

SI 44-561

Place of Birth	Ewing, Missouri
Height	5'5½"
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Stout
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium
Occupation	On welfare subsistence
FBI #	33 271 C

A review of the records of the Quincy Police Department also showed a record for JOHNNY RAY, aka JOHN LARRY RAY and JOHN L. RAYNS and JACK RAYNS. This file showed JOHNNY RAY's date of birth to be  home address 214 Spring Street, hair brown.

The record showed he was 5'10" and weighed 160 pounds. The file contained the following arrests:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
4-7-53	Larcent of an Automobile	Illinois State Penitentiary, 5 - 10 years
2-18-60	Fictitious license	\$10.00 and costs

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 23, 1968, SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER, Desk Clerk, Virginia Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN, sister of JAMES EARL RAY, is still residing at that hotel. HARPER advised that very definitely RAY has not contacted anyone at the Virginia Hotel and that complete cooperation will be given the FBI in the matter concerning RAY by individuals connected with the Virginia Hotel. HARPER advised that he is certain WALTER TERRY RIFE has not had any contact with RAY anytime during the past several years.

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On May 1, 1968 and May 3, 1968, MELBA MARIE RYAN, Virginia Hotel, 234 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois, was re-interviewed by SA ELYON H. DAVIS. On each occasion, MELBA RYAN advised that she had no further information concerning the activities and whereabouts of her brother JAMES EARL RAY. She also advised that she had no further information of value concerning any member of the family. She stated that she had been in contact with her father residing at Center, Missouri as well as her father's ex-wife RUBY CARPENTER who lived in Quincy, Illinois. She stated she had also contacted MABEL FULLER who resides in Quincy, Illinois and all of these individuals disclaim any knowledge of the whereabouts of activities of her brother JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that she felt that all members of the family that she had contacted would cooperate in attempting to locate RAY and that she would furnish any information that came to her attention concerning any of his activities.

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EHD/jac

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois.

Daily surveillances were conducted on a spot basis by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA MACK OLIVER at the Virginia Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, where MELBA MARIE RYAN, sister of JAMES EARL RAY resides.

On May 10, 1968, Detective DONALD CAPPS, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, advised that Detectives of that Police Department daily and nightly check the Virginia Hotel. He advised that all members of the Quincy Police Department and especially the Quincy, Illinois Detective Bureau carry photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and if any information is developed concerning MELBA MARIE RYAN having visitors at the Virginia Hotel, this information will be immediately furnished to the FBI.

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C. SUSAN DONIAN

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
WILLIAM ROBERTS, III:

On April 20, 1968, Father JAMES BRINKS, St. Aloysius Church, Springfield, Illinois, telephonically contacted the Springfield Division and advised he had known subject's sister, SUE since she was a child, and in an effort to help locate and interview her, he advised he was in possession of a newspaper article of April, 1967, in the Chicago "Tribune" regarding SUE, which showed her to be going under the name LEE RILEY and to be working as a go-go dancer in the Bourbon Street Club at 936 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
MACK W. OLIVER, Jr.

At Quincy, Illinois

On April 22, 1968, Sister CATHERINE, Principal, Notre Dame High School, advised that she had a SUSAN J. RYAN graduate from Notre Dame High School on June 6, 1965.

Sister CATHERINE stated that SUSAN J. RYAN entered Notre Dame High School on September 8, 1961, and that she came from the Children's Home at Alton, Illinois.

Sister CATHERINE stated that while SUSAN J. RYAN was a student at Notre Dame High School, she lived with Mr. and Mrs. ROMAN KLINNER of Rural Route Number 3, Quincy, Ill.

Sister CATHERINE said that a transcript of her grades were mailed to the Gem City College on June 2, 1965, and that it was her understanding that RYAN had received a scholarship from the National Secretary's Association.

Sister CATHERINE said that she understood that RYAN did not accept the scholarship and that immediately after graduation, she moved from the KLINNER's residence to Chicago, Illinois, where she was attending a modeling school. Sister CATHERINE gave the following information and description from SUSAN J. RYAN's file:

Name	SUSAN JANE RYAN
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Adams County, Illinois
Father	JERRY (no last name)
Mother	LUCILLE MAHER

Sister CATHERINE said that according to her information SUSAN RYAN had four older brothers, one younger brother, two older sisters, but that she gave the name of none of these brothers or sisters.

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Sister CATHERINE stated that her file contained a photograph of SUSAN JANE RYAN and that it would be available if needed in the future.

Sister CATHERINE stated that she could give no further information concerning SUSAN J. RYAN.



