

THE GRAPEVINE bar's receipts might have bankrolled James Ray if his brother and sister had decided to be generous. No one knows if they did.

Up the river from St. Louis is the town of Alton, across the Mississippi River, another section of the United States Ray knew.

July 13, 1967, the Bank of Alton was held up by two men wearing stocking masks. The take was \$27,000.

"RAY HAD nothing to do with it," said Ed Pound of the Alton Evening Telegraph, who worked on the Ray angle.

Bank employees were shown Ray's pictures by the FBI. It was impossible to identify him or anyone else, the employees said, because of the facial distortion caused by the stretched nylon.

No one knows whether Ray held up the bank. He was never caught at bank jobs before.

"If Ray and another guy got \$27,000, Ray got it all," said Ray's ex-convict friend. "That's the kind of guy he was. Or he got his money by holding up people who couldn't or wouldn't report it to the police. Like gambling games in K.C. Things like that."

Prisoners tending the lawn at the governor's mansion in Jefferson City did not believe Ray killed King. Even persons in authority doubted Ray murdered King. The feeling was that Ray was set-up by someone much smarter who knew all the little tricks of getting a slumbum's fingerprints on a rifle.

Missouri also issued a warrant for Ray's return as a fugitive, and persons close to the governor feel Missouri has an iron-clad case against Ray while Tennessee's is weak.

"You've got to prove he pulled the trigger," one official said. "There are no eyewitnesses. This is not the Sirhan case."

NEXT: The travels of James Earl Ray.



RAY'S PLACE—The Grapevine Tavern in south St. Louis which is operated by John Larry Ray. AP Wirephoto

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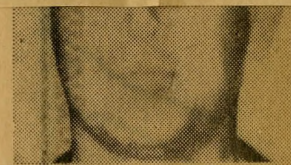
John Ray recently was acquitted on a shooting scrape.

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The tavern a few blocks south, where Jerry Ray hangs out, caters to factory workers who had seen Jerry there, but did not know where he was rooming.

An Alton, Ill., newspaperman said both Rays, and the Ray relative, William E. Maher, have "gone into hiding."



FOUR FACES—The photo at top of James Earl Ray is dated 1960. Second from top is a 1966 picture taken at the Missouri penitentiary before his 1967 escape. Third is picture released after FBI identified Ray and Eric Starvo Galt as same man. Eyes were painted in by artist. At bottom is photo taken after Ray's capture in London. AP Wirephoto

STAR MILLION

STOREWIDE SAVINGS AT A

SPECIAL PURCHASE FAMOUS SKIMMERS

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AP Wirephoto

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ordinariness Is Ray's Prime Feature

By DORIS O'DONNELL

James Earl Ray, the nondescript fugitive with the dimple in his chin and a prominent adam's apple, is the kind of a man easily lost in a crowd.

The 13 months he spent dodging the police is testimony enough. He eluded police from April 23, 1967, the morning he escaped in a prison bread box from Missouri State Penitentiary, until he was captured by Scotland Yard at London's Heathrow Airport June 8.

Ray lived frugally in two rooming houses in Toronto's Little Italy after he fled the United States following the April 4 assassi-

nation of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis.

A knowledgeable Toronto writer said Ray could have lived — undetected — in Toronto for years.

THE WRITER did not mean this as criticism of Canadian authorities. He meant that Ray blended unnoticed into the ethnic mixtures of the big Canadian city with its Anglo-Saxons, Italians, Hungarians, Poles, Germans, Hollanders, Hungarians and Chinese.

But Ray, the quiet man in Toronto, who ate in his room and disappeared for nights at a time, was not the same man who drank

screwdrivers in Los Angeles last winter.

During the winter of 1967-68, Ray was living in Los Angeles as Eric Starvo Galt.

He presumably came there from Mexico where he has been traced to a hotel at Puerto Vallarta, a small coastal city west of Guadalajara. His car bore Mexican stickers.

IN LOS ANGELES he lived on N. Serrano Street and later at the St. Francis Hotel where he did his quiet drinking in the Sultan Room. There he met a bearded man named Charles, Stein who lives with his sister and a female cousin on Franklin Avenue,

a five-minute walk from Hollywood Boulevard. Stein calls himself a songwriter.

Ray and Stein's sister struck up a friendship. She told Ray her children were in New Orleans, her hometown. He offered to drive her and the cousin there if the three would sign a petition for George Wallace. At that time Wallace was trying to get on the California primary ballot.

Stein told The Plain Dealer: "He'd foot the bill, if we signed. We did."

(Wallace did get on the ballot. His workers got more than 100,000 signatures with 34,000 to spare.

