clear which finger a suspect's print is from, trying to match them is a tortuous, time-consuming process.

The FBI also has refused to comment on reports it has asked Mexican authorities to aid in the search. Police in Mexico said yesterday that a drawing of the suspect had been distributed throughout Mexico and at border crossing points.

But FBI spokesmen clearly indicated the search has extended far beyond the initial six-state area (Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri) ~~staked out~~ by investigators soon after King's death.

Have A Name

On Sunday Clark said: "We have a name. Whether it will prove to be the correct one or not remains to be seen."

Indications today were that Clark was depending on evidence left behind by the suspect to establish his real identity. He had checked into the rooming house under the false name of John Willard.

"There are a number of studies of prints that may establish an identity, but there is nothing definite at this time," Clark had said the day after King's murder.

Since then, the Memphis police, FBI and Justice Dept. officials have refused officially to discuss prints and other physical evidence — including a rifle and blue overnight bag containing some clothes — left behind by the suspect.

The rifle and bag are undergoing analysis at FBI laboratories here. And although it was reported that a handprint and thumbprint were found, they apparently have not yet

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

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
4-8-68

Date: METRO
Edition: SCRIPPS-HOWARD
Author: DUARD LE GRAND
Editor: MURKIN
Title:

Character:
or 44-1740
Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM
☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF-11

INDEXED
FILED

APR 10 1968

FBI — BIRMINGHAM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Paper Reports

Killer Bought Gun In B'ham

By VINCENT BURKE and
NICHOLAS C. CHRISS
The Los Angeles Times

MEMPHIS — The rifle believed used to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King was purchased in Birmingham, Ala., The Los Angeles Times learned Wednesday.

The FBI refused to comment, but informants said FBI agents traced the rifle through its serial number to a store in Birmingham and that it was purchased new over the counter a few days before the slaying here last Thursday.

The weapon, which has been undergoing tests at the FBI laboratory in Washington is a Remington 30.06 pump fire with a telescopic sight. It fires the same bullet as the Army's M-1

rifle. Results of the laboratory tests have not been disclosed. It could not be determined whether the telescopic sight also was obtained in the Birmingham store or whether the purchaser left any information about his

Exclusive!

identity.

Authorities also have traced binoculars left near the scene by the suspected slayer. The binoculars, The Times learned Wednesday, were purchased at York Arms Company, a sporting goods store located about six blocks from the rundown rooming house on South Main Street where the slayer set up his ambush.

The rifle and a rectangular

blue leatherette case containing the binoculars were dropped on the sidewalk on South Main Street a few feet from the entry to the rooming house by a man who was seen leaving the rooming house a few minutes after the slaying.

The binoculars were purchased in Memphis on the afternoon of the slaying and the clerk who sold them has been interviewed several times by Memphis police and the FBI.

If the man who purchased the rifle in Birmingham and the man who bought the binoculars in Memphis is the same person who fled from the rooming house, then at least four persons have seen his face.

Besides the sales' clerks, the others are Mrs. Bessie Brewer,

the landlady who rented an \$8.50-a-week room to the suspect and Charlie Hugh Stephens, one of her tenants.

Mrs. Brewer and Stephens were re-interviewed Tuesday by FBI agents and shown a drawing of the suspect developed by the FBI from descriptions of the man's features.

Stephens told The Times Wednesday that the drawing did not resemble the fugitive and was much younger than the man he remembered. Mrs. Brewer said Tuesday shortly after her FBI interview that she wasn't able to remember what the fugitive or the drawing looked like.

Stephens said the composite drawing was a full-face view, although he had seen only the

man's profile. He said he recalled that the man had a long thin nose but that the FBI drawing revealed a rather chubby face and a bulbous nose.

"It wasn't the face I recalled," Stephens said.

The only description of the suspect that has been made public was given Friday by Memphis Police Director Frank G. Holloman. He said the man was between 26 and 32 years old, weighed between 165 and 175 pounds and was about six feet tall.

The suspect obtained a room from Mrs. Brewer between 3 and 3:30 p.m. Thursday. Dr. King was wounded fatally about 6 p.m. by one shot believed to have been fired from a common bathroom on the second floor of the rooming house, just a few steps from the suspect's room.

After the shot was fired, the man was seen walking from the direction of the 60th room down a dark hallway with rifle wrapped in a newspaper or blanket and with the blue leatherette bag in hand.

Several witnesses at Jim's Grill, next to the rooming house, have reported seeing a white Mustang parked in front of the restaurant. Most of them said they first noticed it there between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. and that they noticed it was gone shortly after 6 p.m. But none of them saw the killer.

The automobile has not been directly linked to the assassin, although U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said in Memphis last Saturday that it "figured" in the investigation.

What clues the FBI has to the suspect's whereabouts are being kept secret.

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

1A

THE ANNISTON STAR
ANNISTON, ALABAMA
TALLADEGA DAILY
HOME
TALLADEGA, ALABAMA

Date: 4/11/68

Edition: Final

Author: VINCENT BURKE &
NICHOLAS C. CHRIS

Editor: CODY HALL

Title: MURKIN

Character: CR
or

Classification: BIRMINGHAM
Submitting Office:

☒ Being Investigated

BH 44-1740-SF-12

SEARCHED INDEXED

SERIALIZED FILED

APR 16 1968

FBI — BIRMINGHAM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

~~Identified as roomer—~~

Sketch of man looked like Galt, landlord declares

BY TOM LANKFORD
News staff writer

The manager of a Birmingham rooming house said today that the sketch of a man sought in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "looked exactly like" a man who roomed at his house six weeks last year.

Peter Nicholas Cherpes, manager of the Economy Grill and Rooms, 2608 Highland Ave., said the man was known to him as Eric Galt.

Cherpes said he told the FBI last Tuesday that a front view sketch brought from Memphis resembled Galt.

A side view sketch, which appeared in The Birmingham News last Friday, also looked like Galt, but was not as close a resemblance as the front view, Cherpes said.

Cherpes said the man known as Galt identified himself on a

registration card as a ship builder who last worked in the Ingalls shipbuilding concern in Pascagoula, Miss.

The FBI put out a "locate and advise" order on Galt — then cancelled it — after a white Mustang was found abandoned in an Atlanta housing project last Thursday.

The tag on the car carried a license number issued to Galt in Birmingham.

POLICE IN Memphis chased a white Mustang automobile after King's assassination.

Cherpes today said federal agents first approached him about Galt either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Last Thursday night, after the white Mustang was found in Atlanta, Cherpes told reporters he did not know Galt

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

THE BIRMINGHAM
1 NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-15-68
Edition: Metro
Author: Tom Lankford
Editor: John W. Bloomer
Title: Murkin

Character: 44-1740-SF-13

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 16 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

and he had not roomed at his place.

Today, he said he kept silent because FBI agents who had questioned him asked him not to answer anyone's questions concerning the man. After inquiries by sheriff's deputies and state investigators, Cherpes said he called the FBI and requested he be allowed to "talk."

He said the agent told him he preferred the information be kept secret but also advised he had no authority to stop him from talking.

"Right away I knew his name," Cherpes said. "He came here, that man, Aug. 28, 1967, and left Oct. 7."

Cherpes said Galt, whom he described as a quiet man who was a natty dresser, always paid his room and board on time and in cash.

