

Investigation by SA ROBERT BLUM RASCOE at Winchester, Illinois, revealed on 4-15-68 that both license plates, CG 6868, are on 1962 white Chevrolet Bel-Aire hardtop. Such is in accordance with records of DMV at Springfield, checked 4-14-68. Car duly registered to CLOYD DRAKE, Winchester, Illinois.

Mrs. DRAKE interviewed. She advised her husband recently passed away and that only she and her husband ever used the auto. She further advised that the car definitely has not been to Chicago and that the plates have not been removed or used on any other auto.

No further investigation being conducted in view of discrepancy in description of auto seen in Chicago and that of DRAKE's auto.

SI 44-561

M. JOSEPH CLAYTON MONTAGNE

Information was received from the Jackson Division, on April 19, 1968, that Pascagoula, Mississippi Police Department stopped an individual driving a white Corvair bearing 1968 Illinois license DG 3109. The driver identified himself as JOSEPH CLAYTON MONTAGNE. MONTAGNE was accompanied by another white male whose identity was not determined. MONTAGNE indicated he was a musician and the other person indicated he was a seaman and they were both heading for New Orleans.

The officer who stopped the above individuals said that MONTAGNE resembled the photo of GALT and that after hearing a description of JAMES EARL RAY having a scar in the middle of his forehead he believed that MONTAGNE might be RAY as he recalled MONTAGNE having such a scar. No further description was available on MONTAGNE or the other person.

Auto Registration Section records, Springfield, Illinois, revealed 1968 Illinois license DG 3109 is registered to RAYMOND HILLBURN, 6039 North Ridge, Chicago, Illinois for a 1956 Dodge, Four door, VIN 32233139. Auto registration and drivers license checks re MONTAGNE negative.

Drivers License Section records re HILLBURN describe him as:

Name	RAYMOND MITCHEL HILLBURN
Address	1254 Leland,
Chicago, Illinois	
DOB	<input type="text"/>
Height	5' -10"
Weight	160 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Drivers license #	H41673340187
	Suspended since 3/10/68

SI 44-561

N. PAUL STANLEY BOOTHBY

Re: PAUL STANLEY BOOTHBY
Suspect
Clinton, Illinois

On 4/19/68, Sheriff CLAUDE BARRETT, DeWitt County Sheriff's Office, Clinton, Illinois, advised FBI, Springfield, Illinois, that he had in custody one PAUL STANLEY BOOTHBY who had been arrested by the DeWitt County Sheriff's Office authorities at Clinton, Illinois. Subject had been riding a freight train from Springfield, Illinois to Clinton, Illinois, illegally and was arrested on local charges. BARRETT advised that subject resembled JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT.

Subject PAUL STANLEY BOOTHBY was fingerprinted by DeWitt County Sheriff's Office and was interviewed by FBI Agents in Clinton, Illinois, at DeWitt County Jail.

During interview, Subject advised that he was in Memphis, Tennessee, on 4/3/68 through 4/12/68. He stated that he had left Chicago, Illinois on the 7th of April by freight train en route to Memphis to sell a pint of his blood for \$15.00. Subject advised that he had traveled throughout the United States by hopping freight trains and he had so done this for the past two years and had worked in many states doing odd jobs. Subject advised that he was in Chicago on 4/4/68 where he worked for Help Unlimited Corporation. Subject advised that while he was in Memphis, Tennessee, he resided at the Mission at Lenden and -2nd Street. Subject advised that he had no information re the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. nor did he know of anyone who might have participated in the killing.

SI 44-531

The following description of the subject was obtained through observation and interview:

NAME:	PAUL STANLEY BOOTHBY
RACE:	WHITE
SEX:	MALE
HEIGHT:	5'10"
WEIGHT:	155 LBS.
DOB:	JULY 11, 1931
HAIR:	BROWN
EYES:	Hazel
POB:	LIMA, OHIO
SCARS:	RIGHT KNEE LEFT HAND

FINGERPRINT CLASSIFICATION:

5 8 3 U 11
S I AR

PARENTS: MR. AND MRS. DONALD BOOTHBY
1124 FETT STREET
LIMA, OHIO.

Subject's parents were contacted telephonically and they advised that the description of BOOTHBY was identical with that of their son and stated that he had left home about two years ago following some family problems.