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How many Ray corralled is not known.)

SOMEHOW the wires were crossed and it was Stein and not the women who drove to New Orleans with Ray.

Stein said they left Los Angeles on Dec. 15 and were back in six days. Ray — or Galt, as Stein knew him — stopped in Texas to make a long - distance telephone call.

"I thought he was a politician," Stein said. "But my consciousness told me he was doing something he shouldn't be doing. He dressed neat like a square cat. Real square."

Stein said Galt "wasn't a big spender, but he made out with one or two broads — one old broad — because he had the bread."

"WELL, he had to have plenty to do the things he did," Stein said.

He referred to the \$500 Galt spent on dancing and bartending lessons. He did not finish the dancing lessons, but he completed the bartending course and twice turned down jobs offered by the school's operator.

On the trip to New Orleans, Stein said Galt "didn't talk too much. It was general conversation. He would just answer generally."

Ray — still as Galt — also drank screwdrivers at the Rabbit's Foot Club at 5623 Hollywood Boulevard. June Goranson, the club manager, threw Ray out one night.

"I TOLD HIM to get the hell out," Miss Goranson told The Plain Dealer. "He and a part-time barmaid I had were arguing over Negroes. She supposedly said some Negroes are nice people, and he said he'd dump her in Watts and she could find out for herself."

"We have strong Negro customers here and I didn't want that kind of talk," Miss Goranson said.

She said the same night she ordered Galt out, a young Negro man who was in the parking lot with a white woman was struck on the head with a piece of concrete.

"No one put Galt there (in the parking lot), but he had left the bar and was outside," Miss Goranson said.

THE NEGRO youth required stitches for the injury, which was reported to police.

The part - time barmaid later committed suicide. There is no connection between the bar incident and her death. Friends said she "had problems."

Miss Goranson said Galt used to "sit right between the beer taps. He even joined the key club. Members were sold a double for the price of a single."

She knew he was trying to get signatures on the Wallace petition.

BARTENDER Jim Morrison said the one conversation he had with Galt was "he was trying to get me to sign the petition."

"He quoted some figure and I said Kennedy would beat him. But he was a Wallace man," Morrison said.

Morrison did not remember whether Galt expressed a viewpoint on Negroes, but "he didn't care for them too much."

The bartender said Galt "was very quiet, not a lush, and he would sit for two and three hours, mostly alone."

Several of Galt's bar friends were under the impression he drove back to New Orleans around Valentine's Day of 1968.

UNOFFICIALLY, federal sleuths are said to have accounted for much of Ray's time since he left prison.

The FBI has stated that Ray lived for six weeks in the summer of 1967 in a Birmingham, Ala., rooming house. There he did not work, spending his days sitting around.

In Birmingham he kept money in a safe deposit box at the Birmingham Trust National Bank.

On Aug. 27, 1967, William D. Paisley, a Birmingham lumber company sales manager, advertised his 1966 Mustang. On Aug. 30, a man named Eric Galt paid \$1,995 in cash for it. Paisley said Galt went to the bank for the money.

THE FBI has estimated Ray's living expenses in Birmingham averaged at least \$50 a week — \$1,650 for rooms, meals and incidentals from Aug. 27, 1967 until April 4, the day Dr. King was shot. Galt's Mustang, impounded after it was found abandoned in Atlanta April 11, had 19,000 miles on it. Stein said one stop on the New Orleans trip was to buy a tire.

The FBI puts Galt in a Birmingham gun store on March 30, where he bought a Remington .30-06 rifle. The estimated value of such a gun with a telescopic sight is \$150. He also bought a pair of expensive binoculars the same day.

Galt was traced to the Economy Grill and Rooms on Highland Avenue in Birmingham on Aug. 26, 1967, where he paid \$22 a week for rooms with two meals a day.

HE TOOK the Alabama driver's test on Sept. 6, 1967, and received a license on Sept. 30. He left the Highland Ave. place Oct. 7 and headed toward Mexico, staying there part of October and through Nov. 10.

March 2, 1968, was graduation day for Galt from the Hollywood bartenders' school. One reason he may have turned down the jobs is that California requires fingerprints and a record check of bartenders.

In his wanderings, Ray showed up in July, 1967, in Montreal. An apartment house custodian told Canadian officials Ray was just another American tourist at Montreal's Expo '67. One report kept him in Montreal until September, but the car sale places him in Birmingham on Aug. 27. There are reports that Ray made several plane trips during his

time in Birmingham, but it is not publicly known whether it was before or after he bought the Mustang.