"When he was here, on the third or fourth day, he asked me if I would drive his car downtown for him to take a driver's test," Cherpes said.

"He was a new man to Alabama and to Birmingham and also a customer," Cherpes said. "And I wanted to help him on that basis. If he had asked for my recommendation, I would have investigated more closely."

CHERPES SAID the two sat on a bench at Kelly Ingram Park that day Sept. 6 until a State Trooper let him take the test.

"Galt came back and said everything was ok," Cherpes said.

Cherpes said on the second or third week that Galt roomed with him he received a prepaid package in the mail from Chicago. It weighed 20 to 25 pounds and was about two feet long and one foot wide.

The next day, Galt said he had received the wrong merchandise and was going to send it back.

"About a half hour later I saw him carrying the box to his car."

When Galt paid his last week's room in advance, he told the manager he was going to Mobile to look for a job but would be back for his personal belongings, Cherpes said.

TWO DAYS later, Galt told the manager he had called Mobile, had a job and would leave Thursday.

"I won't be back," he told Cherpes, "but I expect a letter from Chicago. I want you to hold it. I don't know my next address, but I will let you know."

Cherpes said that was the last time he saw or heard from Galt.

About the last of February or the first of March, the letter from Chicago for Galt arrived at the rooming house address.

"I was puzzled for a while where to mail it," said the manager. "I didn't have an address. So I held the letter for a week, then returned it."

Cherpes said the envelope was light green, thin paper and had a firm name printed on it. He said it was postmarked Chicago and he thought it was a check.

CHERPES SAID when he received the letter, he went to his file to look for Galt's registration card. He said he found the card at that time, but when FBI agents asked for it later, it was missing.

The manager said when the roomer first checked in, he said his last job had been at the Pascagoula shipyards and he was taking a "long vacation." He said he expected to

stay at the rooming house three or four months.

He said the roomer was a "loner" and took all his meals

at the boarding house, with the exception of the last week. He always stayed in his room until around noon, Cherpes said, and then would leave and return about supper time. Often he left again, but he frequently stayed in the TV room watching television.

Cherpes said Galt was around six feet tall, weighed 165 to 175 pounds, had blue eyes and light-colored medium-length hair.

LOOKED about 25 to 30 years of age, much younger than the age of his driver's license, Cherpes said.

"He was above the average roomer in dress, talk and appearance," the manager added. "He always wore sporty clothes and a tie.

"He was always pleasant and I never knew of him drinking.

"He didn't say much of his family affairs, only that he was divorced. He only talked about the weather, never about politics or racial troubles."

Cherpes said Galt had two suitcases, one dark blue in color.

The manager said he had read newspaper accounts that Galt had a duplicate driver's license mailed to his rooming house in March of this year. The license was not mailed there, he said.

AS MANY AS five FBI agents at a time have been to the rooming house to question him and search his files for names of roomers who may have known Galt, Cherpes said.

While Cherpes said he last saw Galt in Birmingham last Oct. 7, officials at Birmingham Trust National Bank said the man turned his keys in to a safe deposit box here in December.

If that's true, Galt may have returned to Birmingham or roomed at another address, according to authorities.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

During Brief Residence**Galt's Landlord
Tells About Tenant**

BY BILL MOBLEY

To FBI agents and others looking into the death of the Rev. Martin Luther King, one man seems to have led an uneventful life in a short stay at a Birmingham rooming house.

Eric Starvo Galt came into being Aug. 26, 1967, at 2806 Highland-av. At least, that's the first official date of his life so far.

He vanished from the same place six weeks later, Oct. 7, and has not been seen or heard from since.

Object Of Search

Now, he's the object of a wide search. The FBI wants him for questioning in connection with the death of King because a car similar to his was seen leaving the shooting scene in Memphis nearly two weeks ago.

And the car Galt purchased during his brief residence here has been impounded by federal agents in Atlanta.

Galt took a room on Aug. 26 at the 2806 Highland-av address, according to the landlord, Peter Cherpes. The rambling, two-story house has 14 similar rooms.

Mr. Cherpes said the man he knew as Eric Galt stayed in his room until almost noon every day, then went out and was back for supper, which is served boarding house style where the food is placed on the table and each person selects his own menu.

Asks Favor

Cherpes said he assumed the man selected his place because of ads in the newspaper, like nine out of 10 of his customers do.

He said he had never seen,

or heard of Galt before that.

"The second week he was here, he took me outside and told me he wanted me to do him a favor," the landlord said. "He told me he had bought a car and wanted to get a driver's license and he wanted me to drive his car to town to take the test."

~~Cherpes said he drove the~~

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

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS1
BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-16-68

Edition: Final

Author: Bill Mobley

Editor: Duard Le Guard

Title: Murkin ✓

Character:

or

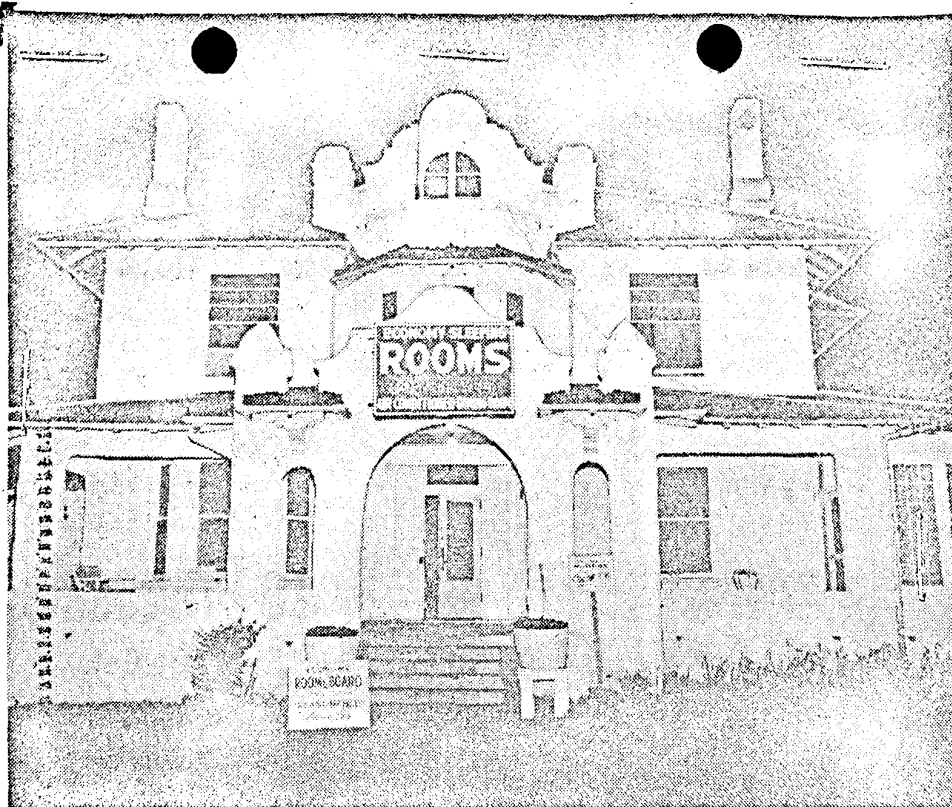
Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated44-1740-SF-14
SEARCHED DC INDEXED 10
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____

APR 16 1968

FBI — BIRMINGHAM



GALT "HOME"—The only known residence of Eric Starvo Galt, sought for questioning in connection with the shooting of the Rev. Martin Luther King, was in this rooming house on Southside.

