

# Ray Learned Life in Slums and Prisons

## ★ From First Page

erson City, knew Ray as one of about 1,500 men behind the walls, a few short blocks from the state capitol and the governor's mansion on the Missouri River.

"He was as near a non-entity as any person I ever met," Wilkinson said. "He was innocuous."

Wilkinson is an expert in his field. He has spent 30 years in the federal prison system, including a five-year term with the Bureau of Prisons in Washington.

"HE WAS LIKE anyone else," Wilkinson said. "His pattern of existence in the penitentiary. Owens got ships, no enemies. He was a passive personality. He gave the appearance of indolence. His attitude was 'Here I am, so what?'"

Ray, incidentally, had been arrested with an accomplice, James Owens, for the robbery of a Kroger Co. store on Ohio Avenue in South St. Louis, he was sentenced on two counts — armed robbery and auto theft — to 20 years in the penitentiary. Owens got only seven years. During the fifth day of his trial before Circuit Court Judge John C. Casey in St. Louis, Ray tried to escape. He was caught by sheriff's deputies in an elevator in the Municipal Court Building.

Attempted jail escapes, said Wilkinson, took Ray out of the innocuous class several times.

"He tried to attract atten-

But officials finally discovered that a 3x5-foot bread box, in which bread was trucked twice a week from the prison to the prison farms, was Ray's hiding place to the outside.

Wilkinson said he is convinced Ray had the aid of another inmate, who also worked in the kitchen with Ray.

RAY, WORKING in the kitchen slicing bread, wore white clothes, not the green durgarees with black stripes worn by regular prisoners.

No one knows, Wilkinson said, how Ray left Jefferson City. No leads have developed on whether he left by foot, car or airplane.

A brother, John Larry Ray, had visited Ray for 4½ hours the day before Ray disappeared. He made his escape about 8:30 a.m. and a check was not made until 1 p.m.

John Ray told a St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter that: "He and I both are strong supporters of George Wallace," former Alabama governor and a states rights candidate for president.

Wilkinson saw nothing significant in the Ray brothers talking politics or talking George C. Wallace.

"FOUR AND a half hours is a long time," Wilkinson said. "Even the closest of relatives run out of things to talk about."

Wilkinson said sometimes a probing bar is used in the bread boxes when the truck is in the sally port, a tunnel through which the truck



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

Pen claim Ray could have left with a bankroll as high as \$2,000.

One prisoner told me: "I saw a man with \$7,500 on him the other night."

But Wilkinson's records show the most Ray ever "had on the books" was two entries of \$5 each which he sent to a brother in 1963.

"THAT'S THE biggest money he ever dealt with," Wilkinson said.

Ray ordered items from Sears, Roebuck — tennis

Ryan, and his grandmother as Mrs. Mary Mahler, 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis.

Both women are dead, but they are not forgotten on the hot, dusty street in South St. Louis.

NO. 1913 Hickory Street is a doorless rundown two-story brick house with the French architectural influence of 75-100 years old. This section off Missouri Avenue was once the proud tree-lined properties of well-to-do merchants.

he's gained lots of weight." (One of the London boarding house landlords claimed a hypodermic needle was left in Ray's room.)

But the neighbors on Hickory Street had to admit they saw little of James Earl Ray during the past 12 years.

Ray enlisted in the Army in 1946 and was out in 1948. He served three months at hard labor for being drunk and resisting arrest.

IN 1949, HE was given a 90-day sentence in Los An-

Ray a "loser, a punk," but his prison colleagues describe him as a "real pro."

"HE HAD money on him in prison," an ex-convict said. "Guys like that are always targets. But no one ever stole or tried to steal from Ray. There was something about him. Like he'd kill, if you'd try anything."

Ray's brother, John Larry Ray, operates a bar at the corner of Arsenal and Illinois avenues, in South St. Louis. The liquor license is in the name of Mrs. Carol Pepper, Ray's sister, who reportedly "is married very well."

The bar, the Grapevine, catering to neighborhood walk-in trade, is a down-at-the-heel place. A padlock was on the front door the day I waited about 10 hours to see John Ray. He never even opened the bar that day.

John L. Ray is described as a "weirdo" by persons who know him and the Grapevine saloon.

"THERE'S SOMETHING in his head that doesn't connect too well," a friend of his said. "He blows up fast. You have to be careful what you say to him. He'd shoot you as soon as talk to you."

John Ray recently was acquitted on a shooting scrape.

Neither John nor Jerry Ray — like James Earl — is married. But all have reputations for liking women. In fact, the FBI all-points alert for Ray included the information that he would likely be seen in the

THE GRAPEVINE receipts might have rolled James Ray brother and sister decided to be gene one knows if they

Up the river Louis is the town across the M River, another s the United States E

July 13, 1967, the Alton was held up men wearing masks. The tal \$27,000.

"RAY HAD nothing with it," said Ed the Alton Evening graph, who worked Ray angle.

Bank employees shown Ray's picture FBI. It was impossible to identify him or any of the employees said. of the facial d caused by the s nylon.

No one knows Ray held up the b was never caught jobs before.

"If Ray and another got \$27,000. Ray got said Ray's ex friend. "That's the guy he was. Or he money by holding up who couldn't or would port it to the police gambling games. Things like that."

