

KC 44-760

4

He is described as a white male, born [redacted], at Quincy, Illinois, 5'10 1/2", 146 pounds, dark brown hair, brown eyes, medium complexion, FBI No. 862 651 A, occupation - Spray painter.

Relatives listed in this file are as follows:

Mother	LUCILLE RYAN (RAY marked out) 701 1/2 Washington or 307 1/2 Kentucky, Quincy, Illinois
Father	JERRELD (LNU), no address
Sister	CAROL RYAN, 701 1/2 Washington or 307 1/2 Kentucky, Quincy, Illinois
Grandmother	MARY MAHER, same address as mother
Uncle	WILLIAM MAHER, 1118 E. 7th, Alton, Illinois
Brother	JOHN RYAN, #23401, Menard Branch, Illinois State Penitentiary

At the time of RYAN's parole from the MSP there was a detainer on file in favor of Division of Supervision of Paroles, Springfield, Illinois.

KC 44-760

WCM:bjc

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The following investigation was conducted by  
Investigative Clerk WILLIAM C. MC DONALD:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On April 29, 1968, Missouri State Penitentiary  
(MSP) file #73896, was reviewed regarding GEORGE WILLIAM  
RUSSELL, incarcerated from May 5, 1958 and released  
December 9, 1966, for cell assignments:

January 14, 1960 to September 20, 1961 - C-23;

September 20, 1961 to December 12, 1962 - C-104;

December 12, 1962 to June 28, 1963 - E-77;

June 28, 1963 to February 4, 1964 - C-57;

February 4, 1964 to February 11, 1964 - C-37;

February 11, 1964 to March 28, 1964 - G-17;

March 28, 1964 to November 9, 1965 - C-127

November 9, 1965 to Renz Farm and Moberly,  
discharged December 9, 1966.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/2/681

Mr. FREEMAN HOLT, Treasurer's Office, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that the ledger of JOHN HURTT, also known as KENNETH HURTT, MSP # 75502, indicates a money order in the amount of \$15.25 was sent on January 20, 1957, to ALBERT J. PEPPER, Stationery Co., 712 A. Shanandoah, St. Louis, Missouri, by HURTT.

On 4/30/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760  
by IC WILLIAM C. MC DONALD - LAC Date dictated 4/30/68

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

KC 44-760

WCM:WSA

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
IC WILLIAM C. MC DONALD:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

On May 6, 1968, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) records were checked for information on inmates released with California addresses since April 1, 1967. The following information was obtained:

DAVID DON MCFARLIN, MSP #12241, was received June 10, 1966 and discharged October 24, 1967.

Relatives listed on his mailing list are:

Wife: JUDITH LEA MCFARLIN, 8111 Stanford Drive, Garden Grove, California;  
Mother: CHRISTINE DAVIS, Senath, Missouri;  
Stepfather: O.L. DAVIS, same address.  
MARIE and JOHN SLAUGHTER, 2333 Park Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

MICHAEL P. CLARK, MSP #12155, was received at the MSP May 27, 1966, and discharged May 10, 1967.

Relatives listed in this file are:

Mother: J.L. CLEVELAND, % DOROTHY RAUCH, P.O. Box 238, Dumas, Texas, or Box 431, Cactus, Texas;  
Stepfather: JAMES CLEVELAND, same address;  
Girlfriend: ELIZABETH ALEXANDER, 1771 Ellwell, Milpitas, California.

CLARK indicated that he would be employed in California by BUD RAU, 445 Laurel Avenue, Hayward, California.

JIMMIE LEE HILL, aka, MSP #12765, was received October 12, 1966 and discharged March 1, 1968.

Relatives listed in this file are:

Wife: ELIZABETH ANN HILL, % 72- East Compton Blvd., Compton, California;  
Father: BILL HILL, General Delivery, DeWitt, Arkansas.

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Records reflects that on March 5, 1968, HILL was incarcerated in the Correctional Training Facility, North Solidad, California, #93960.

CALE FRANKLIN FISHER, MSP #03439, was received September 18, 1961 and discharged July 3, 1967.

Relatives listed in this file are:

Mother: MARVEL FISHER, 3185th Street, Aurora, Illinois;  
Sister: CAROL SMITH, 272 Beach Street, Aurora, Illinois;  
Sister: SHIRLEY FOREMAN, RFD #1, Box 107, Plainfield, Illinois.

JOHN RAY LESTER, aka, MSP #76041, was received September 25, 1959 and paroled October 31, 1967. In California he was to live at 19250 Hickory, El Verano, California.

Relatives and friends listed are:

Mother: EUNA P. LESTER, 111 Mapa Street, Sonoma, California;  
Father: JOHN W. LESTER, same address;  
Brother-in-law: HERB COHN, P.O. Box 808, Boyes Springs, California;  
Sister: Mrs. HERB COHN, same address;  
Aunt: NOLA HEAD, 2012 Franklin, Santa Rosa, California;  
Brother-in-law: JAMES BARRY, Rt. 22, Box 213, Parkville, Missouri;  
Friend: DONNIE RISLER, 3822 A McRee, St. Louis, Missouri;  
Friend: Mrs. JOHN A. KENOE, 1822 Morris, Lincoln Park, Michigan;  
Friend: Mrs. T. PINCH, 125 Taft Avenue, Hempstead, New York.

LAWRENCE ALBERT GRIDER, MSP #10214, was received May 5, 1963 and discharged January 12, 1968.

Relatives listed are:

Wife: ROSELEE GRIDER, & PAULINE COMBS, 4676 W. 133rd Street, Hawthorne, California.  
Daughter: PATSY KAY and RITA JUDY GRIDER, 1015½ N. Lane, Springfield, Missouri.

CHARLES AMOS STEWART, MSP #08716, was received June 18, 1964 and discharged February 7, 1968.

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Relatives are listed:

Sister: CHERRI PICO, 1278 East 126th, Los Angeles, California;  
Brother: JOSEPH M. STEWART, Herculaneum, Missouri;  
Sister: NANCY STEWART, Rt. 2, Bonne Terre, Missouri.

Docket No. 191148

Judge Charles E. Whittaker

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Kansas City, Missouri

April 26, 1955

## WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

## PRESENTENCE REPORT

NAME James Earl Ray

CITIZENSHIP

United States

ADDRESS Transient

MARITAL STATUS

Single

AGE 27 years (Born  )

NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS None

SEX Male

OFFENSE Forgery of U. S. Postal Money Order

RACE White

## I. OFFENSE:

This defendant on April 1, 1955 entered a plea of guilty to an Information in one count which charges that he on or about March 21, 1955 at Kansas City, Missouri knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously forged a material endorsement on a U. S. Post Office Department Money Order No. 7-42,239,597. On this same date a companion, Walter Terry Rife, entered a plea of guilty in Docket No. 191149 to an Information in one count charging him with the forgery on March 21, 1955 of postal money order No. 7-42,239,568. Imposition of sentence as to defendant and his companion was deferred and this presentence investigation was ordered.

The facts of the case are as follows: On March 7, 1955 the U. S. Post Office at Kellerville, Illinois was burglarized and sixty-six blank U. S. Postal Money Orders, Serial Nos. 7-42,239,535 to 7-42,239,600 inclusive, and the office validating stamp were stolen. On March 8, 1955 at Alton, Illinois an unsuccessful attempt was made to cash one of these stolen money orders. On March 21, 1955 one of the stolen money orders, order No. 7-42,239,597, was presented to Askin's Clothing Company, 1206 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, by an unknown person in payment for a suit of clothes which was never picked up after alterations had been made. This money order, which was in the amount of \$75.00, was made payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. On this same date an unknown person presented stolen money order No. 7-42,239,568 to the Chaffee Office Machine Company, 1410 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, in payment for a used portable Remington typewriter. This money order, too, was in the amount of \$75.00 payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. The manager of this firm, being suspicious of this transaction, directed an employee to follow the customer. The employee noted the model and make of the automobile entered by the customer and the license number of the car. Later when this money order was ascertained

to have been stolen a description of the customer and his automobile was given to post office inspectors who alerted the Missouri State Highway Patrol. A highway patrolman on March 23, 1955 at Hannibal, Missouri arrested in this automobile Walter Terry Rife, James Earl Ray, and a woman companion who has been released. Thirty-four of the money orders stolen from the Kellerville, Illinois Post Office were found hidden under the dash above the glove compartment in this automobile. All of them had been stamped with the validating stamp. Some were made out ready for cashing while others were not.