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D. FRANK RYAN

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On April 22, 1968, the following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT BLUM RASCOE at St. James Trade School in Springfield, Illinois:

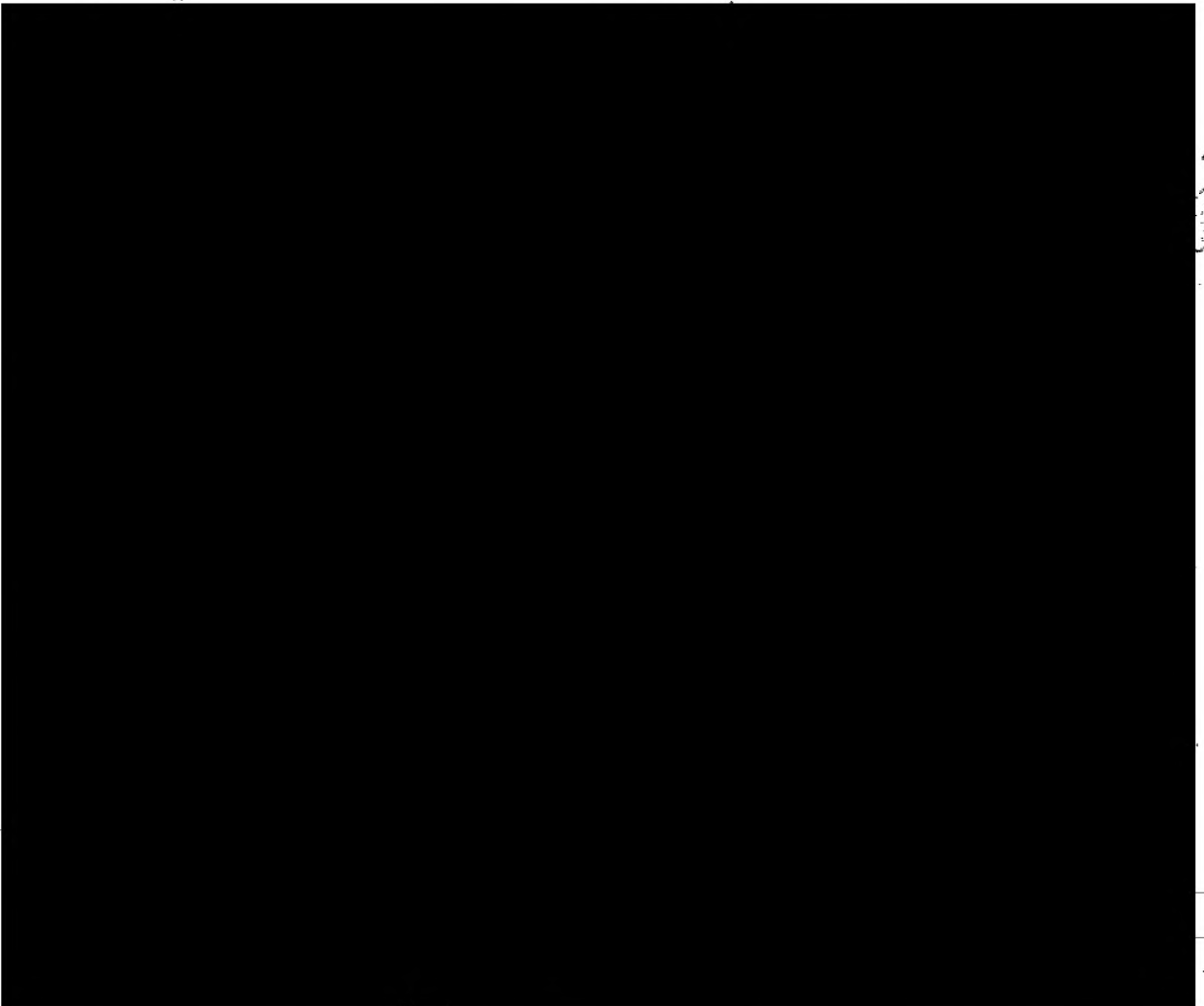
Brother Aequiduis advised that he had a Franklin Ryan in attendance from June, 14, 1958, until January, 1959. He advised that he had no personal records available which might be of lead value, and that the above dates were all that indicated that FRANKLIN RYAN had ever attended this school. He advised that he had no record of any FRANKLIN DELANO (BUZZIE) RYAN. A check of the name RAY provided no information which might be of lead value.

On April 20, 1968, MELBA MARIE RYAN, Sister of subject, advised that a brother, FRANKLIN DELANO RYAN had drowned in the Mississippi River in approximately 1963.


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F. JOHN and JERRY RAY

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Re: JOHN LARRY RAY:

Springfield indices reflect a closed Selective Service case for subject's brother, JOHN LARRY RAYNS, also known as Jack Rayns, also known as John Larry Ray. A review of the file was made by SA WILLIAM ROBERTS, III and the only new information developed was the name of an aunt of the subject MILDRED MAHER, listed address as 1118 East- 74th Street, Alton, Illinois.

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Warden MAX WRY, of the Menard State Penitentiary, Menard, Illinois, made available records at Menard Prison to SA LARRY W. GREEN for examination:

JOHN LARRY RYAN, was released from Menard State Penitentiary, 2/1/60. He was incarcerated there on a larceny of motor vehicle charge. His registration number at Menard is 23401. RYAN left Menard on a full discharge and immediately after his discharge, made application to the State of Illinois to have his civil rights restored. He wanted the results of this application sent to an address which was given in the record as 1722 North 10th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

It was discovered during examination of the above records, that JOHN LARRY RYAN's brother, JERRY RYAN, also was incarcerated at Menard State Penitentiary. JERRY RYAN had number 23737; from December, 30, 1954, to December 12, 1955, both RYANS were in the Menard State Prison together. Also from August, 1, 1953, to February 1, 1960, both were incarcerated at Menard at the same time.

Both RYANS listed their relatives the same. Correspondance in the file of JOHN LARRY RYAN while at Menard Prison consisted generally of correspondence going out to his mother, LUCILLE RYAN, 1912 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri. Other communications were those to his sister, MELBA RYAN, 1201 South Main, Jacksonville, Illinois.



