

PD 157-183
ME 44-1987

REVIEW OF ITSMV CASES FOR CARS STOLEN
IN GEORGIA SINCE MARCH 23, 1968

A review was made on April 29, 1968 of the 24 pending and closed files concerning cars recovered in the State of Oregon from March 23, 1968 through April 26, 1968. No cases were located concerning vehicles stolen from the State of Georgia.

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**CHECK OF OREGON DRIVERS LICENSE RECORDS
CONCERNING MALES BORN [REDACTED]**

In accordance with instructions received from the Bureau on April 16, 1968, arrangements were made with Mr. LARRY EDWARDS, Data Processing Project Leader, Department of Motor Vehicles, Salem, Oregon, to obtain a list of males born [REDACTED] as contained in the records of the Oregon Motor Vehicles Drivers License Division. In accordance with the instructions furnished by the Bureau, Negroes, males over 6'0" tall and males under 5'7" tall were not included in the list.

Mr. EDWARDS furnished a list of twenty-seven white males born [REDACTED] and with the above height limits.

Leads were set out on April 18, 1968, to have these twenty-seven men checked out as suspects in this case.

On April 20, 1968, the following receipt of information from the Bureau advised that JAMES EARL RAY, born [REDACTED], had been positively identified as identical with "ERIC STARVO GALT." Investigation concerning these twenty-seven suspects was discontinued since the date July 20, 1931 was no longer relevant to this investigation.

By communication dated May 3, 1968, the Memphis Office concurred with this decision since this lead is no longer of value.

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ISSUANCE AND CANCELLATION OF APB
RE ERIC STARVO GALT AND WHITE MUSTANG

Immediately upon the receipt April 11, 1968, of instructions that an All Points Bulletin be issued for ERIC STARVO GALT and a 1966 white Mustang hardtop, 1968 Alabama license 1-38993, Vehicle Identification Number 6T07C190647, an APB was issued at 2:03 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

Immediately upon receipt of instructions on April 11, 1968, that any APB concerning GALT and the Mustang be cancelled, a cancellation APB was sent out at 3:35 p.m., April 11, 1968.

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REVIEW OF UNIDENTIFIED
LATENT FINGERPRINT FILES

Arrangements were made with the appropriate offices of all law enforcement agencies in the State of Oregon, which maintain unidentified latent fingerprint files to compare their unidentified latent fingerprints received since April 23, 1968 to date against the fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY as they appear on IO #4182. No identifications were effected.

The only agencies in the State of Oregon which maintain unidentified latent fingerprint files and the agencies contacted as above are:

Portland, Oregon Police Department;
Oregon; Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Portland,
Oregon; Oregon State Bureau of Identification, Salem,
Klamath Falls, Oregon Police Department.

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CHECK OF OREGON VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS RE
MALES BORN

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

On Monday, April 15, 1968, Mr. E.R. LEE, Registration Supervisor, Oregon State Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Office Building, made available the books containing the original birth records of all persons born on in the State of Oregon.

These records were personally reviewed by SA RONALD E. SHERK. No record of an ERIC STARVO GALT, JOHN WILLARD, or HARVEY LOWMYER, as well as all variations of these names, was found. The names of the parents of all males born were also examined and nothing of significance was noted.

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CONTACTS WITH NEWS MEDIA

Immediately following receipt of instructions to do so on April 17, 1967, all newspapers and television stations in Portland, Oregon, were furnished with copies of the two photographs of "ERIC STARVO GAULT" then in the possession of the Portland Office. Additional copies of these photographs were made and were mailed to newspapers and television stations outside the city of Portland on April 18, 1968.

On May 7, 1967, the proof and mat article concerning JAMES EARL RAY was mailed to all newspapers in Oregon.

On May 8, 1967, the two new photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, taken in 1967 in Mexico and in 1958 in California were mailed to all television stations and newspapers in Oregon.

It was noted by monitoring the television and press that the television stations and all daily newspapers in Oregon received the above photographs through their wire services and used them even in advance of receipt of the material furnished by the Portland Office. It was also noted that the television stations and daily press have been giving concentrated and daily coverage to the developments in this case, including both locally written articles and editorials and syndicated material.

There are eleven television stations, twenty-one daily newspapers, and 102 weekly newspapers in Oregon, all of which were fully furnished the material as above.