Prisoners tending lawn at the governor's mansion in Jefferson did not believe Ray King. Even persons authority doubted Ray dered King. The fact that Ray was set

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LIFE

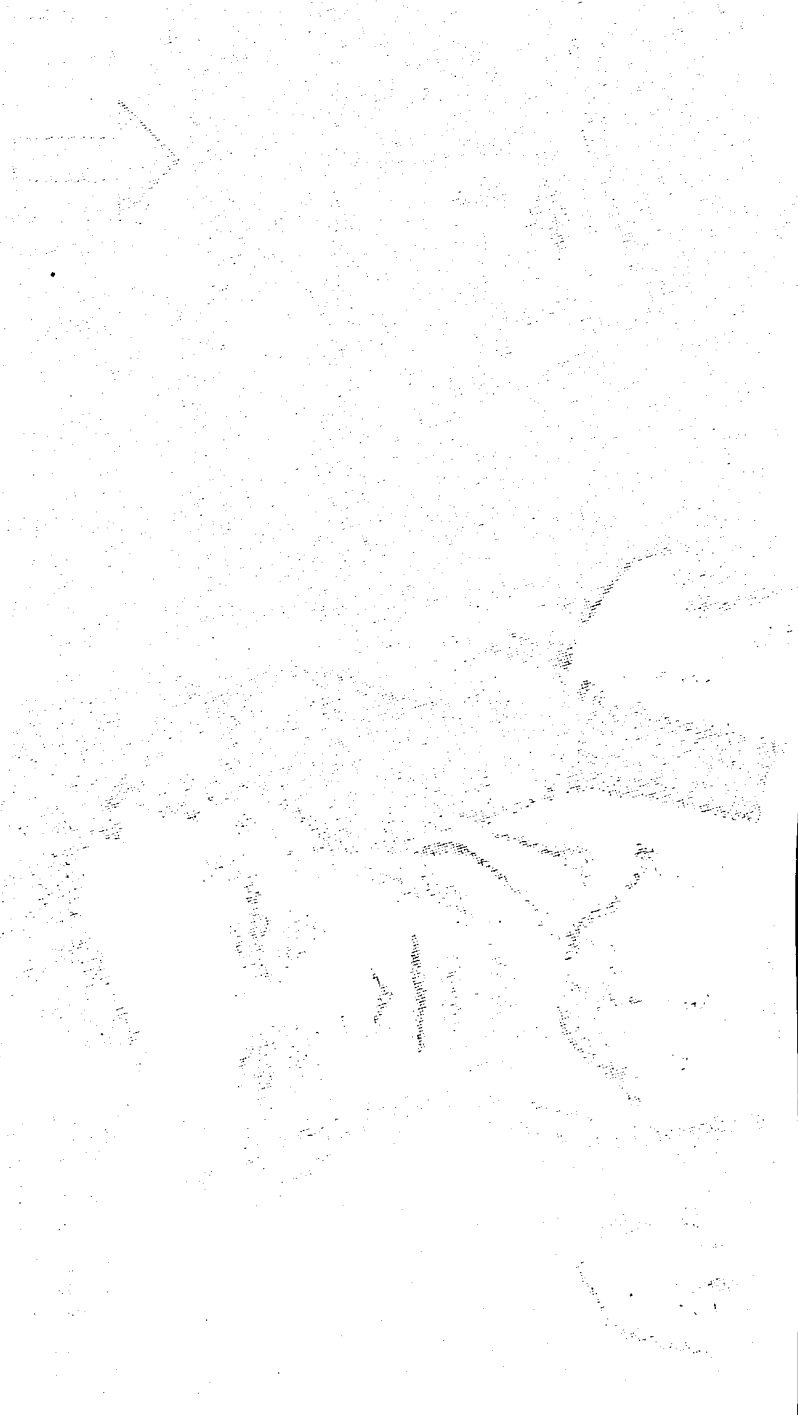
THE ACCUSED KILLER

RAY alias GALT

The

Revealing Story

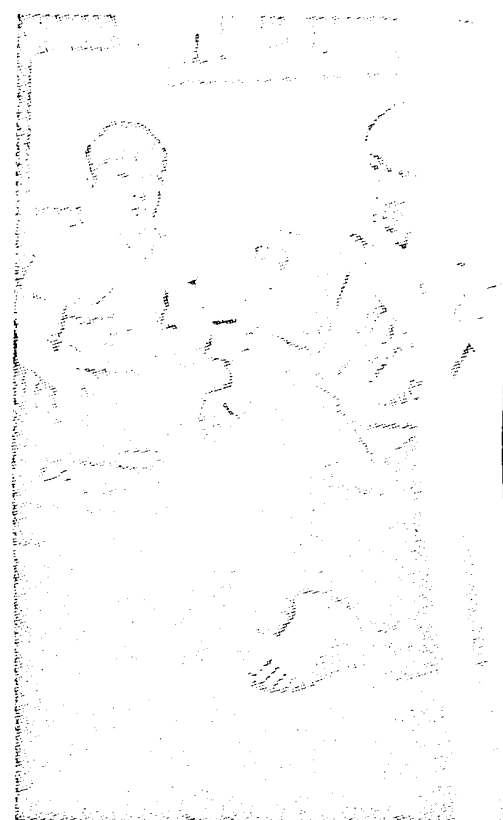
of a Mean Kid



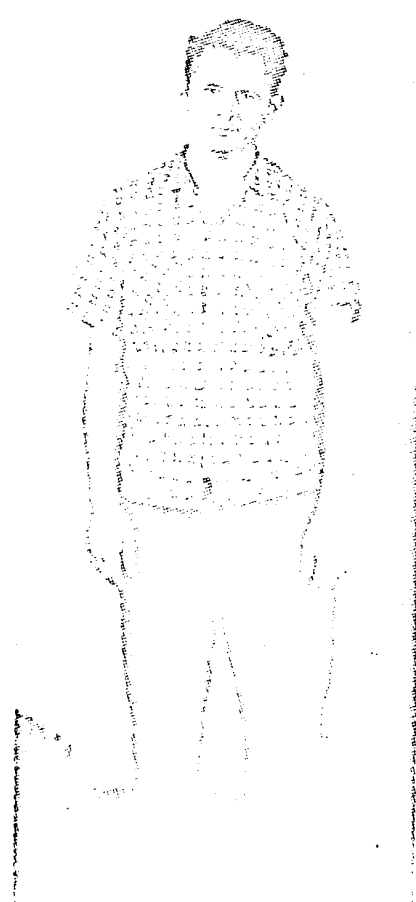


Character Shaped by a Mean Life

Exhibit D-2



When the Ewing, Mo. grade school gathered for the picture at left in 1938, third-grader James Earl Ray (in third row at left of girl in polka dot dress) peered half-hidden over a classmate's head. Among the two dozen former schoolmates and teachers who identified Jimmy Ray was Carlisle Washburn (front row, far right), who once broke Ray's leg playing football. Today Washburn (above) is Ewing's postmaster. Ray is shown below after his 1959 arrest in St. Louis for armed robbery.



Mean Life

# Growing up in a series of ramshackle river towns



## CONTINUED

in Alton, Ill., he was the eldest of nine children of George and Lucille Maher Ray, a Catholic family that was to drift from river town to town throughout the Depression. When he was one year old, the family moved upriver to Quincy, Ill.; when he was 6, they moved across the river to Ewing, Mo., and when he was 16 and out of the eighth grade, they moved again to Quincy. The sight of the large, shiftless family coming where work was scarce was hardly a welcome one for communities with already too little to share. The family even began to think of itself with the same carelessness as the towns themselves had: they were identified as the Rayns, the Raynes or the Raines, either because of the way Ray was drawled out or from confusions with past families. The children cared little in any case and often went to school under different names.

Jimmy was the eldest, but he already seemed to be wearing hand-me-downs; in rural poverty, no age is ever old enough; there is always someone before you. Virgil Oscar Graves, who was principal of the Ewing school, recalls Ray: "He was a rebel. He rebelled against authority and his approach to most of his teachers was very bad. He always seemed to have trouble getting his assignments in on time. But he was a sensitive boy. I remember he came up to my desk one day wearing patched overalls and asked whether I thought the other kids would pay attention to his appearance."