SI 44-561

O. UNKNOWN SUSPECT, AKA J. CARNAHAN

SI 44-561

On April 29, 1968, Motor Vehicle Bureau, Springfield, Illinois, advised 1968 Illinois license B291617 was issued to JAMES J. MC GOVERN, 10023 West Devon, Rosemont, Illinois for 1966 Chevrolet Fleetside Panel Truck, VIN C2546F163402 Drivers license listed as M216 450 3056, Social Security number [REDACTED]

1967 Illinois license B291617 issued to GEORGE WARD, Route 2, D Street, Murphysboro, Illinois, for a 1956 Ford pickup truck, VIN F10V6G25421, drivers license listed as W15662349765258. This license originally issued for 1954 Ford Pickup in which driver's license listed as W156623497652585. These are not Illinois drivers license.

Drivers license section, Springfield, advised drivers license number M216 4502 3056 issued February 14, 1968, to JAMES J. MC GOVERN. This chauffeurs license expires March 7, 1969 and described him as 5' 10", 190 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes, DOB [REDACTED] application reflects he is self employed and dba J. J. Mc Govern Motor Service, Rosemont, Illinois.

Drivers license number W632 3TWL13 5234 issued December 8, 1967 to GEORGE L. WARD, 103 Third Street, Murphysboro, Illinois, and license expires December 8, 1968 and describes him as 5' 11", 190 pounds, brown hair, hazel eyes, DOB [REDACTED]

SI 44-561

P. JAMES E. BODKER

SI 44-561

Illinois Drivers License B326 4453 3030 issued June 2, 1967 to JAMES E. BODKER, 14341 South Avalon, Dalton, Illinois will expire January 30, 1971 and describes him as male, born [REDACTED] 5' 10", 175 pounds, brown hair, green eyes, occupation - construction laborer. Records reflect license was suspended December 12, 1967 for an accident. It was again suspended in February, 1968 for three moving violations but is presently clear and valid.

SI 44-561

Q. WILLIAM A. MARSHALL

On May 17, 1968, Mr. WOODROW THOMPSON, Parts Manager, employed 23 years with Rust International, Inc., International Harvester (I-H), Inc., Industrial Tractor, and Equipment Company, 1803 West Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois, advised that there has never been a WILLIAM A. MARSHALL or any employee by the name MARSHALL with the Rust International Company at Bloomington, Illinois. He related there is no other International Harvester Dealer in the Bloomington, Illinois area. THOMPSON further advised that the closest representative for the International Harvester Company is L. C. BARNETT, District Manager, International Harvester Company, 505 Rock Island Road, Peoria, Illinois. Records of credit bureau in Bloomington, Illinois; Police Department, Bloomington, Illinois; Mc Lean County Sheriff's Office, Bloomington, negative. A search of city directory and telephone directory failed reveal any listing for WILLIAM A. MARSHALL or similarity.

Also on May 17, 1968, Mr. L. C. BARNETT, District Manager, I-H, Four Zero Five Rock Island Road, Peoria, Illinois, advised that his office covers the Northern 60 counties for the State of Illinois which includes Bloomington, and his records reflect no one by the name WILLIAM A. MARSHALL as being an employee of his or as being a franchise dealer in his district. BARNETT further advised he knows of no recent employee transfers from his district to the State of California. BARNETT stated that any further checks re MARSHALL should be directed to I-H Home Offices, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

SI 44-561

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

SI 44-561

A. ROBERT HOOD STRADER

On this date Mrs. ROBERT STRADER of Lexington, Illinois, telephone 309 365-3148, telephonically contacted the office concerning this matter. Mrs. STRADER, who sounded considerably upset emotionally, advised she expected her husband to return home from Detroit sometime late this afternoon and wanted to know whether or not we would assure that his identity would be protected in regard to any information provided to us concerning the MURKIN case. Mrs. STRADER also asked what kind of protection we could give to her husband who felt his life was in danger.

Mrs. STRADER was advised that any information furnished to this Bureau in confidence would certainly be protected but that we were in no position to physically guard her husband and if he felt his life was in danger this was a matter he should take up with local authorities, however, we were desirous of interviewing him concerning any valuable information he might have in regard to this case and would do so at his convenience upon his arrival. Mrs. STRADER advised she would have her husband contact the office upon his arrival at Lexington, Illinois. She was also furnished the name of the SRA at Bloomington and of the whereabouts of our office there.

Mrs. STRADER stated she and her husband were passing through Memphis at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING was slain. Her husband allegedly overheard a conversation among five individuals one of whom he claims resembles the published photograph of RAY, the subject, in this case, in which they talked about the killing. Subsequently, last Sunday night their car was broken into and on Monday he claims he was followed from Lexington to Detroit by a tan Chevrolet, the registration number of which he was unable to obtain. This car contained two individuals whom

SI 44-561

he did not recognize and at a rest stop these men took a shot at him but did not hit him because he "hit the ground". He now fears he is in grave danger for his personal safety because he has information about the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Mrs. STRADER was advised immediately upon her husband's return she should contact this office and we would set up a mutually agreeable time and place during which we could interview her husband concerning this matter.