On March 24, 1955 Rife executed a statement for postal inspectors in which he admitted he had prepared, forged and uttered the postal money order presented to the Chaffee Office Supply Company in Kansas City. He admitted preparing the money order which was uttered on forged endorsement at Askin's Clothing Company, Kansas City, Missouri. He admitted that he had prepared the face of the money orders made ready for cashing and which were found in the automobile in which he was arrested. He admitted cashing numerous other money orders on forged endorsements in the states of Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri. He recalled unsuccessfully attempting to cash the money order at Alton, Illinois on March 8, 1955. In his statement he admits that he purchased in Quincy, Illinois the stolen money orders. They were sold to him by an unidentified man for \$20. On March 24, 1955 Ray, declining to execute statement for postal inspectors, did verbally state that he had participated with Rife in the cashing of the stolen money orders in the various states. He denied actually knowing that the money orders were stolen. However, he admittedly presumed that they were for he had been told by Rife that they had been purchased for \$20. He admitted that it was he who forged and uttered the money order presented at Askin's Clothing Company in Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that he purchased for \$1 in St. Louis, Missouri from a "Wino" named Willard J. McBride the identification he and Rife used in uttering the money orders.

The two money orders uttered by Rife and Ray in Kansas City, Missouri and as well the money order Rife attempted to utter in Alton, Illinois have been recovered. As noted previously thirty-four of the money orders were recovered in the automobile. On April 18, 1955 when reinterviewed by postal inspectors Rife and Ray gave particulars relating to the cashing of twenty-seven additional stolen money orders located by the Regional Accounting Office. The particulars are as set out in the following table:

<u>Last three digits</u>	<u>Cashed by</u>	<u>Cashed at</u>	<u>Second Endorser</u>	<u>Date of earliest discernible bank stamp</u>	<u>Amt.</u>
538	Rife	St. Louis, Mo.	(Illegible)	Mar. 10	\$50
543	Ray	do	Downs Men's Shop	Mar. 9	\$55
547	Ray	Hot Springs, Ark.	EssRay Art Galleries	Mar. 21	\$75
548	Rife	do	Brown's Dept. Store	Mar. 21	\$75
550	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Topp's	Mar. 15	\$75

552	Rife	Memphis, Tenn.	Borg & McCargo	Mar. 11	\$25
557	Ray	New Orleans, La.	Wright Tailors	?	\$75
558	Rife	do	Schneiders	Mar. 21 ?	\$75
559	Rife	do	Todd's Sportswear Shop	Mar. 18	\$50
560	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	None apparent	Mar. 21	\$50
561	Ray	do	Dinos (?) J. C. Ross	Mar. 21	\$75
562	Rife	do	Lockwood's Men's Store	Mar. 23	\$50
577	Rife	do	Pfeifers of Arkansas	Mar. 21	\$75
578	Ray	do	Biles Music Co.	Mar. 21	\$75
582	Rife	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Squires, Inc.	Mar. 16	\$50
583	Ray	do	C. K. Slaughter	Mar. 15	\$50
585	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	(Ivan O. Whipple I. Zucker)	Mar. 16	\$50
586	Ray	do	Arnold's Mens Wear	Mar. 14	\$75
587	Ray	do	Dunoffs Footwear	Mar. 14	\$50
589	Rife	do	Isabelle Abrams	?	\$75
591	Ray	Tampa, Fla.	Rio Liquors Inc.	Mar. 16	\$50
592	Rife	do	Knox (?) Bar & Luncheonette	Mar. 18	\$75
593	Rife	do	The Hub	Mar. 14	\$50
595	Ray	Tallahassee, Fla.	Alford Bros. Inc.	Mar. 12	\$50
596	Ray	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Kings Credit Clothing	Mar. 14	\$50
598	Ray	Daytona Beach, Fla.	(Illegible)	Mar. 15	\$75
599	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	Chas. Hearn(?)	Mar. 21	\$75

\*Both Rife and Ray say no money orders cashed by them in banks.

Two of the stolen money orders have not yet been recovered. They, however, are accounted for as Ray has admitted cashing one of them at a luggage store in Kansas City, Kansas and Rife admits cashing one of them at Miami Beach, Florida.

It is pertinent to note that following the apprehension of Rife and Ray postal inspectors obtained from the room which they occupied a quantity of merchandise they had acquired by passing the stolen money orders. Found in their room were a typewriter, several pieces of luggage, a radio, a camera, a wristwatch, a considerable quantity of new wearing apparel for men, and other items. They have authorized the postal inspectors to return this merchandise to the stores or individuals from whom it was obtained.

## II. PRIOR RECORD:

Defendant's F. B. I. Fingerprint Return No. 306 443 A reveals the following arrests and dispositions:

10-11-49 : Sheriff's office, Los Angeles, California - suspicion of burglary. 12-30-49 sentenced to 8 months in county jail for burglary. Served 90 days and released on probation for period of 2 years. Defendant states that he was drink-  
*21 40026*  
*8 101024*

ing in the rear of a cafe when he was seen by the cafe manager. He ran from the scene and was later apprehended. He says that after being placed on probation he went to Chicago, Illinois to reside and that he reported to a probation officer in Los Angeles, California by mail.

4-18-50 : Sheriff's office, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. - vagrancy. Disposition not shown, but defendant states he was released and instructed to leave town.

7-23-51 : Alton, Illinois Police Department - no operator's license, no state license, no city license. Released to pay later. Defendant states he was fined \$55 and required to purchase the necessary licenses.

*Holdup trip in 1 to 2 yrs all*  
5-6-52 : Chicago, Illinois police - robbery. 6-13-52 sentenced to term of 1 to 2 years in Illinois State Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois. Defendant reluctantly admitted to the writer that while intoxicated he held up a taxicab driver. On 7-7-52 he was received at the Illinois State Prison, Pontiac, Illinois in transfer from Joliet, Illinois institution. He was released by minimum expiration on 3-12-54.

*Burglary E. Alton*  
8-30-54 : Sheriff, Edwardsville, Illinois - burglary and larceny. Defendant states that he burglarized a cleaning shop in East Alton, Illinois but denies stealing anything. Although no disposition has been made on this charge of burglary he apparently is not wanted.

3-23-55 : Hannibal, Missouri police for instant offense. Released to federal authorities following day.

### III. FAMILY HISTORY:

#### Defendant

This defendant, age 27, was born [redacted] in Alton, Illinois.

He is an only child. He resided in the parental home in Alton until age 18. During that time, however, he frequently visited with his paternal grandparents in Quincy, Illinois. When about age 18 he entered the army. Following discharge from military service in 1948 he resided for a short time in Quincy, Illinois. He then moved to Chicago, Illinois where he resided for a period of about six months before moving to Los Angeles, California. As noted in the section, Prior Record, he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to jail in Los Angeles. When released on probation from that sentence he returned to residence in Chicago where he lived alone until he was committed in June of 1952 to the Illinois State Penitentiary. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March of 1954, he has been rather transient living principally in Quincy, Illinois.

Father

George Ray reportedly died of a heart condition in 1947 at age about 49. He was an employee of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad and reportedly had no arrest record.

Mother

Lucille (nee Maher) Ray died of a liver condition in 1949 at age 51.

Other relatives

in Quincy, Illinois.

Defendant refuses to identify his several aunts and uncles who reside

IV. HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

When not incarcerated defendant, has lived principally in Alton and Quincy, Illinois. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March 1954 he has been rather transient. His last known residence for any period of time was at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois.

V. EDUCATION:

Defendant states that he completed the 1st through the 8th grades at St. Mary's School in Alton, Illinois. He states that in 1952 while residing in Chicago, Illinois he attended the Academy of Adults and obtained the equivalent of a two-year high school education.

VI. RELIGION:

Defendant denies any affiliation. His mother was Catholic, and his father was Protestant. While in military service he infrequently attended Catholic services.

VII. INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES:

None.

VIII. HEALTH:

Defendant is 5' 10 1/2" tall, weighs 170 lbs., has a ruddy complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. There are no apparent marks or scars of identification. He apparently is in good health. He states that before becoming involved in the instant offense he was in the process of petitioning for admittance to a Veterans Hospital in Illinois for a general physical checkup. He denies a history of surgery other than a tonsillectomy in Chicago in 1952. He denies a history of venereal disease or the use of narcotics. He states that he is a "moderate drinker."

IX. EMPLOYMENT AND MILITARY HISTORY:

Defendant states that at Alton, Illinois on February 19, 1946 he enlisted in the U. S. Army. He received his basic training at Camp Crowder, Missouri. He was then transferred to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey to await transportation to the European Theater of Operations. He states that he left the continental limits of the United States for Germany in July of 1946. Overseas he was attached to the 362nd Military Police Battalion. He admits that he was once AWOL for a period of two days which resulted in a suspended sentence to confinement for period of sixty days. He returned to the United States from Germany in December of 1948 and was, he states, on December 23, 1948 given a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Defendant states that his last employment was with an uncle whom he refuses to identify but who resides in Quincy, Illinois. He worked for this uncle as a painter for a period of time in the summer of 1954.