The school record was considerably more brusque. James Earl Ray was only in the second grade by the time he was being peddled

# ie head-on encounter with cops after another



CONTINUED

remembers a local resident. "I've seen the time when they had a sack of potatoes to eat--that's all, just a sack of potatoes."

As they grew up, the Ray children were either to drift off or to be routinely placed in foster homes, seldom again seeing another member of the family. Even today, Gerald Ray, a brother, insists their father's name was George, while Jimmy Ray's birth certificate shows it was James. An uncle, William E. Maher, of Alton, says of the Rays: "We tried to stay away from them. They always seemed to want something."

Besides Jimmy, there were Marjorie Ray (who died as a child after setting herself on fire with a box of matches), John, Melba, Carol Jean, Gerald, Franklin "Bozzy" Delano (who was killed in 1964 when he and a girl friend ran their car off a bridge into the river at Quincy; the funeral provided one of the few Ray family reunions), Susan Jane and Max. The father died in 1951, most probably of chronic alcoholism; the mother in 1961. Of the other surviving Rays of Quincy, Melba Ray was in a succession of foster homes and today spends most of her time in the lobby of the decaying Virginia Hotel on Oak Street. Occasionally, she goes to her \$30-a-month room upstairs to fondle a giant wooden cross which she has painted red, white and blue and lettered "maged cross." She once walked it down Maine Street in Quincy. "I made it," she says. "I made it very close." After what happened to her brother, she was afraid to go back.

parents. The family's history is a long one, but the father's name was George.

Susan Jane, 19, who now has been moved to the scattered and the of common notoriety, locked screen doors, and their laments of pride and against Jimmy Ray. But it is clear which the family hate most: that Ray may be responsible for such a hat or that their neighbors learn the truth of their in Ewing and Quincy. Or it haps, after years of absence, estrangement, this event in the Rays together again.

Then there is Gerald (who says simply, "Jimmy brother." Over the years, been in trouble as often my. But Jerry, who lives in Quincy, Ill., today has grown to their separation. The family is probably close brother. "After we were he says, "about the only could see him was when visiting me in jail or when visit him. One or the of was in jail most of the time wrote me a lot."