Landlord Tells Of Galt's Stay

Continued from Page 1

tenant's car to Kelly Ingram Park and sat on the bench while Galt took the road test. When Galt returned, the State Trooper got Cherpes' name as the driver accompanying the learner, and Galt said he had passed the test.

Expected Package

During the weeks that followed, Galt continued to lead an uneventful life, as far as the landlord was concerned. Cherpes said he would talk to the other tenants if they talked to him, but he never heard Galt say anything important, or anything that would connect him outside Birmingham except that he was out of work and from the Gulf area.

On one occasion, Cherpes said, Galt told him he was expecting a package from Chicago and if it came to take care of it for him. When the package arrived, Cherpes said it was a large cardboard box wrapped in paper with a Chicago return address. He

did not remember the name of the firm. The morning after receiving the package, Cherpes said Galt told him, "They sent me the wrong merchandise."

About a half hour later, Cherpes said he saw Galt carrying the package to his car and assumed he was returning it.

Job In Mobile

The last week of his stay, Galt informed his landlord he was going to Mobile and wanted to leave his belongings in the room and would not pay for meals.

Instead of leaving on Sunday as he had planned, Cherpes said Galt told him he had made a call to Mobile, found out he had a job waiting for him and would not return at all.

Cherpes said Galt told him he was expecting a letter from Chicago which would be a check for the merchandise he had returned. He told the landlord he did not know what his address would be where he was going, but he would

send it to Cherpes when he learned.

Letter Arrives

Five months later, the letter Galt expected arrived from Chicago, and the landlord had not heard from his former tenant since he left.

Cherpes said the lightweight, green envelope had a Chicago return address, he never noticed the firm name, but it looked like a check inside when he held it to the light.

Cherpes said he kept the letter a week and then stamped it: "Return. Not here."

When asked about a reported request from someone who represented himself as Galt for a duplicate driver's license to be sent to that address, Cherpes said it could have been sent there and been picked up because he has lost two Social Security checks from his mail in the past few months.

He said all mail to the house is piled on the table in the entrance hall.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tight security—

Was King assassin plot foiled here?

BY TOM LANKFORD
News staff writer

Martin Luther King's assassin may have dogged the trail of the usually tardy civil rights leader for months trying to kill him in Birmingham, some authorities believe.

"HE COULD have lain-in-wait with that sniper rifle on many occasions, waiting for a shot at King," said Sheriff Mel Bailey.

Bailey and other law officers believe that chance never came here because of tight security and frequent cancellation of announced mass meetings.

"The sniper's timing would have been thrown off," the sheriff said. "In the past six months, there had been no good opportunity for anyone to ambush King in the Birmingham area."

THE MOST LIKELY time for such an assassination was last Oct. 30 when King and four other civil rights leaders surrendered here to serve a five-day contempt of court jail term.

Nationwide headlines had heralded the event and authorities speculated someone might try to kill King when he

surrendered at the Jefferson County Jail.

Anticipating a possible plot, Bailey sent Maj. David Orange and Sgt. A. R. Bracewell to Atlanta to fly on the Birmingham-bound airplane with King and the others.

WHEN THEY touched down at Municipal Airport, the five were arrested aboard the plane and hustled to the County Jail at Bessemer instead of Birmingham.

Several nights later, under cloak of darkness, the prisoners were transported under

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

THE BIRMINGHAM
1 NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-16-68

Edition: Metro

Author: Tom Lankford

Editor: John W. Bloomer

Title: Murkin

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF1-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

guard to the County Jail in Birmingham.

The surprise that caught newsmen and others napping again came when King and company were released from jail eight hours ahead of schedule and escorted under guard to a local motel.

SHERIFF'S deputies and Birmingham police kept constant security on King until he spoke at a mass meeting that night and boarded an airplane back to Atlanta.

There were only two other occasions when a sniper could have killed King in Jefferson County, and both times King either failed to show for announced meetings or was hours late.

He was six hours late for his church appearance in Bessemer about two weeks before the assassination in Memphis.

BAILEY AND other local and federal officers feel King was the victim of a conspiracy.

"And that conspiracy probably had hopes of the fatal shot being fired in Birmingham, a city known for its frequent civil rights campaigns since 1961," Bailey said.

Birmingham escaped that notoriety, however, and the assassin of King fired once from a powerful Remington 30.06 rifle to snuff out the life of King on his motel balcony in Memphis April 4.

KING WAS involved in a garbage strike controversy in the Tennessee city, and rioting and looting had resulted from a march he led before his death.

On the day of the slaying, news media had announced that King would be in Memphis to attend an injunction hearing.

No arrest has been made although Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark announced hours after the assassination that authorities had the name of a suspect "on the run."

THE NAME of that suspect, John Willard, is now believed to have been fictitious.

In Birmingham, dead-end clues to another mystery suspect, Eric Starvo Galt, confront the FBI.

False clues multiplied in the hunt for Galt, a quiet-talking man whose last address was a Southside boarding house. His former landlord said Monday he had identified drawings shown by FBI agents as resembling Galt.

"IT'S HIM, I'm sure," said Peter Cherpes, 72. "A front sketch looked exactly like the man who roomed here. A profile sketch was a good resemblance, but not so good as the other."

Galt's abandoned white Mustang was impounded last Thursday by FBI agents in Atlanta. It fits the description of a car seen leaving the scene after the Memphis sniper fled from a rooming house.

An FBI alert for Galt was issued in Florida last Thursday, but was canceled. However, the FBI has continued a search for Galt or clues to his past.

GALT SAID he was employed at a Mississippi shipyard, and he claimed he had a 1962 Louisiana driver's license.

After the exclusive story on Galt from Cherpes on Monday, The News found there was no record of his having worked at the shipyard. And there was no record of a Louisiana driver's license issued to him.

Is there a real Eric Starvo Galt? The FBI was asked, but declined comment.

IT WAS KNOWN, however, that agents feel the man who established at least a six-week residence in Birmingham has long since left the state and maybe the country.

Investigations by the FBI indicate they have not turned up a real person named Eric Starvo Galt.

As far as inquiries by The News have determined, Galt was first heard of when he showed up at the Southside boarding house last Aug. 26, saying he was on vacation and planned to stay three or four months.

HE LEFT Oct. 7, however, saying he had a new job in Mobile.

Cherpes said Galt was a longer who never talked about politics or civil rights. "As a matter of fact, he talked most about the weather," the landlord said.

Galt always paid his board, \$22.50 a week, in cash. He also paid cash for the 1966 Mustang.

On Sept. 6, Cherpes said he accompanied Galt downtown for a driver's test.

ON THE LICENSE application, Galt listed his occupation as "merchant seaman, unemployed." Maritime unions have no record of the name, nor was he drawing unemployment pay from the state.

About a week later, the landlord recalled, Galt got a package in the mail from Chicago. It was a box about two feet long, a foot wide and weighing 20 to 25 pounds. But Galt complained it was the wrong merchandise and said he was going to return it, Cherpes recalled.