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Other sisters are CAROL RYAN, 1727 South 11th, St. Louis, Missouri; and CAROL ROGERS, 1701 Washington, Quincy, Illinois.

Listed as brothers in the file of RYAN are brother JERRY RYAN, the above mentioned, who was released May 6, 1960, from Menard. JERRY was charged with larceny and was from Adams County, Illinois. Also listed as a brother was JAMES RAY, Quincy, Illinois, no other address shown. It could not be determined if this JAMES E. RAY is identical with subject.

Other relatives noted in the file were MARY MAHER, Tremont Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, who is the grandmother of JOHN LARRY RYAN. Other outgoing communications were to RALPH HOWARD, Indianapolis, Indiana, no other address shown, and a communication in 1960 was directed to JAMES E. RAY, addressed to Leavenworth Prison, Kansas. Again, it is not known or is it shown by the record that this JAMES E. RAY is identical with subject.

Correspondence noted in the file of JERRY RYAN were outgoing communications going to PAT WITT, 3971 West Minister, St. Louis, Missouri, and RUBY DOBYNS, 3971 West Minister, St. Louis, Missouri. One communication was addressed to JERRY LANCASTER, 4431 North 19th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

As above stated, the relatives shown for both JERRY RYAN and JOHN LARRY RYAN were identical in each file.

No other information helpful to this investigation was noted in these files.

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G. RUBY CARPENTER

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On 4/23/68, RUBY CARPENTER, 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed at her home by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA MACK W. OLIVER. She furnished the following information.

In 1952, she was working in Quincy, Illinois at the Lincoln-Douglas Hotel. Also working at the hotel at that time was a JAMES GERALD RAY. She and RAY started going together and left Quincy, Illinois together and went to St. Louis, Missouri to live.

She stated at the time she left Quincy with RAY, he was married to LUCILLE RAY or LUCILLE RINE. RAY and his wife LUCILLE had [REDACTED] by their marriage to her knowledge. These included JAMES EARL RAY, JOHN RAY, also known as JACK RAY or JACK RINE, JERRY RAY, CAROL RAY, FRANKLIN D. RAY, SANDRA RAY, [REDACTED]

She stated that before the RAY family moved to Quincy, Illinois from Ewing, Missouri, the father, JAMES GERALD RAY had obtained a job with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad and had moved from Ewing, Missouri to Galesburg, Illinois where he worked for a short time as a switchman. He obtained a Social Security card before starting to work for the railroad under the name of RAYNES and he used the name of RAYNES during the time that she lived with RAY in St. Louis. She advised that she and RAY lived together in St. Louis from 1952 until 1961 and on 8/1/61, she married JAMES GERALD RAY at Palmyra, Missouri, the marriage vows and services being performed by the Methodist minister in that town. They lived together starting on that date on farm, Rural Route 1, Clarence, Missouri and this continued until RAY left her in December of 1963. She then obtained a divorce from RAY in Palmyra, Missouri in 1964 and returned to Quincy, Illinois. She stated that after he left her, JAMES GERALD RAY moved to Center, Missouri where he has continued to reside on a farm.

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She advised that she has been in frequent contact with JAMES GERALD RAY since their separation in 1963 and that MELBA MARIE RYAN, the daughter of JAMES GERALD RAY also lives in Quincy and she occasionally is in contact with MELBA. She advised however that she has not been in contact with MELBA since Christmas, 1967 until 4/10/68 when MELBA called her to talk to her concerning JAMES EARL RAY and RAY being charged concerning the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING. She advised also on that date she had telephonically contacted JAMES GERALD RAY and at that time the father had stated that he hoped his son, JAMES EARL RAY was caught as soon as possible so that this thing would end. She advised that she is certain that JAMES GERALD RAY does not know of the whereabouts of his son JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that at the present time, JAMES GERALD RAY was using the name of GERRY RAYNES.

She advised that of the entire RAY family, she considers JACK RAY or JACK RINE to be closer to JAMES EARL RAY than any of the remainder of the family. She stated that the only time that JAMES EARL RAY ever lived with JAMES GERALD RAY and herself was sometime around 1959 when he worked as a baker in St. Louis. She stated that during this period of time, he also resided with his mother and grandmother, Mrs. MAHER at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri. She advised that during this period of time, she and JAMES GERALD RAY were living on 1727 South 11th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

She advised that JAMES EARL RAY is supposed to have learned the trade of a baker in prison and that he worked at one of the bakeries in St. Louis around 1959. She had no idea as to the name of the bakery or the exact location. She stated that he also had his own apartment while in St. Louis as well as living with both his mother and his father. She stated that she had not seen him since he went to prison around 1960 and has had no contact with JAMES EARL RAY since she and the subject's father moved to Clarence, Missouri on 8/1/61.

She advised that the subject's father JAMES GERALD RAY was an excellent car salesman and did quite well as a car salesman for a used car lot in St. Louis. Since 1961, however, he has worked on a farm, first, the one

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owned by her at Clarence, Missouri and afterwards on a farm at Center, Missouri.

She advised that he has never married and she does not know of any close girlfriends of JAMES EARL RAY. She advised that she did not know of the identity of any girlfriends..