Jerry is, with his brother, a low professional. (A

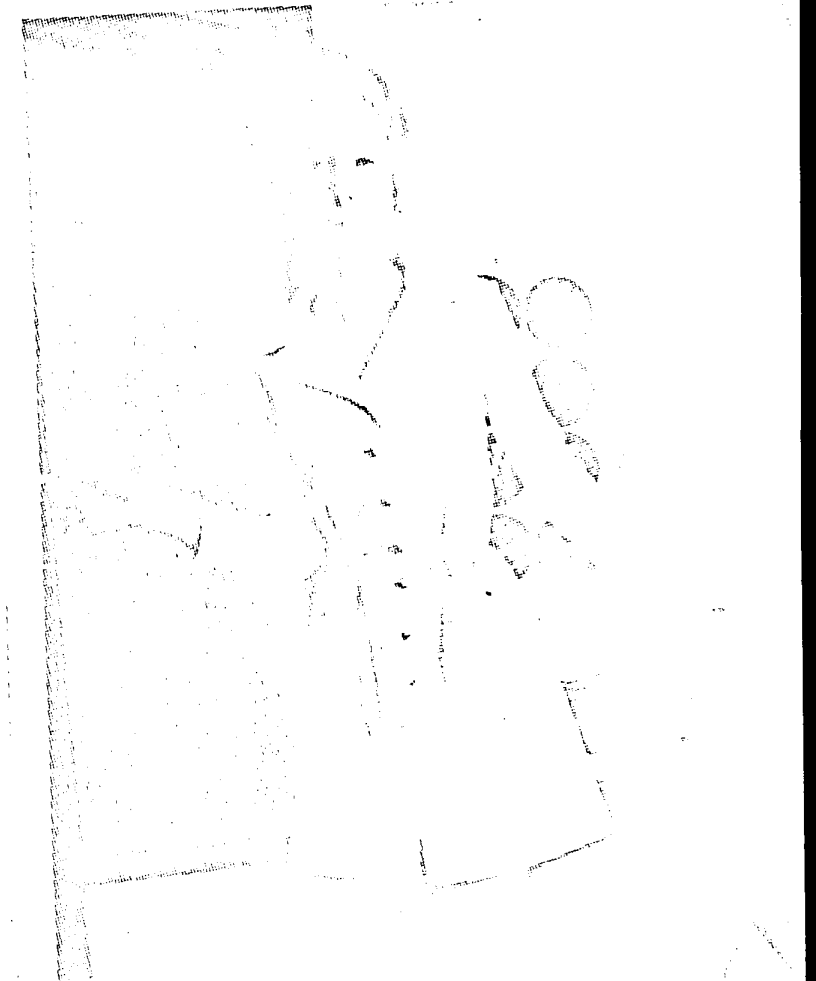
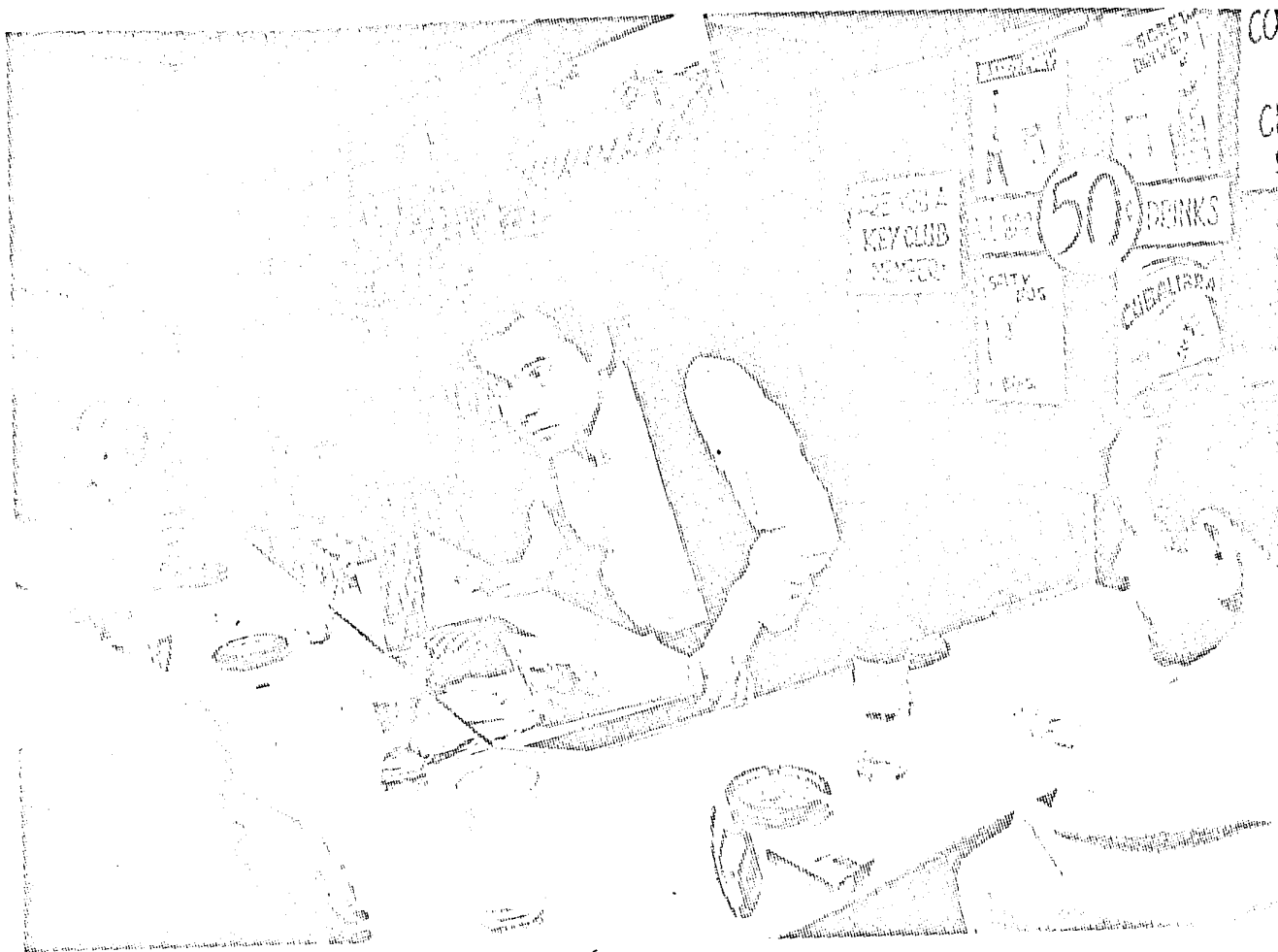
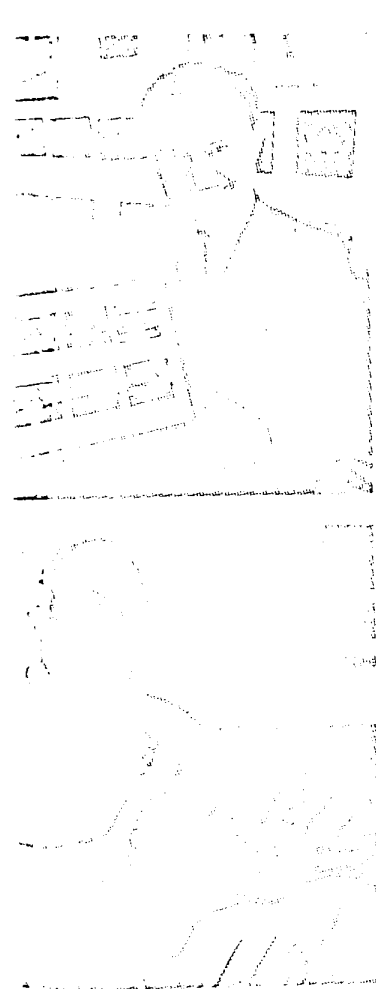
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## A spell of high living with a roll of 20s and an assumed name