When Galt left the rooming house, he said he expected a letter from Chicago and asked Cherpes to forward it. "I'll send a forwarding address," he said.

A LETTER from a Chicago firm, which looked like a check, arrived for Galt in February or March, Cherpes said, but was returned since there was no forwarding address.

"He never did give me his new address," Cherpes recalled.

Galt apparently did stay or return to Birmingham, according to authorities. For in December, he turned in the keys to his safety deposit box at Birmingham Trust National Bank.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Two Cab Drivers Identify Sketch

BY HENRY P. LEIFERMANN

ATLANTA (UPI)—An Atlanta taxicab driver identified for the FBI Tuesday a sketch of the elusive Eric Starvo Galt and said the mystery figure in the search for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassin rode in his cab the day after the slaying.

A second taxicab driver, working for the same company in Birmingham, where Galt once lived, Jefferson County Sheriff Mel Bailey said he thinks the assassin may have originally planned to kill King in the Alabama steel city.

Both drivers said the trips were in Atlanta's "hippie" neighborhood around Peachtree-st and 14th-st. The area is about seven miles from the public housing project where a white Ford Mustang, registered to Galt, was located by FBI agents last Thursday.

Both taxi drivers work for the Atlanta Million Cooperative Cab Co. Their names were withheld at the request of the taxicab firm.

The FBI has pored through the records of Atlanta Million Cab and other taxicab firms in the city in an attempt to trace Galt from the time he apparently abandoned the white Mustang found in the Capitol Homes housing project.

Apparently working on a new lead, however, FBI agents returned to the offices of Atlanta Million Cabs Tuesday and asked specifically if any drivers had made pickups in the "hippie" neighborhood on the Friday after King was slain.

Two drivers who had made such pickups were questioned by an agent who showed them a sketch of the man the FBI apparently thinks is Galt.

Both drivers identified the man in the sketch as the one they picked up.

Bailey, who threw a tight security net around King when he was in the city last October to serve five days in jail, said he thinks a conspiracy existed to murder the civil rights leader.

The sheriff said his theory is only conjecture, but that "it is based on the evidence uncovered so far in the case."

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

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

1

BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-17-68

Edition: FINAL

Author: Henry Leifermann

Editor: Duard Le Guard

Title: Murkin

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SFI-16

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

No New Warrant

Although the Federal Bureau of Investigation has identified the man known as Eric Starvo Galt as escaped convict James Earl Ray, no new federal warrant will be issued, an FBI spokesman said Friday in Birmingham.

The warrant issued Wednesday by the U. S. Commissioner in Birmingham charged Galt and a man alleged to be his brother with conspiring to deprive the Rev. Martin Lu-

ther King of his constitutional rights. This warrant is still good, said Joseph H. Gamble, special agent in charge of the FBI in Birmingham.

Mr. Gamble said Galt is an alias used by Ray and, as such, the two names identify the same man. Thus there is no need for a new warrant.

Ray has also used the aliases James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron, James O'Conner and John Willard.

Another federal warrant, this one charging Ray with unlawful flight from Missouri to avoid confinement was issued following his escape.

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

2 BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD
Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 4-20-68

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor:

Title: MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF1-17

B

[Handwritten signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Slaying Mystery Deepens

Did 2 Men

Use Name

Of Galt?

FBI Says He Is Missouri Jail Escapee

The identification of a Missouri prison escapee as Eric Starvo Galt by the FBI Friday left several questions still unanswered, including the possibility that more than one person used the Galt name in the conspiracy to assassinate the Rev. Martin Luther King.

The FBI said James Earl Ray, 40-year-old escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary, is the same man as Galt, who lived in Birmingham briefly last year, visited here again in late March and early April, and may have been here in February.

As nearly as can be determined, those two or three times are the only connections Galt/Ray had with Birmingham. Ray was born in Illinois, had no record of arrests here, and Galt/Ray apparently lived

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

1 BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD
Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 4-20-68
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor:
Title: MURKIN

Character: CR
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM
☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF1-18

16

were only long enough to establish the Galt identity.

However, too many Galts in too many places at the same time, and varying descriptions of the elusive man, have led to speculation that more than one person used the name.

Bartending School

The person earlier identified as Galt supposedly was graduated from a bartending school in Los Angeles, Cal., on March 2, 1968. On March 1, a person who identified himself as Galt ordered a duplicate driver's license from Montgomery.

The license was mailed to 2608 Highland-av, the boarding house where Galt had lived earlier, along with a bill for 25 cents. The bill and the 25 cents were returned to Montgomery on March 6, although the owner-manager of the boarding house said he never saw the license, and some other mail has been missing.

Also, descriptions of the killer in Memphis, the Galt in Birmingham and Ray contain some variations, including one which has ranged from 26 to Ray's 40.

Had Contact

Several people who had contact with an Eric Starvo Galt had difficulty identifying pictures of him released earlier this week by the FBI.

And, Galt reportedly was taking dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965 when Ray was in the Missouri prison.

Meanwhile, two Birmingham service station attendants who worked at a station near the rooming house where Galt stayed last year and said they knew the wanted man, Friday said they have told the FBI they saw him in Birmingham in February.

It was also learned that the FBI had traced trading stamps found in a 1966 white

Mustang in Atlanta back to the same service station. The car was purchased by Galt in Birmingham last year.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, announcing Ray is the person sought in connection with the King shooting, said a systematic search of latent fingerprints uncovered in the case against the prints of more than 53,000 persons

led to the determination "that Galt and Ray are identical."

Hoover said Ray was reported missing from the Missouri prison at Jefferson City four months before Galt showed up in Birmingham.

In Missouri, he was serving a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

As Galt, Ray had been the object of a nation-wide search which extended into Mexico. A federal warrant charging him with conspiracy was issued in Birmingham Wednesday, and a murder warrant was issued by Tennessee authorities the same day.

Among the aliases now listed for Ray, in addition to Galt, are Harvey Lowmyer, John Willard, James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Conner.

John Willard was the name on the register of the flop-house in Memphis from which the shot that killed King was fired.

In addition to Missouri, Ray has served time in the Los Angeles County jail in 1949; state prisons at Joliet and Pontiac, Ill., from 1952 to 1954, and the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., from 1955 to 1958.

Ray was described as a white male, 5 feet, 10 inches tall; 163 to 174 pounds with blue eyes and brown hair. The FBI said he has a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand.

Ray claimed to have been born [redacted] in Illinois.

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

Prior to his escape, Ray had been in the Missouri prison since March 17, 1960.

He had attempted to escape in 1966 when he spent several chilly nights hiding in the prison's ventilating system before he was found.

Prison officials said the escape a year ago apparently was carefully planned. He was working in the food service system at the main prison, and hid in a bread truck which was leaving the walled area.

In 1966, Ray was sent to a mental hospital in Missouri for evaluation, not commitment. He was returned to the prison, and Warden Harold Swenson said Ray displayed no personality troubles or adjustment difficulties not common to confined men.

Varied Faces Of 'Eric Galt'



SOUGHT IN KING SLAYING—U. S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark announced Friday in Washington that the FBI has identified James Earl Ray, an escapee from Missouri State Penitentiary, as Eric Starvo Galt. At left is Ray as he appeared when arrested on a robbery charge in St. Louis in 1959. Above is a pic-

ture made of him in 1960.