MARGRET CARMICHAEL STRADER, wife of ROBERT HOOD STRADER, was contacted at the residence of her father, E. P. CARMICHAEL, Route #1, Lexington, Illinois, on 4/30/68. Mrs. STRADER advised she and her husband were at the CARMICHAEL residence the weekend of 4/20-22/68. She advised that on the night of 4/21/68 or early morning of 4/22/68 her husband was awakened by the dogs barking outside the farm residence which is located up a farm lane one-half mile from the main rural road. She advised her husband and her father, E. P. CARMICHAEL, upon making a search of the outside area, found that the STRADER's 1967 Oldsmobile Delta "88", cream colored with black vinyl top, had been broken into. Mrs. STRADER advised nothing was missing from the car and no one was located or seen in the area. Mrs. STRADER advised her husband left alone from the CARMICHAEL residence on the morning of 4/22/68 en route Detroit, Michigan.

Mrs. STRADER advised that in a short period of time, Mr. STRADER returned to the CARMICHAEL residence. Upon his return,

STRADER stated he had found a note in the recessed area of the speedometer of his car. (Mrs. STRADER pointed out that the speedometer has been broken; therefore, her husband was not normally attracted to the speedometer). She related this note was made up of words cut from newspapers and pasted on the back of a pocket calendar (unable to describe the calendar). Mrs. STRADER said the note read in substance, "If you go to the police or the FBI you will be killed." Mrs. STRADER advised her husband, after returning with the note, proceeded en route Detroit, Michigan, and after a short period of time had elapsed, he telephonically contacted her, stating he was at the Holiday Inn, Bloomington, Illinois. Mrs. STRADER stated her husband informed her that upon reaching the road one mile north of the CARMICHAEL residence, and Route 66, he saw a 1966 or 1967 Chevrolet, tan in color, no license information, with two men in the car, parked along the road. Mrs. STRADER stated her husband told her that this car followed him en route Bloomington. However, they did not turn into the Holiday Inn when he did. Mrs. STRADER advised her husband then told her he was proceeding on to Detroit, Michigan,

Mrs. STRADER advised upon discussing above with her parents, her mother, Mrs. E. P. CARMICHAEL, stated she had noticed a late model, tan car, making several trips on the main rural road near the CARMICHAEL residence on the early morning of 4/22/68.

Mrs. STRADER advised that on the night of 4/22/68 her husband telephonically contacted her, but he would not disclose his location as he stated he was afraid to mention his location over the phone. She related her husband told her that he stopped at a rest stop area after leaving Indianapolis, Indiana. Upon leaving his car and walking the direction of the men's restroom, he saw a tan automobile occupied by two men driving very slow. He stated at this time the rider in this automobile fired a shot at him. STRADER told his wife the shot just missed his ear and he, STRADER, hit the ground where he laid as if he had been hit. STRADER stated that the tan car disappeared and he has not seen it since.

Mrs. STRADER stated her husband believed this action was due to his being in the men's restroom at the Gulf Truck Stop, Lebanon, Tennessee, on 3/27/68, where he allegedly overheard five men planning to kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Mrs. STRADER stated her husband told her that one of the men in the restroom was RAY, whom he recognized after RAY's photograph was published. She stated he further informed her that he would be able to recognize the other men he saw in the restroom. Mrs. STRADER advised she recalls being at the Gulf Truck Stop at Lebanon, Tennessee, on 3/29/68. She stated upon their leaving the truck stop, her husband did not mention to her anything of hearing of the plan to kill KING. She stated she does recall her

husband remarked, "If King goes back to Memphis he will be shot." Mrs. STRADER advised her husband did say he wanted to see STERN of NBC, Washington, D.C, whom he knew but did not know if he desired to see STERN.

Mrs. STRADER advised her husband returned to the Cambridge residence at Lexington, Illinois, on Friday, 4/26/68, where he stayed until the morning of Saturday, 4/27/68, at which time STRADER and his mother-in-law had an argument over Mrs. STRADER's son by a previous marriage. Mrs. CARMICHAEL told STRADER to leave, which he did.

Mrs. STRADER stated she told her husband she had contacted Mr. DONALD T. SULLIVAN, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Springfield Office of the FBI, and that he, STRADER, should call Mr. SULLIVAN and set up an appointment; that Mr. SULLIVAN had informed her he would make an appointment to meet STRADER at any location or at any time when STRADER was available. Mrs. STRADER stated her husband told her he was afraid to attempt to meet with FBI Agents, as he felt he was being followed. Mrs. STRADER stated she was unable to convince her husband to make arrangements for a meeting with the FBI. She advised her husband is very much interested in obtaining protection.