...Los Angeles who got to ...  
...as Eric Galt last ...  
...him as a loner ...  
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those fresh 20s and never counted  
his change." Tomas Reyes Lau (up-  
per left), to whom Ray paid \$245  
for a four-week bartending course,  
found him an apt pupil: "Self-con-  
fident with good hand coordina-

tion." By contrast Kathy Norton  
(right), one of his dancing instruc-  
tors, remembers him as "clumsy"  
and socially inept. Bo Del Monte  
(above), bartender at the Rabbit's  
Foot Club where Ray often spent

his evenings drinking 50-cent  
screwdrivers, calls him "a meek  
kind of man"—except for the night  
he got into an argument with a  
woman about the race problem  
and loudly denounced all Negroes.

CONTINUED

broke loose and ran to an elevator," where he was caught.

For the next seven years in prison, Ray distinguished himself only by a series of solitary escape attempts which earned him the nickname "The Mole." For this quiet, angry figure the ventures were perhaps a source of amusement, per-

haps a way to do precisely what the skinny schoolboy in Tving, Mo. had always wanted to have happen—to rebel, be recaptured and revolt again. "Hey, kids, it's THE MOLE!" Once he tried to scale a wall and was knocked unconscious when his makeshift ladder collapsed; another time, in

1966, he hid for two days in a ventilator shaft, then crawled to a rooftop only to have a guard spot his hands coming up over the top. He was trying to escape with \$4.35, razor blades, a broken mirror and a bag of assorted pills. Then, exactly a year ago, he finally did it.