At upper right is a prison photo of the wanted man and at lower right is a picture made of him when he was taking dancing lessons in California last year. The eyes, closed in the original photo, were painted in by an FBI artist. (UPI Telephotos).

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Smalltime Illinois con sought in King slaying

BY TOM LANKFORD

News staff writer

FBI agents were searching today for James Earl Ray, a smalltime Missouri prison escapee wanted in the assassination of Martin Luther King, under still another fictitious name.

"Wherever he is," a source close to the investigation told The News, "it's a cinch he has assumed another identity."

The source said the search for Ray — alias Eric Starvo Galt, John Willard, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, John Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Conner — is centered in Mexico.

"There's also a good chance of turning it to Cuba if he's still alive," he said. He refused to elaborate.

Fingerprints uncovered in the King death probe shattered

ed Galt's carefully fabricated brief stay in Birmingham.

THE FBI, said a search of files on 53,000 "wanted" persons in the bureau's identification division pegged Galt's

identity. He is a native of Illinois.

Galt established residence in Birmingham and bought a rifle and car here to throw authorities off his trail, investigators believe.

The gun, tossed on the sidewalk after the assassination, and the car, abandoned in Atlanta with its Jefferson County license plates, quickly led agents here.

The shadowy leads quickly deadended in falsehoods and contradictions.

Carelessly left fingerprints now have caused an obscure exconvict who once robbed a taxi driver of \$11 to emerge from the shadows.

No one connected with the investigation will say where the seemingly unlimited funds of Ray (Galt) came from, or if they think he had accomplices.

A NATIVE of Alton, Ill., Ray escaped the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, April 23, 1967. He was serving a 20-year sentence for an armed robbery in St. Louis.

Detective Harry Conners, who handled the Missouri arrest, questioned Ray after the \$120 holdup of a grocery.

"I can't deny it, and I won't admit it," he quoted Ray as saying.

"He just sat there with a silly grin on his face," the detective noted in his entries at the time.

Another St. Louis policeman, Ralph King, today said Ray "appeared very unstable."

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

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 4-20-68

Edition: Dixie

Author: TOM LANKFORD

Editor:

Title: MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF1-19

Ray, who had his first brush with the law when he stole a typewriter in Los Angeles 18 years ago, is now wanted by the FBI for conspiracy and by Memphis police for murder.

He has been portrayed by the FBI as a 40-year-old loner and avid dancer who specializes in armed robberies.

THE AGENTS said Ray, using the name Eric Starvo Galt, registered at a Birmingham rooming house four months after his jail escape and lived there six months.

He moved last Oct. 7, they said, but returned here several times.

Galt's landlord, Peter Cherpes, 72, Friday night said he couldn't identify any of the varied photographs of Ray as the man who lived at his place.

"I don't know," said Cherpes, who claims he may forget a name but never a face. "I just can't be sure."

THE NEWS also traced Galt to the Mayfield Cleaners, 2222 Highland Ave., and a Standard Oil station next door, but none of those who waited on him could identify the pictures.

The manager of the cleaners said records showed Galt a coat and pants there three times last September.

"It's been so long, I didn't even remember the name," the woman manager said. "But the FBI came five times, questioning me and looking through our records."

Attendants at the gas station said they remembered Galt's car had a trailer hitch on it and said he claimed it was used to pull a fishing boat.

WITH RAY'S (Galt's) photograph on front pages across the nation, a massive hunt for the fugitive has become the largest in the nation's history.

But there's no indication the FBI was any closer to catching Ray than it was Wednesday when it put the name Galt on a fugitive warrant charging him and "a man he alleged to be his brother" with depriving King of his civil rights.

PRISON OFFICIALS today said a 1966 escape try, thwarted when Ray was discovered in a ventilator shaft, landed him in a Fulton, Mo., prison hospital facility for a mental checkup.

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

The next escape by Ray the following year was successful when he hid in a truck carrying bread from the penitentiary bakery to its honor farms.

Ray claimed he was born in Decatur, Ill., but Paul Price, Alton city clerk, said records show he was born there two years earlier in 1926.

RECORDS at the Fulton facility indicated Ray's parents were dead. His mother was listed as Mrs. Lucille Ryan of St. Louis.

The FBI said Galt started using a string of aliases in brushes with the law beginning several years after he dropped out of the 10th grade at Alton, Ill.

John Willard was the name he used, according to the FBI, when he checked in a skid-row Memphis rooming house back to back with the Lorraine Motel, where King was fatally shot.

Eric Starvo Galt was the name agents said he used when he purchased a 30.06 rifle and 1966 white Mustang in Birmingham.

That rifle, recovered outside the Memphis rooming house, has been matched by ballistics as the gun that killed King, Nobel Peace Prize winning civil rights leader.

RAY WAS SAID by the FBI to have worked at various times as a laborer, baker and color matcher. In addition, the man known as Galt said he had worked as a merchant seaman, a shipbuilder and riverboat cook.

All told, Ray spent more than 13 years behind bars and a three-month stretch in the Army at hard labor for being drunk and "breaking arrest."

The Army discharged Ray, saying he couldn't adapt to military life.



THE FUGITIVE—FBI SAYS RAY (FIRST THREE PHOTOS) AND GALT (RIGHT) SAME MAN
From left: 1959 St. Louis police photo; 1960 after holdup conviction; 1966 in prison; 1968 at bartender school

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Ray was man of many faces

BY CHARLES RICHARDSON, News staff writer

He was Ray in Chicago, Willard in a Memphis flophouse, and Galt in Birmingham.

And he was other men at other times and in other places—Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Heron, James O'Connor.

He was either 38 years old or 40, depending on which birth date you want to believe.

And depending on his mood and what he felt like saying at the moment, he was a riverboat cook or a merchant seaman or a shipyard worker or a laborer or a color matcher or a handyman.

He was a vague, unsettled portrait of many men, most of them men who never were, working at jobs that never were.

What is he then, this much-publicized and most-wanted man singled out by the law as probably the ambush killer of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis April 4?

THIS MUCH, apparently, is real: He's James Earl Ray, from Alton, Ill., and he is an old hand behind prison bars

who was bounced from the Army as an unfit soldier.

He's a robber and a burglar, a drifter and a loner, and a man who's never succeeded at much of anything, although there are indications — bartender's school and dancing lessons and a careful attention to dress — that hint that he desperately wanted to.

So far, he's succeeded only in becoming the most hunted

man in decades and possibly in this country's history. Across the nation this weekend, in country post offices and big city federal buildings, his FBI poster is going up on bulletin boards. In uncounted hundreds of newspapers and on numberless thousands of TV screens, his face will become as familiar as your next-door neighbor.

Still, he remains as elusive as an April night's firefly.

It is the flitting, shadowy Ray, police say, who is believed to have fired the 30.06 Remington rifle that inflicted the massive neck wound that killed Dr. King from a distance of 200 feet.

WHAT THE killer did with his possessions in the next few moments, and with his Mustang automobile on the day that followed, raised little signposts of evidence that led the FBI to the first of the "other" James Earl Rays: Eric Starvo Galt.

There is reason to believe that Eric Starvo Galt is a

carefully concocted Birmingham alias. Except for the one that he is doubtless using now, it may be Ray's last.