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HARVEY LOWMEYER OR
LOWMYER - SUSPECT

Following receipt of information on April 8, 1968, that a rifle abandoned near the scene of this crime was purchased by an individual using the name ~~HARVEY LOWMEYER~~ or LOWMYER, specific assignments were made and carried out immediately and the following were checked, all with negative results:

- (1) All city directories in Oregon
- (2) All telephone directories in Oregon
- (3) Records of Oregon Drivers License Division, Salem, Oregon
- (4) Records of Oregon Motor Vehicle Division, Salem, Oregon
- (5) Voter Registration Records in all of the 36 counties in Oregon
- (6) Credit and criminal checks in all of the law enforcement agencies and credit bureaus in Oregon

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ERIC STARVO GALT - SUSPECT

Immediately upon receipt on April 11, 1968, of information that one "ERIC STARVO GALT" was a suspect in this case, specific assignments were made and the following sources were contacted, all with negative results:

- (1) All city directories in Oregon
- (2) All telephone directories in Oregon
- (3) Records of Oregon Drivers License Division,
Salem, Oregon
- (4) Records of Oregon Motor Vehicle Division,
Salem, Oregon
- (5) Voter Registration Records in all of the
36 counties in Oregon
- (6) Credit and criminal checks in all of the
law enforcement agencies and credit bureaus
in Oregon

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JAMES EARL RAY
ALSO KNOWN AS - SUSPECT

Immediately upon receipt of information on April 19, 1968, that "ERIC STARVO GALT" is in fact JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT, W. C. HARRON, HARVEY LOWMYER, JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES O'CONNER, JAMES WALTON, JAMES WALYON, JOHN WILLARD, and "JIM," specific assignments were made and the following sources were re-contacted, all with negative results:

- (1) All city directories in Oregon
- (2) All telephone directories in Oregon
- (3) Records of Oregon Drivers License Division,
Salem, Oregon
- (4) Records of Oregon Motor Vehicle Division,
Salem, Oregon
- (5) Credit and criminal checks in all of the law
enforcement agencies and credit bureaus in
Oregon

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BOMBING SUSPECTS
PORTLAND DIVISION

Immediately upon receipt of instructions, April 8, 1968, that all bombing suspects in this Division be checked out, a review was made of the Portland files and it was determined that Portland presently has no bombing suspects.

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CHECK OF OREGON MOTOR VEHICLE
REGISTRATION DIVISION RE WHITE MUSTANG

In response to instructions, SA VERN F. DAVIS made inquiry at the Oregon Motor Vehicle Division, Salem, Oregon, on April 11, 1968, for possible re-registration of the white 1966 Mustang registered to ERIC STARVO GALT. Results were negative.

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FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

In accordance with Bureau instructions, a circularization was made April 10, 1968, to all financial institutions in the State of Oregon, asking that they check their records to determine if they have ever had a checking account, savings account, or other records of HARVEY LOWMEYER (or LOWMYER), or ERIC STARVO GALT.

Response was completely negative.

Financial institutions in the State of Oregon circularized were:

Banks	318
Savings and Loan	
Associations	34
Credit Unions	<u>31</u>
Total	383

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INTERVIEWS WITH UNITED STATES RESIDENTS
WHO WERE AT HOTEL RIO PUERTO VALLARTA;
MEXICO IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1967

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

Mr. and Mrs. JOHN WADDINGHAM, 955 Westwood Drive, informed SA RONALD E. SHERK on April 30, 1968, that they stayed at the Hotel Rio Puerto Vallarta, Mexico only the night of October 27, 1967, during a vacation trip to Mexico. They do not recognize JAMES EARL RAY by description, name, aliases or photograph as anyone they have ever seen at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico or elsewhere.

The only U.S. residents with whom they had contact at the Hotel Rio were Mr. and Mrs. HARVARD PALMER of Mercer Island, Washington, with whom they had dinner on the night of October 27, 1967.

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REVIEW OF UNSOLVED OREGON
BANK ROBBERY CASES

On April 24, 1968, SA ELVIN L. BARTON, bank robbery coordinator of the Portland Office, reviewed all unsolved bank robbery matters in the Portland Division occurring since April 1, 1967. The only case in which JAMES EARL RAY appears to in anyway approximate the description of the subject is a case entitled: "UNSUB; U.S. National Bank of Oregon, Metropolitan Branch, Portland, Oregon, 8/11/67, BR" PDfile 91-2228.