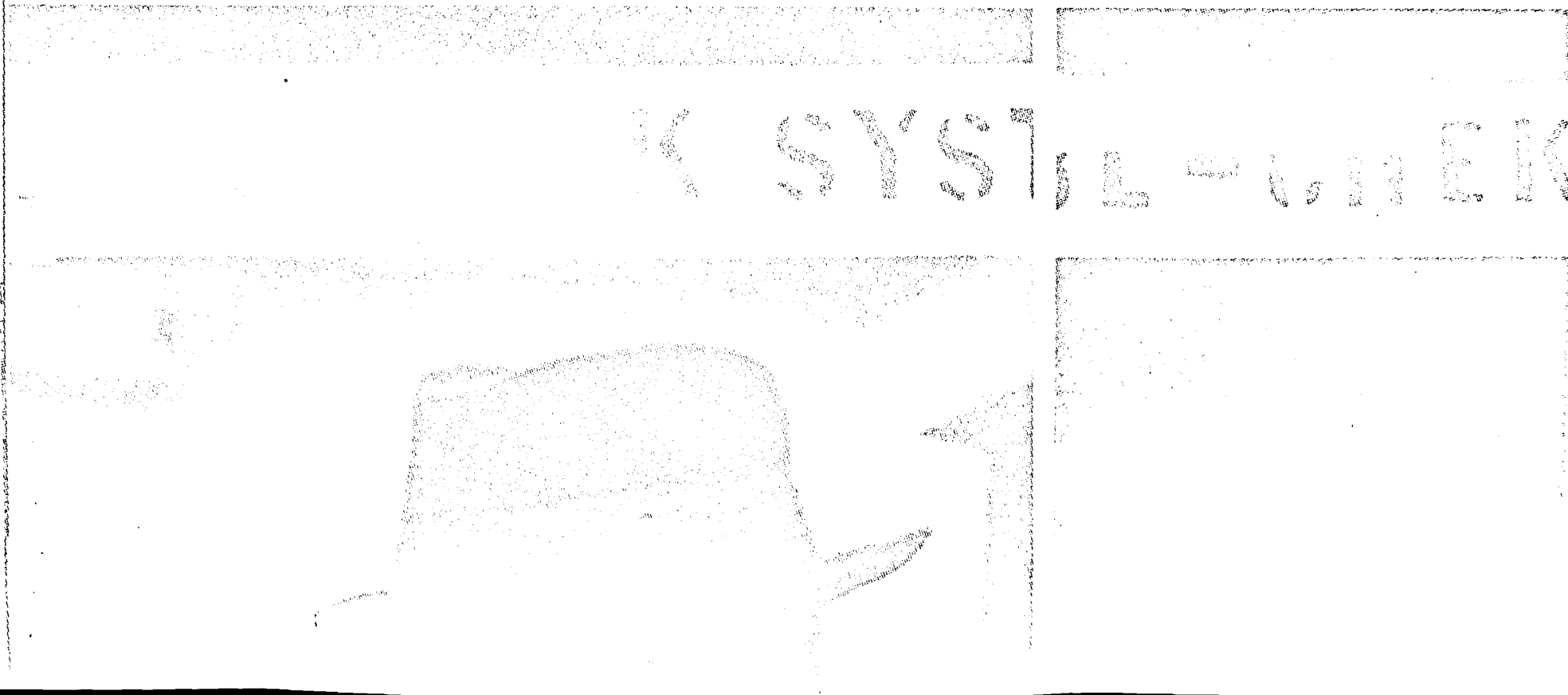
In the curiously lit world that includes a sleek, bleached strip of North Hollywood, Eric Starvo Galt might have seemed 34 or even 28 years old, depending on the shade, the time of day or how close he was sitting to the bar lamp at the Rabbit's Foot Club. Galt, who was 40, looked like a man learning to

## From a grocery store bandit caught by a hidden

In the act of holding up a St. Louis grocery in 1959, Ray and accomplice Joseph Austin were pho-

tographed by a fixed-focus camera normally used to identify check cashers. Austin unknowingly

stood in front of the camera (left) before he and Ray lifted the cash register of \$1,200. Then he fol-





swing; last November, he went on a marijuana-buying junket to Mexico. "Sharon," one of his ballroom dance instructors, had suggested to the girls at the National Dance Studios in Long Beach that her pupil had developed a crush; he trembled, she said, when he stood too close. But Galt fled in

his white Mustang after only an hour on Go-Go Night, and for \$245, paid in advance, enrolled in bartending school instead.

James Earl Ray had never had his picture among the "big dealers" in the warden's album in the Missouri State Penitentiary. In Prison, like any kid from Alton or

Quincy or Ewing or Shelbyville, Mo., he had never mixed with the big boys from Kansas City and St. Louis. "He's innocuous," said the warden. "He's penny ante."

That is, James Earl Ray, slight and round-shouldered, who flinched, smiled a crooked, private grin and sometimes even

seemed to walk on a slant, was once penny ante. But, says the FBI, on April 4 in Memphis, at the moment Martin Luther King died, all the bills for the Mustang, the shoes, the dancing lessons and a \$150 30.06 Remington ---and maybe the bitter childhood ---came due.

## camera to the most hunted man in the country

lowed Ray out (center) as both stuffed their pockets. At right, a policeman holds their hats, lost in

the escape. Arrested two months later for another robbery, Ray was convicted and sentenced to 20

years in the Missouri penitentiary. He was serving this term when he escaped last year and vanished.