With any study of his life's turbulent history, the man's systematic conniving to create an Eric Galt seems less unusual. He was fitted for it through long years of crime and brawling and close association with the men and the places where such connivance is perfected.

It began on a spring night in Chicago in 1952, when Ray robbed a taxi driver of a picayunish \$11 and then dived through a basement window to escape pursuing police. But he was nabbed on the spot and sent to the Illinois State Penitentiary, where he stayed until 1954.

ONCE OUT, the beer-drinking, vodka-loving Ray was arrested that same year on burglary charges which were dropped at Edwardsville, Ill. But less than 12 months later, in March, 1955, he was tried in a federal court in Kansas City for forging postal money orders and given three years and nine months in the federal prison at Ft. Leavenworth.

Once again, he went behind bars and, once again, emerged toughened but unchastened April 15, 1958.

Some 18 months later, he was arrested for robbing a supermarket in St. Louis and, this time, drew the longest of all his prison sentences: 20 years.

They sent him to the Missouri State penitentiary, where he tried twice to escape. He climbed up a ventila-

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

A-

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 4-21-68

Edition: Metro

Author: CHARLES RICHARDSON

Editor:

Title: MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF1-20

tor shaft one time, and they found him.

On the second try — April 23 of last year — he made it, hiding in a bakery truck that trundled him safely and unseen out the prison gates.

Exit James Earl Ray again.

Enter Eric Starvo Galt in August of last year, when he took a room on Birmingham's Highland Avenue and signed in under that then-unknown alias.

BEFORE HE arrived here, he had graduated from bartender's school in Los Angeles, but when he finished he didn't even accept the school's offer to help place him on a job.

He told his Birmingham landlord he was unemployed but had recently worked in a Mississippi shipyard. He was here, he said, to collect some unemployment compensation.

The shipyard job, like a number of other employment claims in his haphazard past, could not be confirmed. He claimed in Chicago to be a laborer, but the company at the address he listed had never heard of him. He claimed, again in Chicago, to have worked for a business corporation which, like the others, denied knowing of him.

But joblessness in Birmingham was no handicap to the neatly dressed Galt. He readily paid \$2,000 in cash for a

white 1963 Mustang whose owner said he never really expected to get his asking price.

AND GALT DIDN'T even argue terms, the first owner said. All he asked was that the man wait while he went to get the money, probably from his special safety deposit box at Birmingham Trust National Bank.

The FBI said Galt — or Ray or Willard or Lowmyer, et al — had put some 19,000 miles on the Mustang in the intervening months, driving to Mexico, Los Angeles and New Orleans.

These were big-money trips. What was the source of the money?

Here, Galt kept to himself. But he enrolled in a Birmingham dancing school, something he had done in New Orleans earlier. And he drank a good bit and had no problem paying for the Mustang.

Nor did he shrink from the price when he went to a local sporting goods store and picked out a hefty, expensive, high-powered rifle. Along with it, he selected a sniperscope.

THEN, AS obscurely and anonymously as he had entered it, Galt exited Birmingham.

He had lived here some seven months, and facts point heavily to the conclusion that his sole purpose may have been to establish a false person—the Eric Starvo Galt of Birmingham's Southside.

And it was no really difficult task to backtrack from Memphis to Galt's Southside address.

The rifle in question had been tossed to the ground beside the flophouse in Memphis from which the bullet had been fired. Two white Mustangs were seen parked in the same block as the flophouse. The license, or one of them, was red and white — colors used only by Alabama and Arkansas.

SUCH A MUSTANG was found abandoned at an Atlanta housing project. The license had been issued to Galt in Birmingham.

From that point, with elaborate footwork, the FBI linked

Galt and Ray and all the other assumed names and identities.

Ray, according to the best available descriptions, is five feet, 10 inches tall with blue eyes and short brown hair. He has scars on the forehead and palm, and his nose is narrow and straight. He has a noticeably protruding left ear, and he tugs on the lobe when nervous. He speaks in a rural accent and is fond of hillbilly music.

The FBI wants him for conspiracy to violate civil rights. The Memphis police want him for murder. There is reason to believe others may be involved.

But will they, too, emerge with as many faces?

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Eric Galt

Charged In Slaying Of King

Conspiracy Alleged By FBI Warrant

A man who lived in Birmingham briefly last year, identified as Eric Starvo Galt, 36, was formally charged by the FBI Wednesday in the fatal shooting of the Rev. Martin Luther King.

Galt, who apparently spent several weeks in Birmingham establishing an identity in August, September and October, 1967, was charged with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King.

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

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

1 BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-18-68

Edition: Final

Author: DUARD Le Guard

Editor: " " "

Title: Murkin

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF1-21

B
[Signature]

In Memphis, Galt was charged with first degree murder late Wednesday in the assassination of King.

Tennessee Dist. Atty. Phil Canale filed the murder charge. It was signed by General Sessions Court Judge Wayne Lindsey.

The state warrant charged that Galt "did unlawfully, feloniously, willfully, deliberately, premeditatedly and of his malice aforethought kill and murder Martin Luther King Jr."

The FBI gave no indication of Galt's hometown, and little of his personal history prior to the time he came to Birmingham and rented a room in a Southside boarding house some eight months before King was shot in Memphis, Tenn.

Warrant Issued Here

The FBI charge was lodged in a warrant issued by Mrs. Mildred F. Sprague, U. S. commissioner in Birmingham at the request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The charge was announced in Washington by U. S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

They said Galt was being sought "as a fugitive on a federal charge arising from the fatal shooting of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968."

Reports Confirmed

It was the first time the FBI had confirmed reports dug out in investigations by newsmen that Galt was a suspect in the case and that he had lived in Birmingham.

It had been determined that the suspect, while in Birmingham, had bought a car and obtained a driver's license at the Southside address.

The FBI publicly released a photograph it identified as that of Galt, but persons who had contacted the man had some doubt about whether it was the same man who spent time in Birmingham or registered in the Memphis flop-house from which the shot that killed King was fired.

Doubts Raised

Peter N. Cherpes, owner of the Birmingham rooming house where Galt stayed, said the picture "looks something like him." He said Galt's hair was light brown and showed up too dark in the picture. The FBI statement, however, said Galt had light brown hair.

Asked if he had ever noticed Galt pulling his ear, a nervous habit reported by the FBI, Mr. Cherpes said, "No."

In Memphis, Mrs. Bessie Brewer, who rented a room to King's killer, said, "I just don't know, I just don't know if it's him" when showed the FBI picture.

Charlie Stevens, who lives in the house and saw the killer, said the photograph "doesn't register."

And in Atlanta, a taxi driver who had said he hauled Galt two blocks the night after the killing, said the picture released by the FBI was different from one he had seen earlier.

"The one the FBI showed me was younger. The face was much thinner. The cheeks weren't as fleshy," he said.

Conspiracy Charged

Joseph H. Gamble, special agent in charge of the FBI in Birmingham, said the pictures were of Galt, taken this year, "in March I think."

It was Gamble who filed the complaint against Galt.

The FBI said at least two men conspired to deprive King of his civil rights, Galt and "an individual whom he alleged to be his brother."

Gun Traced Here

The FBI also said a 30.06 rifle, equipped with a telescopic sight and found near the Memphis rooming house, was purchased in Birmingham on March 30 along with the sight.