ON APRIL 4 a "clean shaven man with a long nose" checked into Mrs. Bessie Brewer's flop house in Memphis. He paid \$8.50 for a week's rent, giving Mrs. Brewer a \$20 bill. He took Room 5, just a few steps from a bathroom. He gave the name of John Willard.

Charles Q. Stephens, who had Room 6, later said that about 5 p.m. Willard went into the bathroom and stayed there about 25 minutes. Dr. King was shot as he stood alone on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, 205 feet and three inches across Mulberry Street from the Brewer place.

Then Willard disappeared. Witnesses saw a white Mustang with out-of-state plates parked nearby.

THE MUSTANG later showed up in Atlanta, and officials believe Ray flew from Atlanta to Toronto.

On April 12 an FBI bulletin mistakenly released in Miami, Fla., identified the man sought for Dr. King's death as Eric Starvo Galt, 5-foot-11 and weighing 175 pounds. The bulletin was later withdrawn.

Days followed with no tangible clues to Galt's whereabouts. But the prints on the gun led to Ray, the escaped felon.

The Cleveland office of the FBI suggested to Washington that all coroners and medical examiners in the country be given copies of Ray's dental charts which were on his Missouri Pen prison records.

Cuyahoga County Coroner Dr. Samuel R. Gerber, secretary of the National Association of Coroners, agreed to use the mailing list to circularize the charts. The idea, approved by the Justice Department, would mean that autopsy rooms around the country would have the charts for use on "John Doe" victims. There was a lot of talk that Ray was dead.

BUT BEFORE the chart plan was ready, Royal Canadian Mounted Police came up with the passport picture of Ray, who had now filched the name of Ramon George Sneyd.

RCMP Supt. C. R. Doey told The Plain Dealer in Toronto, "The most remarkable job was the passport picture search."

Canadian police candidly admitted that Communists and other fugitives have for years taken advantage of the ease with which Canadian passports can be obtained. A person need only swear to being born in Canada.

Supt. Doey said the FBI had furnished pictures of Ray.

"There were certain features — the cleft chin, the hairline, the nose — which were distinguishing," he said.

TWELVE RCMP officers went to work in the passport office, nights, after the staff left. They went through 200,000 to 250,000 passport applications for two weeks. Then a 21-one-year-old constable stopped a likely one. They also picked out 11 others. They found the Sneyd picture on May 29.

Dr. Gerber believes the FBI called him on May 30 and told him the dental chart phase was cancelled.

Ray had rented rooms at 102 Ossington Avenue, Toronto, then moved to 964 Dundas Avenue, the rooming house of Mrs. Sun Loo. He had applied for Sneyd's birth certificate which was mailed to the Loo house. With this, he applied at the Kennedy travel agency for the passport and the airplane ticket to England.

SUPT. DOEY said little is known of Ray's Toronto life. The employes and patrons of the Silver Dollar Bar, once so sure they knew Ray, now have differ-

ent stories. A go-go girl who claimed Ray made eyes at her was not even working the day she claimed she saw him.

The RCMP put credence in few stories. The facts they have place Ray at only two rooming houses, in the arcade photo studio where his pictures — with glasses — were made, at the travel bureau, in a doctor's office where he got a smallpox shot, and with a dark-haired cocktail waitress with a reputation as a woman "of easy virtue" who lives in East Toronto.

Supt. Doey, who said "we deal only in facts," believes the story of two grocers on Dundas Avenue that they saw Ray in their store. Samuel Marshall and Emanuel Benns saw him in the rear of the store. The man acted suspiciously. The grocers kept their money in a nearby office. They watched him walk out and take a street car. No burglary attempt was made.

OFFICIALS believe Ray could have lived on a \$100 budget during his stay in Toronto.

Supt. Doey said there "is no evidence he was in contact with anyone while he was here."

He said Ray's biggest mistake, after he flew to England on May 5, was to apply for a refund on the unused return-trip portion of his BOAC air fare.

The RCMP considers Ray an "unspectacular" fugitive.

Ray was hardly the swin-

ger of the Rabbit's Foot Club in Toronto.

When he left Mrs. Loo's place, she found some unexposed film, three girlie magazines, three beer bottles, a photo light meter, an empty package of cigarettes, an empty travel bag, and a small metal safety deposit box.

Supt. Doey said Ray's only show of "ingenuity" was in locating the birth certificates of the men whose names he borrowed. But the Mounties have not yet found any library employe who saw Ray go through back copies of the newspapers where the births had been printed in 1932.