RUBY CARPENTER stated that she is certain that JAMES EARL RAY does not know of her present whereabouts. She stated that she is presently employed babysitting and doing housework for various individuals in Quincy and that in the event she learns something concerning JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts, she will immediately notify the FBI.

The Harboring Statute was explained by SA DAVIS to RUBY CARPENTER.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On May 1, 1968, [REDACTED] 404 Oak Street,  
Quincy, Illinois, age 16, advised that RUBY CARPENTER is  
employed at his home as a babysitter and housekeeper  
during the daytime for the nine SHELTON minor children.  
After viewing a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, [REDACTED]  
advised that this individual had never been to his house  
to his knowledge and he has never heard RUBY CARPENTER  
mention JAMES EARL RAY. He advised that he would  
immediately notify SA DAVIS of any information coming  
to his attention concerning any visitors to the home  
of RUBY CARPENTER and concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On May 3, 1968, RUBY CARPENTER, 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, was re-interviewed at her home and furnished the following information:

She has had no contact with anyone who has any information concerning the whereabouts or activities of JAMES EARL RAY since last being contacted by the FBI.

She advised that definitely JAMES EARL RAY had lived with RUBY CARPENTER and her former husband, JAMES GERALD RAYNES who was commonly known as JERRY RAYNES or JERRY RAYNS in St. Louis, Missouri, sometime around 1959 or 1960. Also, during this period of time, JAMES EARL RAY had resided with his mother, LUCILE RYAN and grandmother, Mrs. MAHER, in St. Louis. This was shortly before he was sent to prison to the Missouri State Penitentiary in either 1959 or 1960.

Sometime during the period of time while JAMES EARL RAY was in St. Louis, Missouri, around 1959 or 1960 he definitely made a trip to Mexico. She had no idea as to the location of the town in Mexico that he visited; however, she remembered hearing him speak of his trip into Mexico.

She advised that on the previous day, May 2, 1968, Mrs. FRANK FULLER, 601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, had visited in RUBY CARPENTER's home. Mrs. MABEL FULLER, at that time, had advised that she had heard nothing concerning JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts and she stated that Mrs. FULLER did not know anything concerning the activities of RAY. She stated that Mrs. FULLER has always been very defensive concerning her relatives and that Mrs. FULLER stated that she did not believe her nephew, JAMES EARL RAY, committed any crime or was involved in any way in the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

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RUBY CARPENTER advised that she had not recently talked to MELBA MARIE RYAN but that when last contacted by MELBA RYAN approximately one week before, MELBA had no information concerning the activities of JAMES EARL RAY, and had no information concerning his whereabouts. RUBY CARPENTER stated she doubted very much that JAMES EARL RAY would ever contact MELBA RYAN.

RUBY CARPENTER advised that she felt that her former husband, JERRY RAYNES, has had his phone disconnected inasmuch as she had tried several times during the past few days to call JERRY RAYNES at Center, Missouri. She stated that he has been "very jumpy" concerning JAMES EARL RAY and that she feels this is the reason that RAYNES had his phone disconnected. She stated that she is tempted to call RAYNES and was told that the phone was disconnected; however, she stated that a telephone strike was in existence and the possibility was that the calls did not go through.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that she had no idea as to the present whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY's brother JERRY RAY or JERRY RYAN who is supposed to have disappeared from the Chicago area. She advised that sometime around April 25, 1968, JERRY RAY had called her from Chicago, Illinois, and asked her to speak to a Life magazine reporter. At that time, JERRY RAY had indicated that he wished his brother would surrender to the FBI.

She advised that she has not been contacted by CAROL PEPPER in any way and has no idea as to CAROL's present address. She also stated she had no information concerning the present whereabouts or address of JAMES EARL RAY's sister SUSAN; however, she did think SUSAN was in Chicago, Illinois.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that she personally has very few visitors and every Monday through Friday she leaves her home at approximately 6:30 a.m. and walks to 404 Oak Street in Quincy, Illinois, where she is employed by the Child Welfare Department of the State of Illinois, as a babysitter and housekeeper in the daytime for the HOMER SHELTON family. She advised



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that HOMER SHELTON has nine minor children and that HOMER SHELTON's wife died in March, 1968, and she has been employed as a housekeeper for him since that time. She usually returns home in the afternoon sometime between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. after HOMER SHELTON returns home from work. She stated that HOMER SHELTON is employed at Moorman's Manufacturing Company.

RUBY CARPENTER advised that she did not feel that JAMES EARL RAY would have any information as to her present location. She again expressed the desire to aid the FBI in the apprehension of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that she would furnish any information that came to her attention concerning RAY's whereabouts or activities.

RUBY CARPENTER advised that her son JEROME CARPENTER is still in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, for the crime of murder and she does not feel that he would have any information concerning the whereabouts of activities of JAMES EARL RAY.

On May 3, 1968, HOMER SHELTON, 404 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed and advised that RUBY CARPENTER is employed on a daily basis as a babysitter and housekeeper for his children at that address while he is working. SHELTON advised that he has nine minor children and three are not in school and that his wife died in March, 1968. He stated he has no information concerning any visitors who may have visited RUBY CARPENTER during the daytime at his home. He stated that she has never mentioned JAMES EARL RAY to him and after viewing photographs of RAY, advised that RAY has never been to his home and that he has never seen JAMES EARL RAY. SHELTON advised that he would notify the FBI of any information he learns concerning anyone contacting RUBY CARPENTER or any information concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois.