The name of the dealer was not disclosed, but speculation has been that the gun was purchased from a sporting goods store near the airport. The owner of the store confirmed he had talked with the FBI, but would not say if he had sold the gun.

Hoover said Galt, who has used the names of John Wil-

lard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates. The Mustang, which Galt reportedly purchased last August from the sales manager of a Birmingham lumber company, was found abandoned in Atlanta, Ga., last Thursday and has been impounded by the FBI.

Traveled 19,000 Miles

The car's odometer showed it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between August and April, the FBI said.

Hoover said Galt's travels in the car include trips to Los Angeles, Calif., New Orleans, Birmingham, Mexico and Memphis.

Galt, according to the FBI statement, claimed to have been employed as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a merchant seaman.

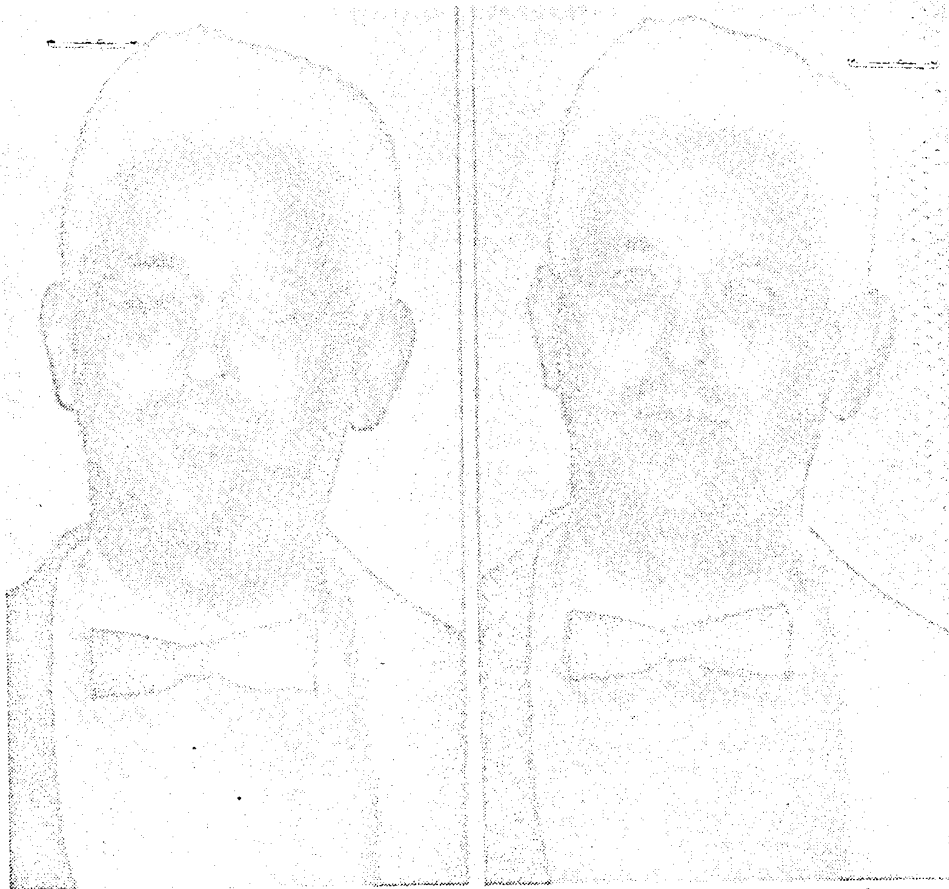
"He is said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham during September and October, 1967, and in Long Beach, Calif., from December, 1967, to February, 1968," the FBI said.

Description Given

Several dancing studios and dancing instructors in Birmingham contacted Wednesday night, said they did not remember Galt.

The FBI statement said Galt is a white male, five feet, 11 inches tall, 160 to 175 pounds, a neat dresser, of medium build, with brown hair in a "brush cut." He has blue eyes, his nose is straight and narrow and his teeth are straight and clean, the statement said.

A fan of country and western music, Galt is said to have a preference for vodka and beer, the FBI said.



FBI PHOTOS OF GALT—The FBI Wednesday issued these two photos of a man it identified as Eric Starvo Galt, also known as Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard. A warrant has been issued charging Galt with conspiracy in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The open eyes in the photo at right were sketched in by FBI artists.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

He Picked A Unique Name

BY BILL MOBLEY

When the man being sought across the country for conspiring to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. created a new identity, he picked a unique combination in Eric Starvo Galt.

The mysterious Galt used the name when he checked in at Economy Rooms, 2608 Highland-av, on Aug. 26, 1967. Proprietor Peter N. Cherpes said during the six weeks the man called Galt boarded with him. He (Galt) bought a car, obtained a drivers license and got a letter and a package from Chicago in that name.

He vanished from the rooming house on Oct. 7.

Why did he select the names?

A lot of research with the aid of employes of the Birmingham Public Library reveals some significance in the names. Eric and Erik have slightly different meanings in different languages, but all signify royalty. The Teutonic version is "ever kingly or ever king;" Anglo-Saxon, "brave — powerful," and Norse is "ever ruling."

The middle name is unique as far as library volumes go on names, given or surnames, because that name is not listed in either. Starvo does not show as a name as far as has been determined.

Galt is listed in "Surnames of Scotland" and is a variant of Gaul or Gauld, and means "a boar pig."

Several Galts are listed in the American Genealogical Biographical Index, mostly in the New England States and Virginia. The first mention of Galt is William Galt, barlie (Baillif) of Perth in 1637, and Samuel Galt of Ayrshire was an early settler in New Hampshire.

No Galts are listed in the Birmingham city directory, but a man and wife by that name are listed in the metropolitan Directory.

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

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

1 BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-18-68

Edition: Final

Author: Bill Mobley

Editor: Duard Le Guard

Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-1122

R
[Signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Galt 'had' money: A paid assassin?

Was Eric Starvo Galt a paid assassin?

That question went unanswered today.

The FBI said, "No comment."

The News has determined from questioning persons who came in contact with Galt, however, that the murder suspect apparently had unlimited cash.

And he had no known job or history of employment.

He had a safe deposit box at Birmingham Trust National Bank from which he removed a large amount of cash last Aug. 30. He gave up the box in December.

He paid a local man \$2,000 in cash for a 1966 white Mustang.

He also paid for dancing

and bartender lessons, a high-powered rifle and scope, sporty clothes, room and board, lodging, meals and night-clubbing, and expenses for 19,000 miles of auto travel.

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

1— THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

— BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-18-68

Edition: Metro

Author: John W. Bloomer

Editor: " " "

Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF1-23

B

[Handwritten signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'No positive trace'
 FBI asks
 public to
 watch for
 Galt; 'brother'
 also hunted in
 King slaying

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

1 THE BIRMINGHAM
 NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-
 HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-18-68

Edition: Metro

Author: Tom Lankford

Editor: John W. Bloomer

Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF1-24

B

[Handwritten signature]

Search goes beyond United States limits

BY TOM LANKFORD, News staff writer

A search for Eric Starvo Galt, charged late Wednesday with conspiracy and murder in the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., spread outside the United States today as all clues still led to dead-ends.