He claims that from August 1951 to May 1952 he was employed by the Borg Erickson Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. This employment was terminated when he was arrested for robbery, which eventually resulted in a penitentiary sentence.

He states that from July of 1950 to June 1951 he was employed by the Arbey Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. He was discharged from this employment for absenteeism caused by his arrest in Alton, Illinois for vagrancy when visiting in that city.

He claims that from April 1950 to July of 1950 he was employed as a laborer at a wage of 90¢ per hour by the Neo Produce Company, Chicago, Illinois. He claims to have left this employment to accept more lucrative employment.

From July 1949 to September 1949 defendant states he was employed as a laborer at a wage of \$1.10 per hour by the Dryden Rubber Company, Chicago, Illinois. He quit this job to move to California.

He purports that from May 1944 to December of 1945 he was employed at a wage of 65¢ per hour by the International Shoe Company, Hartford, Illinois. He indicates he was laid off by this employer in a general reduction of forces and that he then entered the army.

X. RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES:

None.

XI. SUMMARY:

This defendant, white male, age 27, no dependents, has entered a plea of guilty to an Information in one count which charges that he at Kansas City, Missouri

on or about March 21, 1955 forged a stolen U. S. Postal Money Order. This money order was one of sixty-six such orders stolen in a burglary of the U. S. Post Office, Kellerville, Illinois on March 7, 1955. Defendant emphatically denies the burglary of the post office. He states that his companion in the instant offense, Walter T. Rife, whom he met at a bar in Quincy, Illinois, suggested that he accompany Rife and cash the money orders which Rife reportedly had purchased from an unknown person. Defendant states that he purchased for ~~SI~~ the identification he and Rife used in uttering these stolen orders in various states. When arrested for the instant offense defendant was in possession of thirty-four money orders which had been stolen from the Kellerville, Illinois Post Office. He admits the forgery and uttering of fourteen money orders. His companion, Rife, has admitted the forgery and uttering or attempting to utter eighteen of the stolen money orders.

Approximately one year before becoming involved in the instant offense defendant was released from service of a sentence of one to two years for armed robbery in the Illinois State Penitentiary. In August of 1954 he burglarized a cleaning establishment in East Alton, Illinois. Although he admittedly was charged with burglary he apparently has never been before the appropriate court and apparently is not presently wanted on this charge. In 1949 in Los Angeles, California he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to eight months in the county jail. After serving ninety days of this sentence he was released on probation for a period of two years.

Defendant shows absolutely no remorse at this time. He anticipates receiving a substantial sentence for the instant offense. In writer's opinion he is a confirmed criminal and a menace to society when in the free world.

Respectfully submitted,

*Edward B. Murray*  
Edward B. Murray  
U. S. Probation Officer

EBM:lo

Total known forged money orders, including  
two uttered at Kansas City, Missouri -  
\$1,805.

R. H. J.

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANS.

CLASSIFICATION STUDY

RECEIVED

APR - 5 1955

U. S. PROBATION OFFICE  
KANSAS CITY, MO.

FBI No. 800-1304  
Soc. Sec. No.

Committed Name **REY, James Earl**  
True Name **Benn**  
Aliases

Reg. No. 72498-L

Date Classified, 8-10-55.

Sentenced	7-1-53	Offense	FO Laws: Forge Money Order
Sent. Begins	7-1-55	Sentenced	3 Years & 9 Months
Date Com.	7-7-53	Judicial Dist.	WD Missouri
Elig. Parole	9-30-54	Committing Judge	Charles E. Whittaker
Elig. Min. Exp.	5-20-56	Detainers	
Supervision Exp.	10-2-56		
Sent. Exp.	3-31-59		
Com. Fine			
Prob. to follow			

Age	27	Date birth		Birthplace	Alton, Ill.	Race	White
Citizenship	U.S.			Marital Status	Single	Education Status	8 Gr.
Selective Service Reg.	Place	Quincy, Ill.		Date		Classification	5-A

Military Service:

Entered	Discharged	Service	Rank	Type Disch.	Serial No.
2-19-46	12-23-46	Army	Pvt.	(Honorable) AR 615-369	RA 16166329
				Ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service.	

Foreign Service from July 18, 1946 to Dec. 21, 1946.

Employment Record:

From	To	Employer	Address	Occupation	Wages
5-44	12-45	International Shoe Co.	Hartford, Ill.		.65¢ hr.
7-49	9-49	Dryden Rubber Co.	Chicago, Ill.	Laborer	\$1.10 hr.
4-50	7-50	Hec Products Co.	" "	"	\$.90 hr.
7-50	6-51	Arbay Corp.	" "		
8-51	5-52	Borg Erickson Co.	" "		

Residences:

From	To	Address	Place of Residence	Quincy, Ill. - legal. With Whom
12-48		Quincy, Illinois.		Self.
3-28	2-46	Alton, Ill.		Parents.

Committed Name	RAY, James Earl			Reg. No.	72498-L
Name	Relatives and Interested Persons			Address	
	Relation	Age	Marital		
George Ray	Fa	1		Deceased.	
Mary Ray	Mo	1		Deceased.	
Lucille Ryan	Aunt	1		801 E. 12th, Quincy, Illinois.	

Names preceded by "C" are approved correspondents, by "V" approved visitors.  
Codefendants

Walter Rife, #72497-L, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Attorney of Record James Tierney  
USPO Springfield, Ill.

Reports Rec'd: U. S. Atty ☒ Pros. Agency ☒ USPO ☒ SJA Review  
Sources Pending Verifications

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 6. Military Service.                 | 1. Correspondence from Aunt. |
| 8. Presentence Investigation Report. |                              |
| 9. U.S. Attorney's Report.           |                              |
| 10. Prosecuting Agency Report.       |                              |
| 13. Prior Records.                   |                              |
| 14. F.B.I. Record of Arrests.        |                              |

ADMISSION SUMMARY  
(Continued)

Page

Committed Name	Register Number	72180-1
DATE STATE OFFENSE DISPOSITION SOURCE		
11-10-40 Ills App. Sec, Calif Susp burg 8 mo jail - 2 yr prob FBI & File		
4-18-40 Calif App. Sec, Iowa Vag Susp sen - 6 mo FBI & File		
7-23-41 Ariz, Ills No operator lic- no ct lic- no city lic Rel FBI & File		
5-4-52 Chicago, Ills Robb 1-2 yr SP Pontiac, Ill FBI & File		
9-30-54 Edwardsville, Ill B & L #19121 - disch 3-12-54 Inq pend FBI & File		

3-23-55 MINNEAPOLIS, MO PO FORGE MONEY ORDERS CURRENT OFFENSE

CHARGES	SUMMARY	DISPOSITION
1-Susp Burg	ESCAPE	1-SF
1-Vag	NCRR	1-Jail
1-No opr lic		1-Susp
1-Robb		1-Rel
1-B & L		1-Inq pend
5-Total		5-Total

ADMISSION SUMMARY  
(Continued)

Page

Committed Name RAY, JAMES EARL

Register Number 72498-L

PRESENT OFFENSES:

Official Version: On April 1, 1955, Ray entered a plea of guilty to an information in one count charging him with forging the endorsement on a U.S. Post Office money order and he was sentenced to serve one and a half years. On July 1, 1955 another information was filed against him in three counts, charging offenses at Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas. He was also charged in an information with an offense connected with a money order at Tallahassee, Florida. He received a total of three and three-fourths years for these various offenses.

The facts which were brought out in this case indicate that on March 7, 1955 the U.S. Post Office at Kellerville, Illinois was burglarized and sixty-six blank U.S. Postal Money Orders and the office validating stamp were stolen. The following day at Alton, Illinois an unsuccessful attempt was made to cash one of these stolen money orders. Several other money orders were cashed at various places, and it was finally learned that Ray and his co-defendant, Walter Terry Rife, our 72497-L, were the persons who were attempting to cash these money orders. At the time of their apprehension thirty four of the money orders which had been stolen from the post office were found hidden under the dash above the glove compartment in the automobile, all of which had been dated and stamped with the validating stamp and some which had been made out ready for cashing while others had not.

Through questioning and admissions on the part of Ray and Rife, all of the sixty six money orders were accounted for with the exception of two, and Ray has admitted cashing one of them at a luggage store in Kansas City, Kansas and Rife admits cashing one of them at Miami Beach, Florida. Thus the entire group of sixty six money orders has actually been accounted for. Following their apprehension the Postal Inspectors obtained from the room occupied by Ray and Rife a quantity of merchandise they had acquired by passing the money orders and this merchandise was eventually returned to the persons from whom it was secured by this fraud.