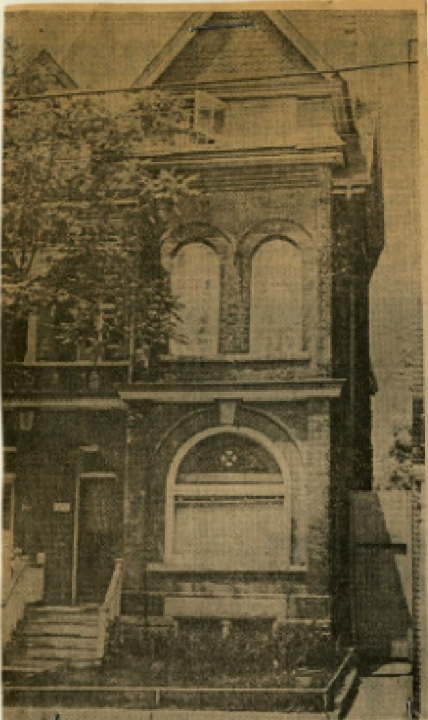
THE RCMP official said his force is still at work on the case. There are "few blanks" left to fill in. Mrs. Loo said Ray did not always sleep in his room nights.

Canadian newspapers lean heavily on the conspiracy angle, and reporters who have worked on the Ray case believe Ray's trips were financed in America.

Ray's 13 months of far-flung travels ended abruptly at Heathrow Airport on Saturday, June 8 when Scotland Yard caught him.

Mystery still swirls around the 40-year-old American suspected of killing the Negro leader whose flaming oratory had swept like prairie fire through hundreds of American ghettos.

Only James Earl Ray can put the jigsaw together.



TORONTO DWELLING — This is the rooming house of Mr. Sun Loo, one of two places where James Earl Ray lived in Toronto.
Plain Dealer photo (Andrew Clifton)



ST. LOUIS HOME — This is the apartment in which Ray lived as a teen-ager. His apartment was entered by the center door.
AP Wirephoto

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Questions About Ray Arise-- --How Much Money Does He Have--and Why?

By Press-Chicago Daily News Wire

CHICAGO — A letter written by James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, has raised some puzzling questions about the condition of his wallet.

There are conflicting reports and paradoxes, but money, or the apparent lack of it, stands out sharply.

Ray, in a short, handwritten note, asked his two brothers John and Henry, to send \$600 to Birmingham attorney Arthur J. Hanes, who has agreed to represent Ray in Memphis.

The Chicago Daily News obtained an exclusive copy of the letter, which was mailed from the London prison where Ray has been held.

WRITING TO HIS BROTHER JOHN, who owns a farm in St. Louis, Ray said:

"You can get some of it (the \$600) off Jerry and I will straighten it up with you when I get back."

The request implies that Ray may have an independent source of money.

Reports have circulated that King was shot for a "bounty" ranging from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 allegedly promised by a shadowy association of "southern businessmen."

However, John Ray noted that "if he was supposed to be paid so much money for that killing, why does he have to ask us for \$600?"

When arrested in June at London Airport, James Ray had \$168 in his pockets, obviously not enough to pay a lawyer for a murder case.

Meanwhile, Ray has been described as a free-spender who paid \$1695 in crisp \$20 bills for a used 1966 white Mustang.

On the other, he reportedly stayed in cheap hotels and washed his own socks and shirts.

The picture pasted together of his zig-zag trail since then is that of a man who lived cheaply.

Yet the FBI reports that Ray took a four-week course in bartending in Hollywood, Calif., last winter, and paid \$225 for it.

Shortly before, he reportedly paid \$465 for a 60-hour dance course.

Ray's trail, in the seven months before King was slain, points to a man who had some source of money.

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

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Attorney Says Ray Fears U. S. Agents

LONDON — (AP) — James Earl Ray's Alabama lawyer said today Ray is innocent of the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and wants to return to the United States to clear himself of the charge.

Attorney Arthur J. Hanes said Ray agreed to waive an extradition appeal when they met at London's Wandsworth Prison today. Ray could be flown back to the United States as early as tomorrow or Friday.

HANES SAID Ray, whom he referred to as "R. G. Sneyd," had asked the U.S. Justice Department and British authorities to permit Hanes to accompany him when he is handed over to U.S. authorities to be taken to Memphis, Tenn., for trial.

Hanes said the Justice Department has denied this request so far.

"Ray has fear of being in the company of Justice Department agents alone and wants me present," the attorney said.

He said he could not disclose the basis of such fear but admitted he himself was apprehensive about Ray being alone with U.S. agents. "One doesn't know what might happen," he said.

Asked whether the U.S. Justice Department was "out to get Ray," Hanes said: "There will really be great heat, great passion and emotion, to a point where it is almost sickening, when this matter gets into the United States."

"They are after somebody's scalp," he said.

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