It is believed the suspect, who is also known as John Willard and Harvey Lowmeyer, has fled to Mexico or Cuba, according to a source close to the investigation.

"There's no positive trace," the investigator said. "He just vanished."

THE SOURCE also confirmed that Galt may have deliberately created false identities and fabricated pasts, as reported by The Birmingham News last Friday.

The News also learned today that the 30.06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight, which was bought in Birmingham in late March, has been determined by ballistic tests to be the murder weapon.

The gun was found near the Memphis rooming house shortly after King was slain April 4.

The FBI said in the fugitive warrant issued Wednesday that Galt, who gave his age as 36, conspired with a man "whom he alleged to be his brother" to violate King's civil rights.

FBI DIRECTOR J. Edgar Hoover said the conspiracy to "injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate" King began "on or about March 30" in Birmingham. That date coincides with the time the ambush gun was purchased.

A first-degree murder charge was also filed against Galt in Memphis, where King, 39, Nobel Prize-winning civil rights leader, was shot to death on his motel balcony.

The murder charge carries the death penalty in Tennessee, and the conspiracy charge, which would be tried in Birmingham where the warrant was issued, carries a \$5,000 fine and 10-year prison sentence as maximum penalty.

The FBI refused to comment further on the alleged brother in their release, which solicited public aid in finding the suspect.

Agents also declined to say why a warrant was not issued for the brother, or why the release did not say if the man's identity had been ascertained.

OTHER DETAILS of the alleged conspiracy were missing from the FBI release, such as Galt's birthplace, employment and schooling.

Galt's past was traced only briefly since "1934 or 1935", when he took dancing lessons in New Orleans; the six-week residency in Birmingham from Aug. 28, 1967 to Oct. 7, and while he was in Los Angeles until time of the alleged conspiracy here in March.

The FBI released a photograph of Galt — which had to have the eyes opened by an artist — and said it was made in March.

But the photo brought uncertain response from witnesses who earlier had identified FBI sketches as the assassin.

V. A. Bass, night manager of Linden Lodge in Memphis, said the FBI picture "strongly resembled" a man who stayed at the lodge from April 3 through April 5. He said, however, that the man's hair was thinner and lighter in color.

Bass said the man, who claimed to be a riverboat

cook, made 10 local calls and four long-distance calls, one to the Ingalls shipyard in St. Louis.

"It's not him," Charles Q. Stevens, who got a side view of the sniper as he fled the Memphis rooming house, said. "Unless he was wearing a wig or had had a face lift or something, it's not the man I saw."

HE SAID THE hair was too full and the face too young.

"I'm not sure," said Peter Cherpes, manager of a Birmingham boarding house where an Eric Galt stayed. He had said, "It's him, I'm sure," when he viewed sketches last week.

"The man who lived here did not have such thick hair, and it was light brown, not dark like in the picture," Cherpes said. "Also, I think his face was thinner."

"Are you sure this isn't his brother?" asked a local lumber company official who sold Galt the 1966 Mustang. "I can't say that this is the man who bought the car."

His wife, who also saw the man named Galt, said she also didn't recognize the man from the FBI photo.

IN ATLANTA, a taxicab driver said an FBI picture he identified as a fare on a two-block trip the night after the slaying was different from the one released Wednesday.

"That is definitely not the man I picked up," the driver said.

All the witnesses said the FBI had not shown them the new photograph of Galt.

None said they remembered Galt having a protruding left ear, which was a prominent feature described by the FBI. Neither did they remember him tugging at an ear lobe, which was a nervous habit of Galt.

But Joseph H. Gamble, agent-in-charge of the Birmingham FBI office, said the photograph was of Galt and had been made recently.

THE FBI STARTED hunting Galt a week ago. Agents as late as Tuesday were visiting bars and shoe shine parlors, and contacting persons named Galt and Gault in an attempt to find him.

Persons who have met Galt, the FBI reported, described him as a loner with a "rural" quality in his speech, which suggests he probably does not have a high degree of education.

The suspect is fond of vodka, beer and hillbilly music, the FBI said, and likes to dance.

The federal release said Galt is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang found in Atlanta the day after King was shot to death. The vehicle was left in the parking lot of a apartment project near the Georgia Capitol.

TWO WHITE Mustangs were parked near the rooming house shortly before the shooting in Memphis, witnesses said, and both disappeared minutes later.

Witnesses told of a man in a black business suit, neatly dressed, walking down the steps to the street, dropping a rifle and getting into a Mustang with either Alabama or Arkansas license plates.

The FBI said Galt's car traveled more than 19,000 miles between Aug. 30 and the time it was abandoned in Atlanta. There were trips to Los Angeles, New Orleans and Mexico.

The Birmingham man who sold the car to Galt told The News late Wednesday of a third story of employment told by the suspect.

"He said he had been working on a barge line in Louisiana," said the man, who asked not to be identified, "and that he was here to get a job with Social Security."

ing and was graduated March 2, the FBI said.

IN HOLLYWOOD, director Tomas Reyes Lau of International School of Bartending said Galt disappeared after refusing a job, to "visit his brother." Lau said Galt was an excellent student.

"He never said anything about Negroes," Lau said. There were no Negroes in the class.

In this application to the bartending school Jan. 19, Galt wrote that he was single but listed his draft status as 3-A.

That status is for a "registrant with a child or children, and registrant deferred by reason of extreme hardship to dependents."

HE LISTED the same birthdate — [redacted] — as he did on his Alabama driver's license application September 6.

The bartender school application listed a Hollywood Boulevard hotel as his home address, and previous salary as \$50.

Galt apparently left for Birmingham, where he then bought the rifle and conspired to kill King, according to the FBI. The agents said he was in Memphis April 3 and 4.

First disclosure that authorities had evidence of a conspiracy in King's slaying came Tuesday from Sheriff Mel Bailey.

He said the conspiracy had hopes of "the fatal shot being fired in Birmingham."

The assassin may have dogged King off and on for some time before finally going to Memphis to slay the civil rights leader, Bailey said.

GALT HAD told others here he had been a shipbuilder in Mississippi, a merchant seaman in Louisiana and a cook on a Mississippi riverboat.

He also lied about having a 1962 Louisiana driver's license.

Galt bought the Mustang in answer to a newspaper ad and paid a premium price — \$2,000 — for the used car.

"He only had me to drive him around the block once," the former car owner said. "He didn't haggle over the asking price, which I had no hope of getting, and went to the bank to get cash for the sale."

Galt is said to have taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham during September and October, 1967, and in Long Beach, Calif., from December to February, 1968.

While in the Los Angeles area this year, Galt took a course at a school of bartend-



FBI PHOTO OF SUSPECT ERIC GALT

... Eyes closed in original picture

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

INSTRUCTORS TELL FBIGalt shy,
fidgety,
awkward
dancer

BY CHARLES McFADDEN

LOS ANGELES (AP)

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

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

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

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

A photograph of Galt circulated by the FBI was obtained Tuesday from the International School of Bartending, the school's director said. The director, Tomas Reyes Lau, said a man called Eric S. Galt was graduated from the Hollywood school March 2 after an excellent record in a \$225 four-week course, which he attended Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons.

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

1 THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-18-68

Edition: Metro

Author: CHARLES McFadden

Editor: John W. Bloomer

Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1940-SF1-25

B

A