Inmate's Version: Other than to admit that he had gone on a spree of cashing these money orders, Ray had no further information to give and no statement to make.

Previous Institutional Adjustments: Ray was committed to the Illinois State Penitentiary on July 13, 1952 to serve one to two years for robbery. On May 6, 1952 he had held up a Red Top cab driver at gun point and took from him \$12.00 belonging to the cab company, and then ordered the cab driver out of the cab and drove off in the cab. He was apprehended shortly thereafter by police who shot him during the capture and he admitted his guilt. He claims that he was heavily intoxicated at the time and had used a pipe in place of a gun, placing it at the back of the driver's body. He had a good adjustment at the Pontiac Division of Illinois State Prison, was assigned to their honor farm where he worked as a cook in the farm dormitory and as a helper in the off-floor's quarters. He was considered an average worker and had no punishment reports. He was discharged by expiration of sentence March 12, 1954.

FAMILY BACKGROUND:

Ray says that both of his parents were born in the state of Illinois and that they

ADMISSION SUMMARY  
(Continued)

Page

Committed Name JAMES EARL RAY

Register Number 72498-4

are both now deceased. He says his father died of a heart attack in 1947 and his mother died in 1948 of causes not given. He claims that he is an only child.

PERSONAL HISTORY:

It would appear that Ray was born at Alton, Illinois March 10, 1928 the only child of parents and resided in the parental home in Alton until about 18 years of age. However, during this period of time he frequently visited with his paternal grandparents in Quincy, Illinois. When he was about 18 years of age he joined the U.S. Army where he remained from February 19, 1946 until December 23, 1948 when he received an honorable discharge under Article of War 315-869 incompetency and lack of adaptability for military service. He had foreign service from July 18, 1946 to December 21, 1948. Following discharge from military service he resided for a short time at Quincy, Illinois and then moved to Chicago where he stayed for about six months and then went on out to Los Angeles, California. He was convicted of a burglary in Los Angeles and when released on probation from that sentence he returned to Chicago where he lived alone until he was committed to the Illinois State Penitentiary in 1952. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary he has been rather nomadic, but considers Quincy, Illinois as his residence.

Ray claims that he completed eight grades at St. Mary's School in Alton, Illinois and that while residing in Chicago in 1952 he attended the Academy of Adults and obtained the equivalent of a two year high-school education.

Ray has not had much of an employment history. The last employment he had was with an uncle in Quincy, Illinois and he refused to reveal the name of the uncle to the U.S. Probation Officer. However, he gave us the name of William Maher, 1118 E. 7th St., Alton, Illinois. He also gave us the name of an aunt, Lucille Ryan, 801 E. 12th St., Quincy, Illinois. Neither of these parties has answered our inquiry. He claims that from August, 1951 to May of 1952 he was employed by the Borg Erickson Corp., in Chicago, Illinois and that employment was terminated when he was sent to the penitentiary for robbery. Other employment prior to this is listed under the employment section of page one of the classification study.

Ray has never been married.

EVALUATION, RESOURCES & PLANS:

Ray has no property and says he has no particular plans for the future at this time. He would like to work on a farm, pointing out that he was a trustee at the Illinois State Penitentiary. He admits drinking to excess at times. Just what motivates him to commit crime is not known.

ADMISSION UNIT REPORT:

This man has a good attitude towards his sentence. He has no resentments and states that he feels as though the Court gave him a break. His adjustment in the population should be good. States that he had no difficulties while on a previous sentence in Illinois. This man seemed to be a rather nervous person while being interviewed but was cooperative with the program while in this unit. He states that he would like to work in the Kitchen as a helper. He stated that he worked on the farm while serving time at Pontiac, Ill. He keeps himself clean

ADMISSION SUMMARY  
(Continued)

Page

Committed Name

Register Number 72493-1

and his quarters orderly.

ASSOC ALICE MARION RECOMMENDS: CLOSE custody, no transfer.

8-1-55

EAC/sb

ADMISSION SUMMARY  
(Continued)

Page

Committed Name

Register Number

PRISON 0-20-55

MEDICAL

**HISTORY:** Ray has had good health in the past. His tonsils were removed in 1951. Complains of chronic difficulty in breathing through his nose, frequent headaches, thinks he may be allergic to the climate in this region. Specifically denies history of narcotic addiction, venereal disease, major mental illness, tuberculosis or convulsive disorder. Presently rates himself as able to do hard work.

**PHYSICAL FINDINGS:** He is a 27-year old white male, of medium physique, weighing 168 pounds and 71 inches tall. Examination of the heart, lungs and cardiovascular system is negative. Blood Pressure: 118/74. Vision: 20/25. Audiogram within average limits.

**DENTAL CONDITION:** Average; needs one extraction, three fillings, and a prophylaxis for complete dental restoration.

**LABORATORY:** Urinalysis negative. VDRL and Kohler non-reactive.

**DIAGNOSES:**  
1 missing tooth.  
4 carious teeth.  
Dental calculus.  
Slight refractive error.  
Allergic rhinitis. (?)

**WORK:** Regular duty.

**ADMISSION INSPECTION:** 7-7-55  
**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:** 7-12-55  
**REPORT DICTATED by RCS:** 7-24-55

ADMISSION SUMMARY  
(Continued)

Page

Committed Name

Register Number

VOCATIONAL: INTERPERSONAL OCCUPATIONS: Pontiac, Illinois, 1952-54, Farm Kitchen

WORK HISTORY: This man has no trades or skills, is not interested in Vocational Training or self-improvement programs. States that he has worked irregularly in factories as a laborer but never for longer than 19 months. He is single and has no dependents. His only interests are to work in the Culinary Dept. here and he appears available for this for the present at least.

PRINCIPLE OCCUPATION: Laborer

WORK RECOMMENDATION: Dining Room

EDUCATIONAL: EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: This man claims to have completed 10 grades of public school at the age of 16 in Alton, Illinois. Not interested in educational work while here.

STANDARD APTITUDE TEST RESULTS: Subject was given the interpartial test form L which indicated a grade equivalent of 8.2.

EDUCATIONAL RECOMMENDATION: Encourage participation in educational program on a High School level.

R. R. H.

PSYCHOMETRIC	RATING	TEST	I.Q.	DEV.	SCATTER
Intelligence	Average	USPES	103	20	Average
Manipulative Dexterity					Percentile
Hand.....RS	Min. rate of manipulation				?
Finger.....RS	" " " "				?

KAT-72698-1

CATIONED  
DELICIOUS CEMENTALCE  
INTERIOR ALPHASONS  
CENTRAL RECOMMENDATION

BY PREFERENCE  
HOME  
INDIFFERENT  
ATTENDANCE AT SERVICES.

ADMISSION SUMMARY  
(Continued)

Page

Committed Name **RAY, James Earl**

Register Number **72492-1**

COMMITTEE ACTION SHEET

CUSTODY

MEDIUM. Although there are charges pending he has no delinquency against him and no escape record and as the Committee did not consider him to be an escape hazard he was placed in medium custody.

TRANSFER

NONE. His residence and prior state penitentiary term qualifies him for this institution. He says he was on the farm on the state sentence.

SOCIAL PAROLE

USUAL SERVICES. No immediate social problems.

MEDICAL

REGULAR DUTY. No treatment indicated.

EMPLOYMENT

GENERAL MAINTENANCE. Fire Department. He was offered nursing but states he does not like to work around sick people. He should be considered for training later.

EDUCATIONAL

He has a G.E. of 8.2 and an I.Q. of 103.

RELIGION

RELIGION. Recommend attendance at services.

PROGRAM PLANNING

He has no release plans at this time.

KC 44-760

LLA:rmb

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
Investigative Clerk LEONARD L. AYRES on April 26, 1968:

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS:

CARL F. ZARTER, Administrative Assistant, U. S.  
Penitentiary (USP) made available USP file number 72498-L  
pertaining to RAY, which, reflected as follows:

RAY was received at USP-L July 7, 1955, and given  
Conditional Release on April 5, 1958.

USP records fail to reflect any visit for RAY at  
USP during his incarceration there.

USP record reflects the following approved  
correspondents:

Aunt	Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN 1135 South 10th St. Louis, Missouri, or 1913 Hickory Street St. Louis, Missouri
Half-brother	JOHN RYAN State Penitentiary Menard, Illinois, Number 23401
Friend	JERRY RYAN Box 113 Lancaster, Missouri

RAY directed Special Purpose Letters to the following:

WILLIAM E. MAHER, 1118 East 7th St., Alton, Illinois,  
The last letter being on March 24, 1958;

U. S. District Court, Kansas City, Missouri, May 23, 1957;

U. S. Supreme Court, Washington, D.C.,  
Judge C. WHITTAKER, June 27, 1957;

Social Security Administration, Kansas City, Missouri,  
March 3, 1958.