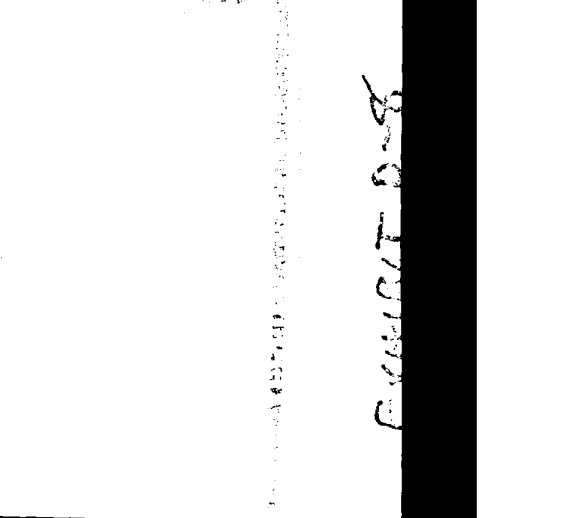
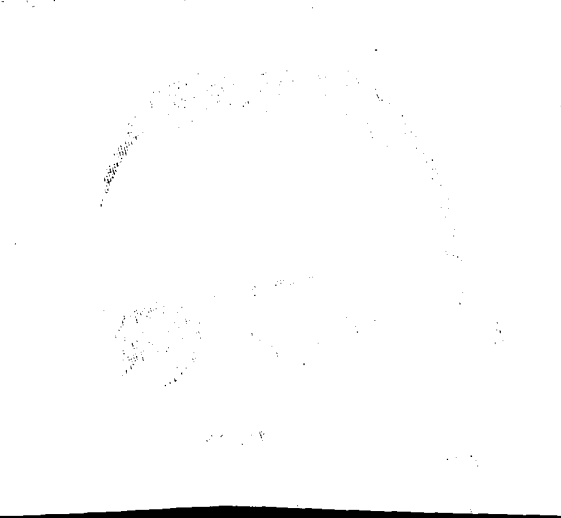
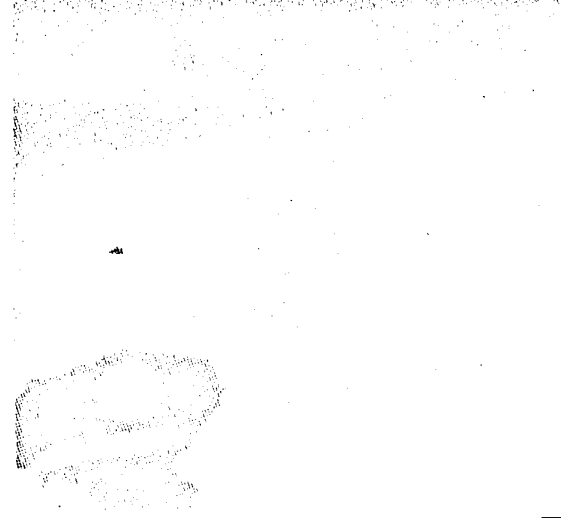
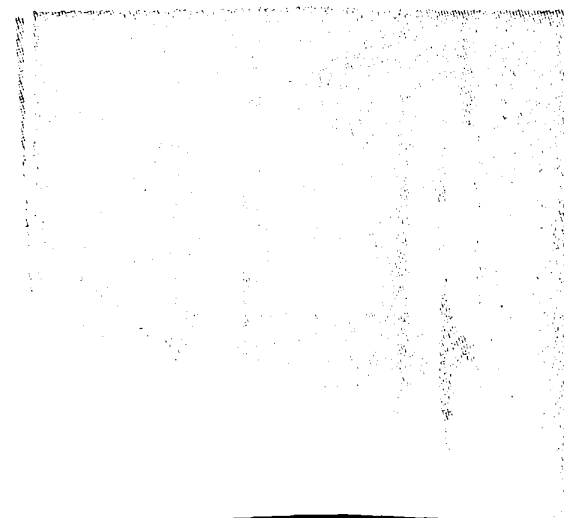


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SECRET 0-8

# How To Solve Guns And Law

Morrie Ryskind, Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, will substitute for William F. Buckley Jr. during the latter's vacation.

BY MORRIE RYSKIND

REASON WOULD suggest that the bullet which felled Senator Kennedy emerged from a gun which might have been unobtainable if a proper gun control law had been in effect. John Kennedy's slayer ordered his gun through the mail: the ex-convict who killed Martin Luther King bought his over the counter; the copers who shot at policemen and firemen in the recent riots presumably got their weapons just as easily.

Noting which, I recently suggested it was high time for a federal law, one with harsh teeth in it, to prevent the indiscriminate sale of firearms.

Conceding my lack of expertise on this controversial subject, I saw no reason why a purchaser with a legitimate use for a gun should object to strict regulation, down to getting a police okay and being fingerprinted.

"Surely the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment were not intended to provide criminals with an arsenal," I wrote, and added I realized no law could ever stop a determined killer from obtaining a gun, but that such a statute might cut our appalling crime rate.

The first response to that piece came from a reader in Amarillo who agreed courteously but vigorously about my lack of expertise on the matter, and predicted I'd get enough protests against my stand to last me a lifetime.