SA JACK T. HAZEN, who is the case agent in the above entitled bank robbery case, has shown the photograph of RAY to the lone witness in this case but the witness expressed no interest in the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY.

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CONTACTS WITH DANCING SCHOOLS, STATE OF OREGON

In accordance with instructions received from the Bureau April 14, 1968, all dancing schools in the State of Oregon which offer dancing instruction to adults were contacted. The respective proprietors were shown the photographs of the subject then available, namely the photographs taken at the bartender's school in California in early 1968, and were furnished with the descriptive and background data concerning the subject as then known.

None of the dancing school proprietors contacted recalled ever having had any contact with an ERIC STARVO GALT or anyone resembling him.

Eleven dancing schools were contacted in Portland, Oregon. Eighteen dancing schools located in Oregon in cities outside of Portland were contacted.

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THERMO SEAL MARKING TAPES

Immediately upon receipt of instructions, April 9, 1968, that investigation should be conducted to determine whether laundry marks were made by a Thermo Seal Marking Machine, the following investigation was conducted by SA ELVIN L. BARTON:

It was determined from LARRY H. GIRVAN, Laundry and Dry Cleaning Department, Van Waters and Rogers, 3950 NW Yeon Boulevard, Portland, Oregon, that only sixteen laundry or dry cleaning establishments in Oregon use Thermo Seal Marking Machines. A list of these sixteen businesses was obtained from Mr. GIRVAN, and all sixteen were contacted telephonically. In each instance, the laundry marking involved was gone over with the company representative carefully and in all instances, the persons contacted advised that this is not their laundry mark. All stated that their Thermo Seal Marking Machines began with either one numeral or two numerals rather than a letter such as "D" or "O". None of them use "O" as a prefix.

By communication dated April 10, 1968, the Albany Office furnished a list of businesses in Oregon which allegedly use Thermo Seal Marking Machines. A check of the file disclosed that all of them had been contacted as above except the Eagle Cap Laundry and Cleaners, Enterprise, Oregon.

It was determined that the Eagle Cap Laundry and Dry Cleaners, Enterprise, Oregon, went out of business over a year ago. The former owner is GERALD GOODMAN who now works for the Umatilla Ordinance Depot, Umatilla, Oregon.

GERALD GOODMAN, Post Office Box 131, Hermiston, Oregon, informed SA RONALD E. SHERK that he went out of business, January 1, 1967, and no one has taken over the Thermo Seal Machine which GOODMAN formerly used. The machine actually has not been used since sometime in October, 1966.

GOODMAN stated that he never used a mark similar to the pertinent marks in this case in that he used only a lot number and date but never any letters.

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THERMO SEAL MARKING TAPES
(Continued)

Immediately upon receipt, April 19, 1968, of information that a pillow case and bed sheet found in the trunk of the 1966 white Mustang registered to ERIC STARVO GALT contained Thermo Seal laundry tapes, yellow in color, and contained the Code 20 R-3, all of the businesses in Oregon using Thermo Seal Machines were re-contacted and all advised that they had never used such a marking.

By communication dated April 26, 1968, the Seattle Office advised that a Thermo Seal Machine, formerly owned by Most Western Laundries, formerly Hoquiam Steam Laundry and Dry Cleaners, Hoquiam, Washington, had been sold in 1964 to Stacey's Cleaners, Portland, Oregon. Stacey's Cleaners had already been interviewed and was among the above described sixteen businesses previously contacted.

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FILES AND RECORDS DESTRUCTION ORDER

Date

8/29/78

TO:

SAC

FROM:

SA MAX L. GEIMAN

RE:

File No.

44-760

I have reviewed this file, and under the criteria set forth in Part II, Section 3, of Manual of Rules and Regulations, this file should be:

☐ Destroyedunder the ☐ 6-month☐ 10-year Rule☐ Auxiliary Office original FD-302s, Laboratory or Latent FP reports and/or 1-A Exhibit or Bulky Exhibit FD-192 green sheets have been forwarded to OO as applicable.☒ Retained at least until 9-10-83

Justification for Retention is as Follows:

FOI/PA request made KC 190-85
for serial 920 + release
made. Must be retained
5 years from date of release.

Case Agent's Initials

J.

Supervisor's Initials

44-760

Vol. 9

Serials

886-991