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SL 44-775

With regard to GAWRON's accomplice, JAMES HENRY RAMSEY, as reflected in the foregoing reports pertaining to the burglary, the following additional information was obtained by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING from records of the St. Louis Police Dept. on 5-14-68:

JAMES HENRY RAMSEY, St. Louis Police Dept. #98763, FBI #375 271 E, who resided at 1805 S. 11th St., listed his parents as C. W. and HATTIE RAMSEY, Weiner, Ark. He listed his wife as GLORIA JEAN RAMSEY, 1501a S. 10th St. His FBI identification record and his photograph as contained in the police files reflect conclusively that he could not possibly be identical with subject RAY. (The identification record for example includes entries during the period of time subject RAY was in the Missouri State Penitentiary.) RAMSEY is described in the police records as a white male, born [redacted] at Grubbs, Ark., black or gray hair, brown eyes, sallow complexion, slender build, bartender and laborer.

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AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted on  
May 23, 1968, by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING:

Mrs. MARY L. GROSS, Chief Clerk, St. Louis City Jail,  
exhibited to SA ALBERT J. RUSHING a record at that jail reflecting  
the following information:

JACK E. GAWRON, 1807 South Eleventh Street, age 69,  
a laborer, entered the jail on June 6, 1967, on a charge of -  
burglary. He was released on bond June 22, 1967. He indi-  
cated his nearest relative was a daughter, COROL PEPPER.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6-21-68

JOHN EUGENE GAWRON was interviewed at his residence. He stated he had no additional information to offer in view of subject's apprehension. He reiterated he had not seen or been contacted by subject since 1959.

He was unable to recall any further information concerning the robbery of the BANK OF ALTON, ALTON, ILLINOIS, and stated it was entirely possible that the person who had contacted him, who was known to him as "JIMMY," might have a different true name, as it is common for former convicts to use aliases, even among friends.

It was his understanding JERRY RAY had made an application for a passport, and that JOHN LARRY RAY was endeavoring to sell the GRAPEVINE TAVERN for enough money to finance a trip to England.

He stated he would immediately contact this office in the event he receives any information deemed by him to be pertinent in this case.

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6-19-68

St. Louis, Missouri

SL: 44-775

On \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ File # \_\_\_\_\_  
by SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD :wma  
SA MARVIN R. DORAN Date dictated 6-20-68

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

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On May 28, 1968, SL 1209-C furnished the following information to SA ALBERT J. RUSHING:

Informant was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary beginning in October 1964 and he thereby knew JAMES EARL RAY casually until RAY's escape in April 1967. He occasionally exchanged greetings and a few words with RAY on the infrequent occasions when he encountered RAY in the penitentiary. Informant and RAY never worked in the same area or resided in the same hall except for a brief period in 1965 when they were both assigned to K Hall. Informant observed that RAY was quiet and appeared to be a "loner" who kept to himself, never joking or mixing with the other inmates. There was no indication to informant's knowledge that RAY was on narcotics or junk. Informant knew nothing of RAY's reading habits although he assumed RAY might well have been reading on occasion when RAY was in his cell inasmuch as RAY would appear to stay in his cell a great deal of the time. Informant heard on one occasion from some inmate that RAY tried to sell amphetamine powder to some inmate and informant suggested a possibility that RAY might have been selling it for BOBBY ASH, who was an inmate from Kansas City who would have been a logical person from whom amphetamine powder might have been obtained for selling. There was "scuttlebutt" in the penitentiary indicating that BOBBY ASH did deal in amphetamine.

Informant had no specific knowledge of RAY's having been in a "loan shark" business in the penitentiary although many inmates did engage in such activities and RAY might have done so.

It was informant's observation that RAY attended to his own business and never appeared to have trouble with anyone. Informant gained no indication of RAY's attitude with respect to Negroes.