KC 44-760

2

RAY, while incarcerated at USP, according to USP files, associated with inmate J. R. KELLER, No. 72614-L (as of January 23, 1957).

ZARTER advised USP records reflect that former USP inmate J. R. KELLER, USP No. 72614-L, and the USP records pertaining to KELLER, on February 20, 1957, were transferred to the Federal Prison Camp, Florence, Arizona.

RAY, while incarcerated, USP, Leavenworth, is known to have completed "a course" in Spanish.

The USP commissary records, pertaining to RAY as contained in this USP file, reflect as follows:

RAY, at time of commitment to USP, Leavenworth, on July 7, 1955, had \$159.60. On August 2, 1955, he received an additional \$3.50, however, origin of this amount not reflected this file. Effective May 15, 1957, RAY was approved to earn \$10.00 per month meritorious earnings at USP, and this amount was deposited in RAY's account at USP. The only additional money reflected as being deposited in this account was \$5.00 on February 3, 1958, the origin of the \$5.00 not reflected this file.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
BUREAU OF PRISONS

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

RELEASE PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name RAY, James Earl Reg. No. 72498-1 Date April 1958.

Released by Conditional Release April 5, 1958. Supervision ends 10-2-58.  
Earned 45 Days AGF (ink B)  
FBI No: 306 443 A.

Ray is being released from this institution by reason of Conditional Release. He was sentenced in the U. S. District Court on July 1, 1955 in Kansas City, Missouri. He was received at this institution on July 7, 1955. Ray became eligible for parole consideration on Sept. 30, 1956, but he has never filed application for a parole interview. At the time of initial classification, Ray was placed under medium cust 07 and assigned to the Fire Department. He remained on such assignment until Sept. 15, 1956 when he was reassigned to the Print Shop. On Sept. 12, 1957, Ray was approved for our Honor Farm but was never actually transferred to such assignment due to the fact that he did not feel he could live in an Honor Farm Dormitory because they are integrated. Due to this fact, he was never placed under such status. He was assigned to our Bakery where he remained until released on CR. Ray has no delinquency on file against him and has received a total of one disciplinary report. This report occurred on Sept. 13, 1956 when he was reported for lack of interest in his job. For this report, he was placed under thirty days restriction and given a job change.

On Nov. 1, 1956 Ray was approved for AGF only and remained under such status until his release. He was also granted a monetary award of \$20 per month for April of 1957 thru Jan. 1958 on a 1/15 basis.

Release plans call for Ray to return to his place of conviction in Kansas City, Missouri where he will reside alone. He was referred to our Employment Placement Service who in turn referred him to Mr. Robert Lutz, Employment Counselor, Mo. State Employment Service, 1111 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

Ray is being released with a total of \$99.33 in his personal account, \$64.70 is being given to him in cash. The remaining \$34.63 is being forwarded to the USPO, Kansas City, Missouri. Ray was also given a \$1 for bus fare to Kansas City.

He will be under supervision until Oct. 2, 1958.

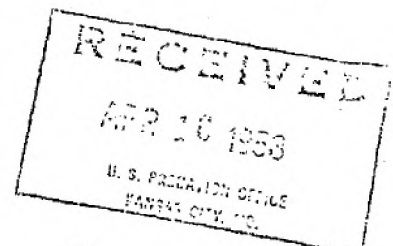
DESTINATION:

Kansas City, Missouri

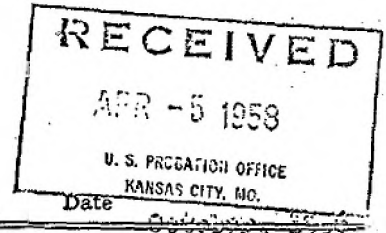
U. S. P. O.:

Kansas City, Missouri

4/4/58  
NA3/cpr



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
BUREAU OF PRISONS  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANS.  
SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT



Committed Name

Reg. No.

Date

RE:

ANNUAL REVIEW

Ray is a twenty-eight year old white, single offender, serving three years and nine months for Post Office Forgery, Money Orders. At initial classification, Ray was assigned to work in the Fire Department. However, approximately a month later on September 15, 1955, he was reported for not being dependable and lack of interest in his job, for which he was given thirty days restriction. He has forfeited no good time and has no detainers. He has earned no extra good time. His conditional release date is May 20, 1958.

Ray has worked in the Fire Department, Paint Shop, and Bakery since his admission classification in July, 1955. He has been on his present assignment in the Bakery since March 8, 1956, and is regarded as an outstanding worker as a bench hand assigned to night duty.

During the past year he has completed Spanish, Composition, Typing, and Culinary Sanitation. He is presently enrolled in Applied English and Elementary Vocabulary.

He states that he corresponds fully with an Aunt, Mrs. Lucille Ryan, 701 1/2 Washington St., Quincy, Illinois. He has not received any visits.

Ray is a Catholic by preference who does not attend services, nor does not desire religious instructions. He is indifferent toward his religious obligations.

Ray was interviewed prior to the preparation of this report and indicated at that time that he was satisfied with his present assignment. He stated that his Supervisor was putting in a request to place him on meritorious service. His release plans were discussed with him, but he stated a person could not make plans nineteen months ahead. However, he did state that when he had completed his conditional release, he planned to go to Denver, Colorado, as he felt that that climate would be better for his health. There appears to be practically no family contacts in this case other than with this one Aunt. He apparently lacks foresight, or is afraid of the future, as he absolutely refuses to look forward. He claims that he can do his time better if he doesn't think. He further claims that he doesn't have any trouble at this time, has all the economic security that one needs, and apparently is enjoying his present situation.

Review of his medical and psychiatric file discloses that he has not been seriously ill since the last report; he has shown no evidence of mental illness, and has required no significant attention from the medical department.

RESIDENCE: Quincy, Illinois

USFO: Springfield, Illinois CD:cao October 9, 1956

COMMITTED ACTION: Continue Present Program.

WARREN E. HEARNES  
GOVERNOR

WALTER G. SARTORIUS, CHAIRMAN  
BEN B. STEWART, MEMBER  
E. B. ROBINSON, MEMBER  
J. RAYMOND BILLS, SECRETARY

CIRCUIT AND CRIMINAL COURTS  
MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY  
INTERMEDIATE REFORMATORY  
MEDIUM SECURITY PRISON  
WOMEN'S PENITENTIARY

STATE OF MISSOURI  
BOARD OF PROBATION AND PAROLE

December 20, 1966

*Rip/ri*

Board of Probation and Parole  
Box 267  
Jefferson City, Missouri

Re: RAY, James Earl  
#00416-J

Gentlemen:

This 38 year old white male was seen for psychiatric evaluation on December 13, 1966. He was admitted here in March of 1960, to serve a twenty year sentence for armed robbery. This is his first admission to this institution. In 1952, he served a year and one half in an Illinois Penal Institution for robbery and in 1955, he served two and one half years in Leavenworth for transporting stolen goods across the state line.

He is presently charged with an escape attempt in March of 1966 and has recently been returned after an evaluation at the Fulton State Hospital. He has requested an independent psychiatric evaluation following their evaluation. This examiner only recently received this request from the Cole County Circuit Court signed by Judge Riley requesting such an evaluation. However, the inmate expressed his desire to have someone conduct an independent "psychiatric evaluation who was not connected with the administration." We informed him that we would communicate his wishes to the court and possibly someone else might be found.

Ray is an interesting and rather complicated individual. He reports that within the last year, he has had considerable difficulties from a physical point of view, involving a number of somatic complaints such as pain in the "solar plexes," tachycardia and "intracranial tension." When we commented that these were rather large words, he reported that he had been reading up in the medical literature. He then stated that he thought at times that he had cancer or heart trouble but that he no longer feels this way. On certain days, he has rather severe head pains but this is only intermittent. He is now on librium and works intermittently on a construction job.

Ray was born in Alton, Illinois, where his father worked for the railroad. Both parents are now deceased. He has two younger sisters. He reached

the second year in high school, worked eighteen months at the International Shoe Company, entered the service in 1945 and remained there for three years. His highest rank was that of PPC. He has never been married although he has lived for brief periods of time with women. This man's basic problem revolves around what appears to be an increasingly severe obsessive compulsive trend. He states that at the age of ten, he awoke one night and thought he had lost his eye sight. He became quite fearful. These various fears confront him from time to time and in a typical obsessive compulsive way, he feels that he must do certain things in order to undo what he feels is going to occur and might result in harm to him. For instance, he describes a feeling of fear which can be alleviated if he takes his glass of water which he is drinking and sets it on the table and moving it back and forth several times. He also describes at length some rather marked obsessive compulsive features but is reluctant to go into them in detail. Indeed, he just started to discuss this with the people at Fulton prior to his being sent here. He appears worried and his brow is creased. It is evident that this man does have an underlying obsessive compulsive personality. He is of the opinion that his escape attempt was the result of undue anxiety and tension with the need to actually do something. He is fearful that this might lead into more serious difficulties.