On May 1, 1968, Sergeant ROLAND HANSON, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, advised that he resides at 606 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois. He advised that RUBY CARPENTER who resides at 630 North Sixth Street is a neighbor of Sergeant HANSON. HANSON advised that he would notify the FBI of any visitors to or from the CARPENTER residence. Sergeant HANSON advised that Miss CARPENTER does not have many visitors and only goes to and from work each day after which time she seems to reside at her home by herself and she has very little contact with her neighbors.

On May 10, 1968 and May 13, 1968, Sergeant HANSON advised that he has not observed any visitors to the RUBY CARPENTER home since last being contacted by SA DAVIS.

Spot surveillances on a daily basis were conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA MACK OLIVER at the residence of 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, for the period of May 1, 1968 through May 10, 1968. During this period of time, no visitors were observed entering or leaving the RUBY CARPENTER home at that address.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 23, 1968

RUBY SMITH CARPENTER was reinterviewed at her home, 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, after she telephonically contacted SA DAVIS and requested to be reinterviewed by him.

Mrs. CARPENTER furnished to SA DAVIS the following written statement which she stated she had written to give as exact account as possible of her knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY. The statement was on both sides of a white piece of paper and read as follows.

"Mr. Elyon Davis - Since you were here the last time I have thought of some things I would like to make clear, things I did not think of at first. First I know nothing of the whereabouts of James Earl Ray. I have seen him perhaps 6 times, the last in 1958 I believe. 2nd I know nothing about any unlawful acts of any of the Ray, Rayns, Ryan family. The only one of the family I have been closely associated with is the father, James Gerald Ray, who was my husband for about 3 years. We were divorced the 9th of December 1963. 3rd I have always lived an honest and lawabiding life. I have worked hard and supported myself entirely for 16 years and have helped others a great deal besides. Everything I have or ever had has been from honest and respectful work. No one has ever given me anything except my father, who left me some money at his death. 4th I would not accept anything obtained dishonestly if it were offered to me, which was not.

"I have seen many errors printed about the family. The headlines of the Herald Whig stating Ray's father has long local criminal record. An article in Chicago Daily News by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson stating the children were adopted by various persons. None of the children were adopted [REDACTED] They also stated James Earl Ray was the product of a broken home. How could he be when he was 24 years old when the father left the home, and had been living away from home several years prior.

On 5/20/68 at Quincy, Illinois File # SI 44-561

by SA ELYON H. DAVIS /smr Date dictated 5/22/68

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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"This statement is written by me and is true and sincere.

"/s/ Ruby Smith Carpenter

"May 15, 1968"

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that her former husband, JAMES GERALD RAY, is still residing in Center, Missouri, under the name of JERRY RAYNS, and that he had his phone changed to an unlisted phone in order that he would not be bothered by crank calls. She stated that she is in contact occasionally with MELBA MARIE RYAN, the sister of JAMES EARL RAY, and with Mrs. FRANK FULLER, the aunt of JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that all members of the family tell her that they have no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts and will cooperate in the location of RAY.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that she could not furnish any further information other than that previously furnished to the FBI.

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H. EARL EVERETT RAY

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On April 22, 1968, BILL KAUFMAN, Illinois State Board of Probation and Parole, advised of the following re captioned individual subject's uncle:

EARL RAY, also known as Earl Everett Ray, James Ryan, James Mc Carthy, James Patrick Clancy, Joe Roe, White, male, date of birth, [redacted] place of birth, Quincy, Illinois, and as of 1949, 5' 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " in height, 178 pounds, dark gray hair, light blue eyes, wife - AUDREY, divorced 1950, last known address, 1439 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, criminal record dateing back to 1916, Menard, Illinois State Prison Numbers 6588 and 21025. Incarcerated at Menard 1925 to 1933 (assault to kill) and 1948 to 1955 (assault to mayhem - threw acid in wife's face), no FBI number available.

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On 4/22/68 Chief RAY WELSH, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, made available the records of the Quincy Police Department of EARL EVERETT RAY.

The files showed that EARL EVERETT RAY is holder of Peoria, Illinois PD #14439 and that on 8/23/43 EARL RAY, 1401 Cherry Street, was arrested for throwing acid in the face of his wife, Mrs. EARL RAY. This case was later closed and no prosecution was involved.

The file showed that EARL RAY was 43 years of age in 1943. On 8/25/47 EARL RAY was wanted by the Quincy PD on an assault to kill charge. This apparently also involved his wife. On 9/10/48 the files contain information that EARL RAY and his wife were involved in a fight and that her sister, DORIS, was a witness. At that time Mrs. RAY moved to 1403 Cherry Street and her sister was DORIS GODMAN, 645 College Street.

On 7/24/55 EARL RAY was arrested for the assault of YVONNE MC GINBERG, 415 York Street, Quincy, Illinois.

On 8/59 EARL RAY was arrested for assault and battery and the victims were AUDREY RAY, wife, and LEONA FERGUSON. This occurred at 1403 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, after he had hit AUDREY RAY in the mouth and LEONA FERGUSON in the stomach. At that time EARL RAY was living at 1415 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois.