RAY did not appear to have any close associates but persons whom informant recalls now having seen in frequent conversation with RAY on some occasions were the following: RAY CLANTON from Arkansas, believed to have been released from the Missouri State Penitentiary about July or August 1967, and

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HERBIE PHELPS, an inmate from Kansas City whom informant believes is still an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Informant has not seen nor heard anything of RAY since the latter's escape except what informant has learned from public news sources.

In April 1967 informant was the driver of the prison truck in which RAY reportedly escaped from the penitentiary. Informant at that time was assigned at Renz Farm (the number two honor farm of the penitentiary) and as the driver of the prison truck he made daily trips in the truck between Renz Farm and the main prison halls accompanied by a guard. The truck was used to obtain supplies, equipment, food, and various other things such as laundry for Renz Farm from both the main prison and other places in the town of Jefferson City. Every morning seven days a week informant drove the truck to obtain bread for Renz Farm from the bakery at the main prison. On such occasions informant as an inmate at the farm was not permitted actually to go behind the prison walls at the main prison but left the truck at the truck tunnel (entrance) and the guard then accompanied the truck to the point behind the walls where the bread was loaded on the truck. Informant understood that the customary procedure was for other inmates so assigned in the bakery to place the bread in a bread box which in turn was loaded on the truck. It is informant's recollection that the box being used for the bread in the period of RAY's escape was a box about three feet by two and one half feet by three and one half feet and the top of the box opened on hinges. The bread, which was already sliced but was unwrapped, was placed in the box in layers which were separated by brown wrapping paper. The guard on the truck during this period of time was a guard named BURKHARDT and he was the guard on the truck at the time RAY reportedly escaped. Informant recalls that the day of RAY's reported escape was a Sunday. On Sundays the truck made no scheduled stops upon leaving the main prison until it reached Renz Farm except for numerous stop signs and traffic lights. On arrival at Renz Farm on the day of RAY's reported escape the truck was stopped as was customary after it entered the entrance at Renz Farm in order to make a delivery of a small amount of

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bread to the residence of CARL MILLS, Superintendent of the farm whose residence is inside the gate. Two or three wrapped loaves, which were placed at the top of the bread box, were customarily delivered to MILLS' residence. On this particular occasion when informant went to the back of the truck to get the loaves of bread for delivery to the MILLS residence he saw that bread was scattered in the truck. Informant called the attention of the guard BURKHARDT to this situation and when the truck arrived at its destination at Renz Farm other guards there were also advised.

Neither informant nor anyone else so far as he was aware realized at first that the condition of the bread was an indication that someone had escaped. Upon arrival at the destination it was noted that the bread box was not as full as usual. A few hours later on the same day informant heard of a report to the effect that RAY had been found missing at the penitentiary at the time of a head count there and informant then heard that it was believed RAY had escaped in the bread box in the truck. Informant understood that since RAY had on some previous occasion hid out at the penitentiary prison officials apparently assumed that he may have hid out again inside the penitentiary and, therefore, the escape was not immediately reported officially according to what informant understood.

Informant expressed the observation that whoever loaded the bread box on the truck at the penitentiary must have known that RAY was inside the bread box. These persons would have been inmates assigned in the bakery but informant did not know their identities. Informant understood that RAY was assigned in the penitentiary kitchen which adjoins the bakery at the penitentiary.

The informant advised that the guard, BURKHARDT, was with him and the truck continuously from the time the truck left the main prison until it reached Renz Farm. Informant understood that BURKHARDT was subsequently reprimanded because the possibility of escape was not immediately recognized when the scattered bread was found in the truck.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

The records of the Jefferson - Gravois Bank, St. Louis, Missouri, pertaining to a regular checking account of JOHN RAY were made available by MR. A. G. ARB, Vice-President, of that bank, to SAA HOWARD C. KENNEDY, 5-15-68.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

Records of the Jefferson-Gravois Bank, concerning the closed checking account of JAMES L. OWENS, were made available by MR. A. G. ARB, Vice-President, to SA (A) HOWARD C. KENNEDY, May 16, 1968.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE: JERRY RAYNES - FATHER

The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY at Center, Missouri, 5-16-68:

MR. JOHN C. RODGER, Cashier, Center State Bank, obtained the film for the bank's business 9-11-67, that reflects a check, dated 9-9-67, payable to JERRY RAYNES or RAYNS, in the amount of \$1900 drawn on the Manufacturers Bank and Trust Co., SLMO, signed CAROL PEPPER, endorsed JERRY RAYNES with second endorsement by HAROLD WALKUP, trustee.