At the present time, there is no evidence of delusions, hallucinations or paranoid ideas. There is evidence of a rather deep underlying obsessive compulsive personality trend which he has really never discussed at any length with anyone. This is not psychotic in nature but severely neurotic. Within the last year or so, there is evidence that he has become overly concerned about his physical health and some of his obsessive compulsive concerns have moved in this direction. We would not deny the fact that there may be some physical difficulties although he reports that this was the primary focus of his work-up at the state hospital as well as here and that very little has been found.

At the present time, it is doubtful that he is in a position to be considered for parole. His psychiatric condition must be evaluated by an independent psychiatrist and according to the court, he has the right to have this done. Where they will find this independent psychiatrist is somewhat difficult to determine in this area although they might order him to the University and have it done there. It is felt that he is in need of psychiatric help and that should any serious parole consideration be given, some type of psychiatric help should be considered, that is help, which he can receive on the outside during his parole period. He is becoming increasingly concerned about himself. We question whether or not he is beginning to be a bit depressed although he denies this. We hesitate to go into this to any greater degree at the present time until the court decides what action it will take in regards to assigning an independent psychiatrist for evaluation.

Sincerely yours,

Henry V. Guhleman, Jr., M. D.  
Psychiatric Consultant

—CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET—

DATE	NAME	RAY, James E. (LAST NAME FIRST)	NO. & INST.	W-00416	PAGE	1
4/11/60	to Cleaning Plant; Reclassification in March, 1962.					
4/12/60	B-24					
4/12/60	Cleaning plant; #2717 CC					
7/28/60	K-178					
3/13/61	K-118					
11/22/61	Attempting to escape walls; To Admn. Seg. for 6 months.					
11/22/61	E-3rd. floor, Seg. #2996 Disc. Comm.					
11/22/61	E-224					
1/31/62	The Board has set your case for a hearing in November, 1963.					
5/24/62	to State; no plans for reclassification.					
5/25/62	State #3125 CC					
5/25/62	B-16					
6/7/62	to Vegetable Room; reclassification June, 1963.					
6/8/62	Veg. Room #3135 CC					
6/8/62	E-66					
7/23/62	Refusng to work: Yard and show priv. denied 1 month: Transfer to Bakery.					
7/23/62	K-15					
7/23/62	Bakery #3167 Disc. Comm.					
8/10/62	K-161					
8/15/62	K-168					
3/8/63	K-172					
9-6-63	Delivered to U.S. District Court, Jefferson City, Missouri.					
10-1-63	Denied parole by the Board.					

W/3/64 Wrote into Bureau. OK when settlement is made. 125

CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET

DATE	NAME RAY, James Earl (LAST NAME FIRST)	NO. & INST. W-00416-1	PAGE 1
6-3-65	Reassigned to Bakery; reclassification in June, 1967.		
6-17-65	Trying to smuggle contraband into hospital. 3 days in P.S.; 6 days loss.		
8-30-65	Parole Notice: The Board has set case for a hearing in November, 1965.		
10-21-65	to K-Hall as Cleaner; reclassification in June, 1967.		
10-22-65	K-Cleaner; #3982-Class. Comm.		
10-22-65	K-2		
11-5-65	Parole Notice: Scheduled for review in November, 1966.		
12-16-65	K-10		
3-7-66	<i>Transferred outside assignment. Not at this time. Sm.</i>		
3-4-66	J-42		
3-14-66	Max. Security; # 4076 - Class. Comm.		
3-14-66	CB-6		
4-12-66	To be delivered before the Magistrate Court, Cole County, Jefferson City, Missouri on April 14, 1966 to be arraigned on escape charge.		
6-11-66	BB-9		
7-14-66	S- ADVISED WILL REMAIN IN MAX. SEC. PENDING OUTCOME OF TRIAL. P.D.K.		
8-23-66	To be delivered before Cole County Circuit Court on Sept. 6, 1966.		
9-8-66	By order of Circuit Court of Cole County this inmate has been taken to the State Hospital No. 1, Fulton, Missouri on an Out-Count.		
10-21-66 11-16-66	<i>Child from Father</i> to Inside Construction; reclassification in June, 1967.		
11-17-66	Inside Const.; # 4247 - Class. Comm.		
11-17-66	C-17		
12-28-66	Parole Notice: Scheduled for review in November, 1967.		

**—CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET—**

[illegible]

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

TRANSCRIPT OF SERIAL RECORD

W/32/s

00416  
 Register Number 00416 Name James Earl Ray  
 Age 32 Height 5 ft 11 ins. Weight 163 Length of Foot 12 Inches  
 Hair Dr Brn Eyes Blue Complexion Medium Nativity Ill.  
 Trade Baker Religion Catholic Education 10th  
 Under Same Name 45 Mos. 1955  
 Former Imprisonment Leavenworth Fed P., Kansas. Trns stolen Property across state  
 Emergency Address MOTHER: Lucille Ryan, 1913 Hickory St, St Louis, Mo. Line,

PRESENT SENTENCE

Operating a Motor Vehicle w/o the Permission of the Owner;  
 Offense EX- TC Robbery 1st Deg. b/m of D & DW: (2 chgs.)  
(20, 7, 5, Gonc.)  
 County St. Louis City Sentence 20 Yrs. Feb. 19, 1960 Term of Court February 1960  
 Received 3-17-1960 Jail Time 27 days  
 Expiration Date 3-16-1980 Full Time 3-16-1980 3/4 Time 3-16-1975

Alias \_\_\_\_\_  
 True Name \_\_\_\_\_ Race White  
 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth Alton, Ill.  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Build Medium Marks, Scars, Tatoos Clear  
 Martial Status Single Probation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Escapes \_\_\_\_\_ AWOL \_\_\_\_\_ Draft Board Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Military Service ARMY Service Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type Military Discharge General Social Security Number Unknown  
 Remarks:

## CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET

DATE NAME RAY, James E. NO. & INST. W-00416 PAGE 1

(LAST NAME FIRST)

4-11-60 To Cleaning Plant; reclassification in March, 1962.  
 4-12-60 B-24  
 4-12-60 Cleaning Plant; #2717-CC  
 7-28-60 K-178  
 3-13-61 K-118  
 11-22-61 Attempting to escape walls; To Admn. Segr. for 6 months.  
 11-22-61 E=3rd floor, Segr. #3996-Disc. Comm.  
 11-22-61 E-224  
 1-31-62 The Board has set your case for a hearing in November, 1963.  
 5-24-62 To State; no plans for reclassification.  
 5-25-62 State; #3125-CC  
 5-25-62 B-16  
 6-7-62 To Vegetable Room; reclassification June, 1963.  
 6-8-62 Veg. Room; #3135-CC  
 6-8-62 E-66  
 7-23-62 Refusing to work; Yard and show privileges denied 1 month.  
 Transfer to Bakery.  
 7-23-62 K-15  
 7-23-62 Bakery; #3167-Disc. Comm.  
 8-10-62 K-161  
 8-15-62 K-168  
 3-8-63 K-172  
 9-6-63 Delivered to U.S. District Court, Jefferson City, Missouri.  
 10-1-63 Denied parole by the Board.  
 11-2-64 Wants job change. O.K. when replacement is found. SJL.  
 12-22-64 Wants Moberly; Placed in file. WN.  
 6-3-65 Reassigned to Bakery; reclassification in June, 1967.  
 6-17-65 Trying to smuggle contraband into hospital. 3 days in P.S.;  
 6 days loss.  
 8-30-65 Parole Notice: The Board has set case for a hearing in  
 November, 1965.

10-8-55

## PRE-PAROLE PROGRESS REPORT

SJL:nh

Social Data: The subject states he is in fairly good health.

Institutional Adjustment: He was received March 17, 1960. He is assigned to the Bakery where he has received good to excellent ratings on his work and training reports. He received only one conduct violation in the last 3 years. In 1961 he did attempt to escape.

Family Relations: His brother, Jerry, corresponds regularly and visits occasionally. He sometimes hears from his brother, John.