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AT GALESBURG, ILLINOIS:

On April 26, 1968, Mr. C. D. IREY, Special Agent, C B & Q Railroad, stated that a review of the employment files listed a file on EARL EVERETT RAY, subject's uncle, 164 South Academy Street, Galesburg, Illinois. He showed a previous address of 128 North 5th Street, Quincy, Illinois and listed LOUISA RAY as his Mother. The file indicated that he worked for the railroad for the period November 4, 1944, to November 17, 1944, 13 days. He listed former employment of April, 1934 to June, 1944 with Sunset Amusement Company, Excelsior Springs, Missouri and C B & Q Railroad, Omaha, Nebraska, and W. A. COLE, a fellow employee, does not recall RAY.

Name checks at the Galesburg, Police Department, Knox County Sheriff's Office and the Credit Bureau failed to develop any information. The former residence area of 164 South Academy is now a cemetery.



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I. WILLIAM and MILDRED MAHER

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WILLIAM E. MAHER, Uncle of JAMES EARL RAY, was located at 712 Brown Street, Alton, Illinois April 22, 1968. He stated prior to RAY's entry into the Army, he worked at a shoe tannery, Hartford, Illinois, where he became associated with individual who had pro-Nazi leanings and RAY became anti-Negro and anti-Jewish as a result. In military service, RAY was in Germany where opinion crystalized.

MAHER stated he last saw RAY 10 or 12 years ago and to his knowledge, RAY has not been in Alton since 1959 when he was involved in an armed robbery. He stated he could suggest no one in the Alton area acquainted with RAY or to whom RAY might turn for help.

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ROBERT C. HAINES:

WILLIAM and MILDRED MAHER, 712 Brown Street, Alton, Illinois advised they are the uncle and aunt of JAMES EARL RAY. They have advised that RAY has not been in contact with them for 10 or 12 years; that they do not believe he will contact them since they had a falling out when they last were together and that if RAY does contact them, or they think or anything that might be pertinent regarding him, they would get in touch with the FBI promptly.

With regard to other relatives of RAY, Mr. and Mrs. MAHER advised as follows:

Mrs. MARY MAHER,  
Grandmother,  
deceased

LUCILLE RYAN,  
Mother  
Deceased.

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA FRANK E. CORN, SR. and SA ROBERT C. HAINES:

AT ALTON, ILLINOIS:

From May 2, through May 14, 1968, physical surveillance of the residence of WILLIAM MAHER, 712 Brown Street, was instituted on a daily basis at varying times of the day and evening hours.

No unusual activity was noted during these surveillances.

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J. Mrs. FRANK (MABLE) FULLER

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On April 20, 1968, Mrs. MABLE FULLER, nee Ray, Paternal Aunt of Subject, Quinty, Illinois, stated very little contact with any member of family. No information regarding subject's whereabouts of or background. She last heard that SUSAN, subject's sister, in Chicago and married. Uncle, WILLIAM MAHER, an advertising service man and paint contractor as of 1960, believed either deceased or in San Francisco, California. WILLIAM MAHER, was born [redacted] and has FBI # 768642.

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The following individuals in Quincy, Illinois, were recontacted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS on the dates indicated by each name, at which time they could not furnish any information not already furnished concerning this matter:

WALTER TERRY RIFE  
Virginia Hotel  
April 30, 1968

SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER  
Virginia Hotel  
April 25, 1968 and  
April 30, 1968

ART CONNORS  
Virginia Hotel  
April 30, 1968

EARL JACK HILAND  
Sky Ride Inn Tavern  
April 30, 1968

On April 26, 1968, MARGARET ROTH, Assistant Manager, Credit Bureau of Quincy, Inc., 226 North 5th Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised SA ELYON H. DAVIS that FRANK FULLER and wife, MABEL RAY FULLER, resided at 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, as of April 1, 1967. This was the last entry in the file. In 1958, FRANK FULLER was working for Heck Vending Machine Company, Quincy, Illinois. The file showed he was 68 years of age in 1967 and either retired or unemployed. The Credit Bureau did not contain any information as to relatives and the credit of the FULLER family was good.

MABEL RAY FULLER, 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, was reinterviewed on April 26, 1968, by SA's ELYON H. DAVIS and FRANK J. HABERSHAW.

Mrs. FULLER furnished the following information:

She has received no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY since last being interviewed by the FBI. She has not seen RAY since 1955 when her mother, the grandmother of RAY, died.

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JAMES EARL RAY, died. He apparently arrived at the funeral services by himself and left by himself.

She advised that she is the sister of JAMES GERALD RAY, the father of JAMES EARL RAY. She has not been JAMES GERALD RAY for a number of years and has not had any close contact with her brother JAMES GERALD RAY.

She stated that JAMES EARL RAY served in the United States Army in Germany, near the end of World War II, or after the war and this is the only overseas travel concerning RAY of which she has any knowledge. She stated that she did not consider herself to be the favorite aunt of JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that before he entered the service in the middle 1940's, he had lived with the grandmother named MAHER, in Alton, Illinois, and apparently he had worked for some "leather making outfit" in Alton.

Mrs. FULLER advised that all of the children of the RAY family were apparently put out for adoption some time around 1952 and that she personally did not know there had been [REDACTED]

She advised that until the FBI contacted her concerning JAMES EARL RAY, she did not even know that his mother LUCILLE was dead.