MR. RODGER stated that this was part of the payment for 46 acres foreclosed by the bank, and sold 9-9-67, at a Sheriff's foreclosure sale, said property being purchased by JERRY RAYNES.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX PROJECT

On June 5, 1968, MR. WILLIAM E. KENNEDY, Auditor, Manchester Bank, 4015 Choteau St. Louis, Missouri, advised SA HAROLD R. DOBSON that, as a matter of self protection, all banks and financial institutions in the Met. area of St. Louis and St. Louis County, Missouri, are participants in a chain pyramid telephone call system initiated by him whereby it is possible, within a relatively short time, to determine if any named individual has utilized the financial or other services of any of such institutions at any specific time. A check completed on that date, pursuant to a request by SA DOBSON made on May 31, 1968, failed to disclose that any individual using subject's name, or any of his aliases known to that date, was the record holder of a safety deposit box at any of such institutions during the period from April 23 to July 18, inclusive, 1967.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

Re: OBSCENE PEN-PAL CLUB

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA J. ROBERT MEIGS on June 5, 1968:

RON WILLIAMS  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Postal Inspector E. C. WENSMAN, Federal Court House, St. Louis, Missouri, advised RONALD WILLIAMS (case number 364-46572-E) does not operate a pen-pal club as such. He said he has written to club and possibly to individuals sending them his nude photographs in effort to get them interested in various types of sex parties. He said RONALD WILLIAMS lives at 8417 Virginia Avenue, telephone VE2-2697. WENSMAN desires to be informed if WILLIAMS is to be interviewed.

RJS

Mr. WENSMAN advised RJS (case number 364-46385-E) stands for ROBERT J. SUDOMA, 3535 Main Street, Apartment C-3. He said SUDOMA has been somewhat active since July, 1967, and he specializes in sending out pornographic photographs upon request. Said he does not use commercial mailing lists and does not take his own pictures. Stated just getting started and is practically unknown.

WENSMAN pointed out, however, that SUDOMA is under active investigation by his department and does not want SUDOMA interviewed as it would jeopardize his case.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

RE: FORMER NEIGHBOR - LAFAYETTE DILTS

Mr. FREED FISH, Postal Clerk (protect identity), LaGrange, Missouri, on May 29, 1968, advised SA JAMES A. DUFFEY there is no record that LAFAYETTE DILTS, or MAHALA LA MARR are presently or have ever received mail through this post office. Mr. FISH stated he has lived here for 24 years, has operated, and does operate a tavern and restaurant, has served as City Marshal, but in these occupations has never heard of DILTS or LA MARR.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

Re: RAY Associates

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

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

Mr. WAYNE BUTTS, Assistant Postmaster (protect identity), Lancaster, Missouri, on 5/7/68, advised he has no record or recollection of any person named JERRY RYAN, RAYN, or RAYNES ever living or receiving mail through this office during the past twentyfive years. He stated that P. O. Box 113 was rented in September, 1953, by Mr. TOM WEBSTER, now deceased, who kept it until 1964 when he died.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

J. D. DAILEY

On May 16, 1968, inquiry at the Post Office at Pascola, Missouri, disclosed that MAMIE HOOKER was residing in care of her son, JAMES HOOKER at Lebanon, Missouri. It was suggested that the U. S. Postmaster at Wardell would have information concerning additional relatives of MAMIE HOOKER.