## Almost Unanimous

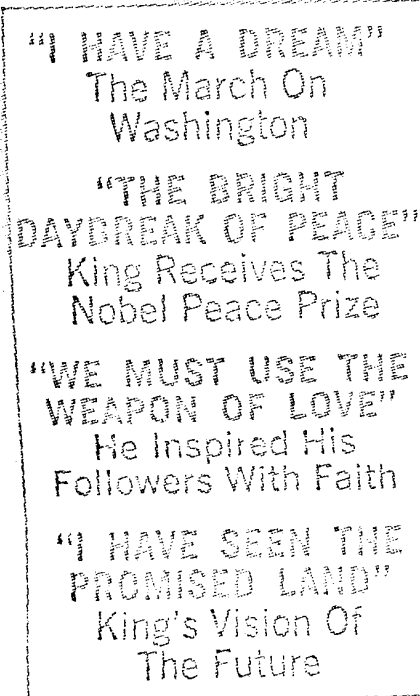
HOW RIGHT he was! To date, of 163 letters on that column, only two back me; the rest vary all the way from calling me misguided to hinting I'm guilty of subversion.

Some point out that our own Communists have long advocated just such a law; others that Hitler enacted a similar measure. The intent in both instances being to disarm the decent citizens and leave them defenseless against the weaponry of uniformed gunmen serving the police state.

I realize how touchy the subject is when such an implication can be read into my piece. I never even remotely suggested that the honest citizen be deprived of arms with which to defend himself against danger. I asked only, especially in view of recent happenings, that there be a strict supervision over the sale of firearms, lest they fall into bad hands — as obviously was the case in the slaying of Robert Kennedy.

As a matter of fact, I have strong personal motives for wishing those with bona-fide reasons to possess arms the right to do so. For my son, who lives in Washington, has for over a year had a



[illegible]

IN THE CRIMINAL COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

STATE OF TENNESSEE

VS.

No. 16645  
(Murder)

JAMES EARL RAY, Alias

FILED  
J. A. BLACKWELL, CLERK

MOTION TO PRODUCE

BY *[Signature]* D C.

Comes the defendant in the above styled case, by and through his attorney of record, and respectfully moves This Honorable Court to require the attorney for the State to produce to the attorney for defendant, and allow him to inspect and/or duplicate, books, papers, documents or tangible objects obtained from or belonging to the defendant or obtained from others which are in possession of, or under the control of the attorney for the State or any law enforcement officer, including, but not limited to the following, to-wit:

1. Any firearm or other weapon belonging to defendant or allegedly used in committing the crime charged.
2. Any automobile allegedly owned or operated by defendant and any and all objects found therein.
3. Records of or documents pertaining to any hotel, motel, rooming house or other purported place of residence, temporary or permanent, of defendant or others.
4. All photographs purportedly showing defendant or others sought in connection with the crime herein charged.
5. Any and all penal records and files of defendant, including any and all medical, optometric, or psychiatric reports

contained therein or produced while defendant was in custody of any authority.

6. Any and all military records of defendant, including results of medical, optometric, or psychiatric tests and results of proficiency tests.

7. Passports, visas and applications therefor.

8. Records of entry and exit to and from this or any other country.

9. Documents, records or objects pertaining to transportation of or travel by defendant.

10. Evidence and test fingerprints of defendant.

11. Any sets of fingerprints used or displayed in any search for defendant.

12. Any fingerprints of defendant or other persons found on tangible objects named or produced herein.

13. Ballistic and weapons tests and reports thereof.

14. Expended slugs from a firearm, or fragments thereof.

15. Bullets, hulls, shells or casings, expended or unexpended.

16. Maps, papers or other objects purportedly used or handled by defendant.

17. Logs and records of calls made over the radio network of any law enforcement agency of Shelby County, Tennessee, during the period of April 4, 1968 through April 5, 1968.

18. The names and addresses of all witnesses for the State in this cause.

19. Any and all statements, signed or unsigned, attributed to or purportedly made by defendant and any and all statements

made in the presence of defendant to which note of his reaction was made.

20. Autopsy and toxicologists reports concerning any alleged victim of the crime charged herein.

21. The minutes and notes of Grand Jury proceedings in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur J. Hanes, Jr.  
Attorney for defendant.

I hereby certify that I have personally served a copy of the foregoing motion upon the Attorney General for the state in this case. This the 10 day of August 1968.

Arthur J. Hanes, Jr.

IN THE CRIMINAL COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

STATE OF TENNESSEE

FILED  
J. A. BLACKWELL, CLERK

NO. 16819 BY \_\_\_\_\_ D. C.

VS.

(Carrying a dangerous weapon)

JAMES EARL RAY, ALIAS,

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO WITHDRAW PLEA  
AND TO QUASH INDICTMENT

Comes the defendant in the above styled case, by and through his attorney of record, and respectfully moves This Honorable Court for leave to withdraw the plea heretofore entered, and if that be granted, defendant further moves that the Indictment heretofore filed be quashed and as grounds therefor assigns the following:

1. Defendant was brought within the geographical jurisdiction of this court from England by virtue of proceedings under an international extradition treaty with Great Britain, to face only the charge of murder.
2. The Indictment in the present case charges defendant with carrying a dangerous weapon with the intent to go armed.
3. Said charge is not one with which defendant was charged in the proceedings for his extradition from Great Britain, thereby rendering This Honorable Court without jurisdiction to hear, try or proceed further with this case.

Respectfully Submitted

Arthur J. Hanes, Jr.  
HANES & HANES  
Attorney for Defendant

*I hereby CERTIFY THAT I have served a copy of the ABOVE MOTION upon the Attorney General for the State in this case on this the 16 day of August, 1968.*

Arthur Hanes