She advised that while JAMES EARL RAY was in prison at Jefferson City, Missouri, she had sent him mail on a number of occasions and had on occasion sent him small quantities of money. She stated that he had sent her two or three Christmas cards and this was the only contact she had with him.

Mrs. FULLER advised that apparently she had not been on JAMES EARL RAY's mailing list while in the penitentiary and he had smuggled out through other visitors and inmates Christmas cards to her on two or three occasions. These in turn were mailed to her.

She advised that on each one of these cards, he had signed them "JIMMY".

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She advised that EARL RAY was her brother and that he had died in Buffalo, New York, a number of years ago. She stated that JAMES EARL RAY probably had no knowledge of the death of EARL RAY or the whereabouts of EARL RAY at the time of death.

Mrs. FULLER advised that she and her husband are retired and spend almost all of their time at home. She stated they have very few visitors and she has practically no contact with other members of the RAY family.

She advised that she would cooperate with the FBI in this matter and furnish any information that comes to her attention.

FRANK FULLER, 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that he is the husband of MABEL RAY FULLER and that she is the aunt of JAMES EARL RAY.

FRANK FULLER advised he has no contact with members of the RAY family and he had no information concerning the whereabouts, activities or associates of JAMES EARL RAY.

FRANK FULLER advised he will furnish any information concerning any member of this family to the FBI.



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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois.

ELMER BECKMAN, 2505 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that the FRANK FULLER family resides at 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois and that the family solely consists of FRANK FULLER and his wife MABEL FULLER. BECKMAN advised that he, after viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, had never seen this individual at the FULLER's house and he would immediately advise the FBI of any information concerning the activities of the FRANK FULLER family. He advised that FRANK FULLER is retired and that he and his wife spend almost all of their time at their own home. Occasionally, FRANK FULLER might work at a tavern in Quincy, Illinois, if a bartender could not be found a tavern on some given date.

ELMER BECKMAN was contacted concerning the activities at the FRANK FULLER house on May 1, 1968, May 6, 1968, and May 9, 1968, and on each occasion, BECKMAN advised that there had been no visitors to the FULLER house during that period of time.

Surveillances were conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA MACK OLIVER on the residence at 2601 Chestnut Street on a spot basis daily from May 1, 1968 to May 10, 1968. In this period of time, no activity was observed at the FULLER home and no visitors were observed at the FULLER home.

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IV. ASSOCIATES OF JAMES EARL RAY

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A. WALTER TERRY RIFE

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA LARRY W. GREEN:

The following correspondents were shown in WALTER  
T. RIFE's correspondence file #31326 at Menard Prison,  
Menard, Illinois:

Frequent letters to his wife, JAN RIFE, 1508  
North Autumn, Peoria, Illinois; )prostitute)

Mother-in-law, Mrs. FRANK (JULIA) OWEN, 1508  
North Autumn Lane, Peoria, Illinois;

Other Miscellaneous Correspondence:

U.S. Disciplinary Barrack  
Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas;

GEORGE GINOS  
Hillsboro, Illinois, June 19, 1964;

LEON SUTHERLAND,  
First National Bank Building,  
Peoria, Illinois,  
July 7, 1964;

HAROLD MASON,  
527 South Adams,  
Peoria, Illinois  
July 13, 1965

Peoria County Bar Association,  
Box 209,  
Peoria, Illinois,  
July 17, 1964;

CECIL MC CRACKEN,  
Greenville, Illinois  
Circuit Court Clerk,  
December 10, 1964;

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Bond County State's Attorney  
December 15, 1964;

JAMES BAILEY (rejob);  
Pekin, Illinois  
RR 2,  
November 3, 1965;

JOHN F. GRADY,  
9 North County Street,  
Waukegan, Illinois  
April 25, 1966;

LAST ADDRESS: (May 19, 1966) paroled to FRANK OWENS,  
1508 Peoria  
(assumed 1508 North Autumn)

PREVIOUS INCARCERATION: Joliet Prison  
April 16, 1959,  
No. 22-674

BROTHER: FRED RIFE,  
Lanark, Illinois;

SISTER: BETTY VOSS  
227 Truman  
Lanark, Illinois;

FRIEND: LINDA NIEDERS  
General Delivery  
Christopher, Illinois;

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The following agencies at Harrisburg, Illinois, were checked with negative results concerning possible location of MONAN LEE CRAWFORD and DARLENE CRAWFORD, sister and niece, respectively, of WALTER TERRY RIFE (associate of subject JAMES EARL RAY).

Postmaster  
BILL MELTON,  
Harrisburg, Illinois;

Sheriff CLIFTON JONES  
Saline County Sheriff's Office;

Officer PAT ATKINSON,  
Harrisburg, Illinois, Police Department;

ROY LANE,  
Former trooper,  
Illinois State Police;

RAY JOHNSON,  
Operator  
Little Ray's Bar-B-Que  
Route 45;

VERNA STINSON  
Saline County Credit Bureau

It is to be noted that all of the above persons remembered the CRAWFORDS but all advised the CRAWFORDS moved away during 1955 or 1956 and they have no knowledge of forwarding address or their present location.

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On 4-20-68, WALTER TERRY RIFE was re-interviewed at the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN.

RIFE furnished the following information:

RIFE advised that he had had no contact with JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, since he last saw RAY in the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1957.