## POST RELEASE PLANS

He prefers to live with his brother, Jerry Ray, Box 22, Wheeling Illinois. Another home possibility would be with his brother, John Ray, in St. Louis, Missouri. He would accept almost any type of employment. He claims three years experience in bakeries

—CHRONOLOGICAL DATA SHEET—

DATE NAME RAY, James E. NO. & INST. W-00416 PAGE 2  
(LAST NAME FIRST)

and kitchens.

SUMMARY

This is a 37 year old single white man from St. Louis, serving 20, and 5 years concurrently for operating a motor vehicle without the permission of the owner, and robbery first degree by means of a dangerous and deadly weapon (2 charges). He has now completed about 5 1/2 years of his sentence on this third incarceration. Institutionally he has done well enough to merit consideration for parole. He denies use of narcotics and claims to be a light drinker. His record of arrests dates over a 16 year period. He seems to be pretty well established in this type of anti-social behavior. He will probably continue to make a fair institutional adjustment. Prognosis for making a successful adjustment in society is considered marginal at best. He may be able to serve a short parole without too much difficulty.

*Carl White*  
Associate Warden-Treatment

KC 44-760

MISCELLANEOUS

KC 44-760

RTW:cm

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
RICHARD T. WINTERMAN:

On April 19, 1968, DOROTHY SHANDORF, United States Marshal's Office, Kansas City, Missouri, advised that records of that office reflect on Marcy 28, 1955, JAMES EARL RAY, Marshal's #12018, FBI #306443-A; and WALTER T. RIFE, Marshal's #12109, FBI #4558766, were fingerprinted on a charge of forgery. Miss SHANDORF stated there was no further information concerning this matter in records of the U. S. Marshal's Office.

On April 19, 1968, ELMER E. ROGERS, Assistant Business Representative; and KATHRYN CARLSTON, Secretary, American Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union Local 218, AFL-CIO, 19 West Linwood Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri, advised that most of the bakers and apprentice bakers employed in the greater Kansas City area are employed through that office. They reviewed records of all persons who were employed through that local or who applied for work through that local during 1967 and 1968, and were unable to find any such person who might be identical with JAMES EARL RAY or WALTER TERRY RIFE on the basis of names and known aliases and physical descriptions. Both were shown a photograph of RAY and stated they could not identify this individual as anyone with whom they had had contact. They stated they would be alert to the appearance at that office of anyone who might be identical with RAY or RIFE and would immediately contact the Kansas City FBI Office.

They further stated that there is also a union known as the Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union Local 218, not affiliated with the AFL-CIO, located in the VFW Building, 34th and Broadway, seventh floor, Kansas City, Missouri. The latter union handles mostly miscellaneous bakery workers other than bakers and apprentice bakers.

KC 44-760

DAF:ak

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
DONALD A. FLYNN:

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:

On April 19, 1968, Miss FLORENCE BONNER, Recording Secretary to CARL J. LE VAN, Bartenders Local Union #420, 216-A West 12th Street, provided records which failed to reflect any information identical with JAMES EARL RAY or any of his known aliases.

On the same date, Mr. B. M. FITZGERALD, Financial Secretary - Treasurer, and Business Agent of Miscellaneous Hotel Employees Union Local 655, AFL - CIO, 216-A West 12th Street, provided his files which also failed to reflect any information identical with JAMES EARL RAY or any of his known aliases.

KC 44-760

RH:tlw

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA RAY HOMESLEY:

Detective KENNETH VILANDER and Captain WAYNE MILLER, Police Department, Raytown, Missouri, were advised that subject mentioned Raytown, Missouri, to a fellow inmate prior to 1966. VILANDER and MILLER advised Wanted Flyers and Identification Orders concerning RAY have been received and the men in the Police Department will be alerted for any information that RAY was ever in Raytown, Missouri, or had any associates here.

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KC 44-760  
RH:rd

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA RAY HOMESLEY on May 2, 1968:

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

LEE CHAPMAN, Clerk, Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department, furnished the arrest record of DENNIS WADE FONTENNOT, Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department, #98630, which reveals he was arrested on October 14, 1961, for safekeeping and released. On October 30, 1961, FONTENNOT was arrested for burglary and stealing a box of tools. On February 23, 1962, he was sentenced to two years in Missouri State Prison, (MSP). Records show he was released from MSP on May 2, 1963, and on May 3, 1963, was arrested for being drunk in Kansas City, Missouri. He was fined \$10.00 on May 4, 1963, and released.

FONTENNOT is described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'4 1/2" - 5'6"
Weight	140-145 pounds
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	New Orleans, Louisiana
FBI Number	860489B
Occupation	Laborer, (unemployed)
Residence	Helping Hand, 523 Grand, Kansas City, Missouri, (October, 1961)(floater)
Relatives	None listed.

CARMELA ABATO, Clerk, Credit Bureau of Kansas City, Missouri, advised on May 2, 1968, that no record could be located concerning DENNIS WADE FONTENNOT, alias JAMES DENNIS WADE.

KC 44-760

TJC:ksw

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA THOMAS J. CONNOLLY on May 3, 1968:

**AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:**

Mr. RAY E. ENWRIGHT, Chief of Security, Bendix Corporation, 2200 Bannister Road, Kansas City, Missouri, advised that his files indicate that LARRY C. SIMPSON, 14505 East 37th, Independence, Missouri, was hired by Bendix on March 13, 1963, and has lived at the above address since January 9, 1964. The records further indicate that SIMPSON received his ACQ clearance May 31, 1963, and is presently employed as an apprentice tool-room machinist. ENWRIGHT stated that the payroll records for Bendix indicate that SIMPSON worked all day each day for the week April 1 through April 5, 1968, from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. ENWRIGHT advised that due to the security precautions at Bendix, Simpson would have to clock himself in and out.

ENWRIGHT displayed a photograph of LARRY C. SIMPSON taken for the security badges at Bendix and he bore no resemblance to the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY.

KC 44-760

RH:cm

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
RAY HOMESLEY:

Sergeant R. N. STANSBURY, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Kansas City, Missouri, advised an inmate by the name of GLEN BUCKLEY indicated he served time with RAY at Missouri State Prison and can help locate RAY.

GLEN JEFFERSON BUCKLEY, inmate, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Kansas City, Missouri, advised on May 3, 1968, that he served in the Missouri State Prison from the first part of 1965 until October, 1967, on a bad check charge from Liberty, Missouri, but he believes he is to be released on a bench parole by Judge BRADY. BUCKLEY said if the FBI could get him released early he believes he could locate JIMMY RAY.

BUCKLEY said LARRY RAY was the "tender" of C Hall at MSP where both he (BUCKLEY) and JIMMY RAY were assigned for a while. BUCKLEY said he got to know LARRY and JIMMY pretty well and traded radios, watches and miscellaneous items with LARRY. He said he believes LARRY was serving time on a burglary or larceny charge at Springfield, Missouri, and had a detainer filed against him at Topeka, Kansas. He said LARRY RAY was released from MSP about August, 1967, and he believes is in Topeka, Kansas. BUCKLEY said both LARRY and JIMMY RAY hated Negroes and spoke of the KKK as being a good organization. He said JIMMY RAY also talked about Jackson, Mississippi, and he believes RAY had spent some time in Jackson, Mississippi.

BUCKLEY stated JIMMY RAY was in the hospital at the time he escaped. He said RAY went out on a trash barrel on the back of a truck. He said this was a Sunday as that is the day the back gates are not locked to allow the trash truck to get out. BUCKLEY said he learned this information from (FNU) OAR or ORR (phonetic) who was on the trash detail. BUCKLEY also named inmates HOWARD NUNN (phonetic) and EDWARD MC CLELLAN (phonetic) as being assigned to C Hall at the same time as was LARRY and JIMMY RAY.

KC 44-760

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BUCKLEY said he believes, if he was out, he could go to Topeka, Kansas and through another individual find LARRY RAY, whom he believes would know JIMMY RAY's whereabouts.

BUCKLEY is described as follows:

Name	GLEN JEFFERSON BUCKLEY
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Oklahoma
Height	5' 10 1/2"
Weight	177 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Wife	BOBBIE N. BUCKLEY, 725 South Cottage, Independence, Missouri

BUCKLEY stated he did not want his name given out to anyone as the person furnishing this information.

Sergeant STANBURY advised on May 5, 1968, that BUCKLEY was being released on Monday, May 6, 1968. He said BUCKLEY left a note at the jail indicating he was very sure RAY is in Mississippi. Also, BUCKLEY said he knows just about the place and is sure he can find RAY. STANBURY said BUCKLEY's telephone number after he gets out will be CL 2-3079.

KC 44-760

WYW:ssc

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA W. YATES WEBB on April 19, 1968:

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Mrs. MARGARET A. HAYES, Night Clerk, Blackstone Hotel, 1817 Cherry, Kansas City, Missouri, advised that she has been employed in this position since May 2, 1967. She was shown photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that this photograph was not familiar to her and she does not recall ever seeing this individual in the hotel. Mrs. HAYES stated she is positive that this person has not been a registered guest in the hotel since she has been there.