On that same date, DALLAS HICKERSON, U. S. Postmaster, Wardell, advised that J. C. HILLIN is the father of MAMIE HOOKER. J. C. HILLIN, approximately 90 to 95 years of age and who lives near Wardell, was a half-brother to BARNEY DAILEY. He further related that J. C. HILLIN and BARNEY DAILEY were not very close due to their difference in their ages and that J. C. HILLIN is now senile and almost completely irrational.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE: NATHAN J. MURPHY - FORMER INMATE

The following investigation was conducted by SA CHARLES S. DUKE at St. Louis, Missouri:

Teletype from Kansas City to the Bureau, May 22, 1968, indicated that former inmate, NATHAN J. MURPHY, was paroled July 28, 1964, from the Missouri State Prison and was to reside with his wife, name not listed, at 2837 Eads Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

Several unsuccessful attempts were made on May 24, 1968, to contact the residence at 2836 Eads Avenue.

On May 27, 1968, CHARLES MOSS, mail carrier for the St. Louis Post Office, Benton Route #427, advised that he has been delivering mail for the past 10 years and did not recall the name of NATHAN J. MURPHY or Mrs. MURPHY as residing at 2836 Eads Avenue.

MOSS stated that the house was purchased approximately 8 to 9 months ago by an elderly man and wife by the last name of BOUDOU (phonetic). He said that the house was vacant prior to that for approximately 6 to 7 months. MOSS said that he did not know the man's name but the wife's name was TRUDY BOUDOU.

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DR:jfb

ADMINISTRATIVE:

FELLOW PRISONER - ROBERT LYNN POWELL

Pursuant to information received from the Kansas City Division that prior to RAY's escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary, he was allegedly urged by inmate, ROBERT LYNN POWELL, to "beat up" a girlfriend of his named FRANKIE BARBARA (phonetic) at Doe Run, Missouri, when he got out, the following investigation was conducted by Special Agent DOUGLAS ROSENBERGER on May 7, 1968:

Contact with the following persons failed to further identify FRANKIE BARBARA or indicate that a person by that name is residing or has been known to reside at Doe Run, Missouri:

Sheriff KEN BUCKLEY, Farmington, Missouri;

Check of Post Office current Telephone Directory for Doe Run, Missouri;

Magistrate Judge FRANCIS RENTFRO, Doe Run, Missouri;

Corporal WILLARD PETRUS, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Farmington, Missouri.

It should be noted that an interview with the father of ROBERT LYNN POWELL set forth in the body of this report indicates that the name FRANKIE BARBARA and the address of Doe Run, Missouri, was used by several girls, whose identities are unknown to him, in corresponding with his son.

The foregoing was placed in the administrative section of the report due to the Post Office contact.

POWELL is a prime suspect in the recent robbery of the BANK OF LEADWOOD, MO., and intensive efforts to locate him are reflected in that file.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

During the period May 9 - 13, 1968, all laundry and dry cleaning establishments in the St. Louis City and County were mailed a circular re JAMES EARL RAY, including the current IO and background information. This mailing list included every such business listed in the current issue of SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE YELLOW PAGES DIRECTORY which would approximate 640 establishments.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

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

Office: ST. LOUIS

Field Office File No.: SL: 44-775

Bureau File No.: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR -  
VICTIMCharacter: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;  
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

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

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I. RAY BACKGROUND

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RE: RAY BACKGROUND: EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

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



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RE: FORMER NEIGHBOR: LAFAYETTE DILTS

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

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

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

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

Mrs. JENNIE MYERS, May 29, 1968;

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

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

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

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Re: RAY Associates

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

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

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

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

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CBB:amb  
SL 44-775

RE: RAY EMPLOYMENT

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

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

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

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HRD:wma

### COUNTRY CLUB PROJECT

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

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

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

SL: 44-775

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

1  
SL: 44-775  
DRS:mjb

RE: FELLOW PRISONER: JAMES L. OWENS

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

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

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

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

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

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

1  
SL: 55-775  
dr:wma

RE: FELLOW PRISONER JAMES LOAMA OWENS

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

AT ELVINS, MISSOURI

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



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Date May 17, 1968

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1Date May 17, 1968

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

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

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

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

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1Date May 24, 1968

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

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

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

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

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

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