RIFE advised that the best he could remember concerning RAY that RAY had had close associates or relatives at one time in the Alton, Illinois, area. He stated that he felt that RAY had at one time hung out around taverns owned by TERRY TWEET in the Alton area.

RIFE advised that he knew that RAY had at one time close contact with some fence in Peoria, Illinois, to whom RAY sold stolen items. By this he stated that he meant that RAY was a thief and would steal anything during the period of time he knew RAY from the late 1940s until 1955 and this included household items, groups of burglaries of business establishments and such like and that RAY would get rid of hot items through a fence in Peoria. RIFE advised that he had no idea as to the identity of this fence.

RIFE stated that he (RIFE) had lived in the Peoria, Illinois, area until 1967 when RIFE moved to the home of his brother LONNIE RIFE at Baylis, Illinois. RIFE then in 2-68 had taken over the operation of the restaurant at the Virginia Hotel and had been operating this restaurant since that time.

RIFE again reiterated that any of the individuals who lived or worked at the Virginia Hotel could verify the fact that he had been at the Virginia Hotel for the period 3-27-68 through 4-4-68. He stated also that since he and his wife operated the restaurant together and since his wife

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had had a baby in 2-68, it had been necessary for him to work long hours and to also be at home on a regular basis to take care of the RIFE's three other children.

He again stated that members of the Quincy Police Force could verify that RIFE had been in Quincy on a daily basis inasmuch as the police checked the Virginia Hotel every night.

RIFE advised that he would be available for interviews by the FBI at any time and that in the event that he was not working or at his home 214 Lynn Street, Quincy, Illinois, SAMUEL EDNA HARPER, a Clerk at the Virginia Hotel, would know of his exact whereabouts, and RIFE could be reached in a short period of time.

RIFE advised that he could not remember anyone in the Quincy area who was close to the subject and could not think of anyone who might have any information concerning RAY.

RIFE advised that he did not feel that MELBA MARIE RYAN, the sister of the subject, has had any contact with RAY and he certainly is aware of the fact that MELBA MARIE RYAN has had serious mental problems and that any information that she would furnish could not be relied on.



The following investigation was conducted by SA'S ELYON H. DAVIS AND THOMAS M. SCHOENHOFFER on 4-19-68:

Trooper EARL MC FEETERS, Illinois State Police, Hull, Illinois, advised that he has since 3-18-68 seen LONNIE RIFE and WALTER RIFE almost on a daily basis. He advised that until recently, WALTER RIFE had lived at the home of LONNIE RIFE; however, WALTER RIFE is now working at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois, operating the restaurant in that Hotel. MC FEETERS advised that he does not believe either RIFE has made any long trips from the Quincy, Illinois, area or has been gone from Quincy, Ill., for any extended period of time during the past month.

On 4-19-68, Detectives DON CAPPS and HAROLD LAMB, Quincy, Ill., PD, advised that they are night detectives for that PD. Each advised that as a usual thing on their night routines they pass the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second St., Quincy, Ill. They advised that they cannot state for certain on any exact date that WALTER RIFE was at the Virginia Hotel; however, they have seen him there practically every night operating the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel. Each advised that RIFE certainly could not have been gone for any extended period of time from Quincy without their knowing of this and that RIFE was certainly not gone for several days at any time.

On 4-19-68, MARY JAN RIFE, home address 214 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed at her place of employment, the restaurant at the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois. She advised that she is married to WALTER TERRY RIFE and that her husband has been in Quincy, Illinois, for every day since February, 1968. She stated that her husband certainly was not gone any day from 3-27-68 through 4-4-68. She advised that he was working each day at the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel operated by her husband. She viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY,

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FBI # 306 443 A, made on 3-17-60. She advised that she had never seen this individual in her life and had never heard her husband speak concerning this individual. MARY JAN RIFE advised that she has been married to WALTER TERRY RIFE since 1961 and that during that period of time JAMES EARL RAY has never contacted him for any reason. She advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN resides at the Virginia Hotel and that shortly before being interviewed she had learned that MELBA MARIE RYAN was supposed to be the sister of the individual charged with the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING. She advised this was the first time she had ever heard of JAMES EARL RAY and did not know that RAY was a brother to MELBA MARIE RYAN.

She also advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN is a mental case and has been in Jacksonville State Hospital, Jacksonville, Illinois, on numerous occasions.

On 4-19-68, SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER, Desk Clerk, Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, advised that WALTER TERRY RIFE operates the restaurant in the Hotel. HARPER advised that WALTER TERRY RIFE had been working every day at the restaurant since 2-68 when he took over the operation of the restaurant. He advised that RIFE's wife had given birth to a child in 2-68 and that during the period of time that RIFE's wife was in the hospital, he had operated the restaurant practically without any help and had worked from 15 to 18 hours a day. HARPER advised that RIFE has not been gone from Quincy, Ill., for any one-day period since taking over the operation of the restaurant.

A photograph of JAMES EARL RAY was exhibited to HARPER. HARPER advised that this individual was unknown to him and stated he had never seen RAY to his recollection during his life.

HARPER advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN resides at the Virginia Hotel; however, he had never heard her mention JAMES EARL RAY and did not know that this was the brother of MELBA MARIE RYAN until that date. HARPER advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN had resided at the Virginia Hotel since 12-67 and he is certain that RAY has not visited the Virginia Hotel during that period of time.