Mrs. HAYES made available the registration cards for the period April 24, 1967 to present date. These cards were reviewed and there was no record of anyone being registered there under the name of JAMES EARL RAY or any of his known aliases.

Miss GLADYS HANSON, Day Clerk, advised she has been employed there since 1965 and does not recall JAMES EARL RAY being registered there as a guest during the time of her employment. She looked at the photograph of RAY and said that she does not recall seeing this person in the hotel. She stated that the hotel changed hands on September 10, 1965, and that they have no registration cards for the periods prior to that date. She said that the hotel is now owned by Mr. WILLIAM HEMMELSTEIN and Associates and Mr. HEMMELSTEIN's telephone number is EM 1-1278. She explained Mr. HEMMELSTEIN did not stay at the hotel and knew nothing of the guests in the hotel. He only visits the hotel occasionally to check receipts and the books.

The following persons who have been guests at the hotel for a period of time were contacted and shown photograph of RAY with negative results.

Mrs. ELVA WILSON, Room 400, resident since 1946  
PATRICK HADLEY, Room 212, resident for 10 years  
HARRY HILL, Room 300, resident since 1958  
ATTILIO POLLI, Room 322, resident for 5 years

44-760  
KC 88-9449  
WFR:ss  
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The following investigation was conducted at Leavenworth, Kansas, by IC LEONARD L. AYRES:

On February 8, 1968, Mr. GEORGE E. SEUFERT, Records Control Supervisor, U.S. Penitentiary (USP), Leavenworth, Kansas, advised that the file concerning WALTER TERRY RIFE, had been sent to the GSA Federal Records Center, Kansas City, Missouri.

The following investigation was conducted at Kansas City, Missouri, by IC WILLIAM F. ROHR:

On February 20, 1968, Mr. WILLIAM CABY, Reference Supervisor, GSA Federal Records Center, Kansas City, Missouri, made available USP, Leavenworth, Kansas, file #72497-L concerning WALTER TERRY RIFE, which contained the following information:

RIFE described white male, date of birth [redacted] 69 1/2", 161 pounds, brown hair, blue-gray eyes, FBI #4558766.

RIFE was sentenced in the Western District of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri, on July 1, 1955, to a period of three years for violation of the Post Office laws, forging money orders, and was committed to the USP, Leavenworth, Kansas, on July 7, 1955.

RIFE received a conditional release on September 27, 1957, at which time he was taken into custody on a detainer lodged by the State Parole Office, Springfield, Illinois, charging parole violation. RIFE was then sent to the Illinois Penitentiary at Menard, Illinois, #22674, and was scheduled to be released from this institution approximately July 23, 1960.

During period of incarceration, the following individuals were on RIFE's correspondents list:

Mother	ROSIE S. RIFE, Age 68, 400 College Avenue, Quincy, Illinois
Sister	Mrs. VIOLA MAYFIELD, 2716 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois
Sister	Mrs. MONAN LEE CRAWFORD, 813 North Main Street, Harrisburg, Illinois

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Niece	Miss DARLENE CRAWFORD, 332 East Locust Street, Harrisburg, Illinois
Brother	FLOYD RIFE, 279 Indian Hills, Quincy, Illinois
Friend	KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK, 321 South 7th, Quincy, Illinois

It was noted that the friend, KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK, was the only frequent correspondent of RIFE while confined at the USP, Leavenworth, Kansas, and it was also noted that RIFE planned to marry BUSKIRK upon his release from the penitentiary.

RIFE had no release plans insofar as work or residence upon his release from the USP, Leavenworth, since he knew that a detainer had been filed for Parole Violation from the State of Illinois.

No other pertinent information contained in file.

KC 44-760

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
JAMES ALLEN BENBROOK:

Mr. WILLIAM R. RUDELL, Postal Inspector, Kansas City, Missouri, related that WILLIAM KENNETH KNIGHT is not known to him as a fence, that it is his belief that JAMES EARL RAY and his partner, WALTER TERRY RIFE, when apprehended in 1955 were passing postal money orders and not fencing them, and also that RAY and RIFE were probably those persons who actually burglarized the post office in Illinois from where the postal money orders were obtained although they stated they had purchased these money orders from an unknown individual.

Mr. RUDELL said he knew of no fence handling money orders in 1955 in the Kansas City area who RAY or RIFE may have contacted.

KC 44-760

WCM:jlh'

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The following investigation was conducted by  
IC WILLIAM C. MC DONALD at Jefferson City, Missouri:

On April 19, 1968, Missouri Motor Vehicle Department, Driver's License Section records were checked for operator's license issued in the name of JAMES EARL RAY and known aliases. There is no record on file that appears to be identical with RAY.

KC 44-760

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
RAY HOMESLEY:

At Kansas City, Missouri:

Kansas City, Missouri City Directory and Telephone Directory reveals no listing for Robby's Bar, 1964 to present, and there is no Taylor Street in Kansas City, Missouri. A City Directory for Kansas City, Kansas reveals a Taylor Avenue, but the numbers begin with the 1200 block and there are no bars listed on the street.

JOHN HAMMER, Liquor Control Board, 414 East 12th Street, Kansas City, advised on April 26, 1968, that he had reviewed his files on individuals of the last name COLE, but did not locate anyone, having worked for Robby's Bar, or a bar with a similar name sounding like Robby's.

HAMMER advised one MARY L. PORTER applied for clearance on March 27, 1964, for work as a waitress. She was born [redacted] and resided at 4835 Brooklyn, Kansas City, Missouri in 1964. HAMMER stated he does not have any current information regarding PORTER and that his file is in storage.

1967 Polk Directory for Independence, Missouri, shows MARY L. PORTER, waitress, Mark Go, Kansas City, Missouri and residing at 2332 Scott Avenue, Independence, Missouri. Kansas City, Missouri directory shows MARY L. PORTER, waitress at Mark-Ninety Drive-In, residing Independence, Missouri. The Mark Ninety Drive-In is located at 8950 Wornall Drive, telephone number EM 1-3902.

Contact of this drive-in revealed PORTER works evenings, coming in at about 4:30 PM.

MARY L. PORTER was contacted April 26, 1968, at Mark Ninety-Drive-In, and she stated she has never been married, and has no information regarding a MARY PORTER formerly married to ROBERT DALE PORTER.

KC 44-760

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CLARA LE VAN, Office Manager, Waitress Union Local 503, 216A West 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, advised on April 26, 1968, she has no record of a MARY PORTER currently working as a waitress. One MARY LOUISE PORTER, 5025 Michigan, Kansas City, Missouri, worked at the Wishbone and La Louisiana Restaurants in 1965, but has not paid dues since that time and therefore is not an active member.

HELEN DONLEY, Credit Bureau of Greater Kansas City, 1110 Grand, advised on April 26, 1968, that records reveal a credit report dated September 24, 1965, for ROBERT DALE PORTER and wife, MARY PORTER, 3819 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Missouri, which reveals MARY PORTER has been employed for four or five months at the Town Topic Sandwich shops, 6648 South Benton, owner, CLAUDE J. SPARKS, telephone number GR 1-5018. The record shows he is age 37 and in the U.S. Army for approximately 10 years, stationed at Amarillo, Texas. No credit established. The record shows a divorce was filed in Kansas City on May 17, 1966.

Circuit Court records, Jackson County Courthouse, Kansas City, Missouri, reveal under number 678415, that MARY MARTHA PORTER, 3315 Baltimore, Kansas City, Missouri, filed a petition for divorce May 16, 1966. She was represented by Attorney CHRIS KAHMANN, 432A Altman Building and the petition shows MARY MARTHA PORTER and ROBERT DALE PORTER of the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), were married February 27, 1964, at Maysville, Missouri. That ROBERT PORTER has wholly disregarded his duties as a husband, being convicted of a felony at Cameron, Missouri in March 1964, and being sentenced to a seven year sentence at MSP. Also MARY MARTHA PORTER learned after marriage that PORTER had been convicted on seven or eight occasions in various states. A degree of default was granted to MARY MARTHA PORTER on June 21, 1966.

LEE CHAPMAN, Clerk, Kansas City, Missouri Police Department, furnished an arrest record regarding ROBERT DALE PORTER, number 102954, FBI No. 590 482, which shows he was arrested Kansas City, Missouri on September 3, 1963, on investigation of armed robbery and was released to the Clinton County Sheriff's Office, Missouri. Police Department records show PORTER has an arrest record dating back to 1946. No record was located for MARY MARTHA PORTER.