Mrs. STRADER advised of some of her husband's activities, which are not concerning the murder of Dr. KING. She advised that she does not know all of her husband's business and that she is sure he has not told her all he knows.

Mrs. STRADER advised her husband is acquainted with RAYMOND STARNES of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who told STRADER in the summer of 1967 that there were several businessmen in the area of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who were taking up a collection to obtain money to have KING assassinated. Mrs. STRADER advised her husband is well acquainted in the Baton Rouge and Denham Springs, Louisiana, area. She stated he was, in the summer of 1967, connected with the E.C. Donnell Construction Company of Denham Springs, La., which was doing construction work for the telephone company. She related E. C. DONNELL lives in Dallas, Texas. She related DONNELL had an equipment rental business and while STRADER and DONNELL were attempting to rent the equipment they were trying to gain financing for a recreational park in Louisiana similar to "Six Flags Over Texas." She related that some way they came in contact with a CHARLES and LILLIAN SHAPIRO (ph) of Miami, Florida, who advised they could finance same but were not interested, in a recreational park but would be interested in financing a horse racing track. Mrs. STRADER advised Mr. DONNELL obtained RAYMOND STARNES to help locate his land which could be used as a horse racing park. He also obtained sanction of the sheriff, (FMU) IRWIN and SAM BOSKO, both of Slidell, La; however, "things got out of hand" and an article

appeared in "Life" magazine and the Governor of Louisiana placed a stop to the entire operation.

Mrs. STRADER advised her husband is in telephonic contact with her daily but declines to furnish information as to his location over the telephone, as he is very afraid. Mrs. STRADER was advised to inform her husband if he has any information he desires to furnish to the FBI, he can contact any FBI Field Office who will then arrange for an interview with him.

CARL STERN, Washington, D.C., NBC Office, advised a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that a man (FNU) STRADER, whom he had met on one occasion while covering a story in the South, had, on April 24, 1968, telephoned him from someplace around Toledo, Ohio. STRADER informed him he was en route to the home of his wife's parents in Lexington, Illinois. He then told STERN a "fantastic tale" about him, STRADER, overhearing a conversation on March 29, 1968 in Lebanon, Tennessee, concerning the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING. Apparently STRADER was of the impression that the people involved in the conversation knew he had overheard them and they had taken his license number. STRADER believed there had been at least one shot fired at him since that time. STRADER informed STERN he had vital information concerning KING's murder and called STERN for advice as to what he should do. STERN advised STRADER to call the Springfield Office of the FBI and they would make arrangements to have someone meet him at his convenience in their territory. According to Mr. STERN, BISHOP stated that STRADER is afraid to approach any office and may desire to have someone meet him at a location other than an office.

The files of the Springfield Office contain the following references to ROBERT STRADER, however, it cannot be determined at this point whether or not they refer to ROBERT HOOD STRADER of Lexington, Illinois.

On November 19, 1965, ROBERT STRADER, 6'1" -2", 175 lbs., employed cutting timber near Edwardsville, Illinois, and in construction work at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois, was considered a suspect in the robbery of the Hamel State Bank, Bufile 91-20560, SI file 91-2642.

In 10-66 prosecution of ROBERT H. STRADER was declined in an ITSMV matter which involved a rental car. ROBERT H. STRADER had represented himself as an employee of General Telephone Co., of Illinois, registering at two motels at Bloomington, Illinois, and had skipped without properly checking out and without paying for his room. STRADER could not be located at that time but was described as a white, male, 35 L'40, 5'10" - 6', 150 lbs., dark brown hair, medium build and medium complexion. He was subject of Sifile 26-29093.

One ROBERT MOOD STRADER was subject of an ITSMV; UEAP - AUTO THEFT case in which Milwaukee was 00,9/63, Bufile 26-313703, Sifile 26-23403. This individual had a rather extensive arrest record dating back to 11/43 at which time he was AWOL and which involved record of arrest for issuing worthless checks, mail fraud, investigation of forgery, and defrauding an innkeeper. ROBERT H. STRADER, whose FBI No. was given as 244 633 A, was twice a patient at hospitals, one as a patient at the Patton State Hospital concerning which fingerprints were furnished by the State Bureau of Identification, Sacramento, California, on 8-3-60 and subsequently again on 9-21-60, was a patient at Atascadero State Hospital, California. That individual was described as white, male, approximately 6'3", 190 lbs., fair complexion, hazel eyes, brown hair and was considered to have suicidal tendencies.

A check through NCIC on 4-30-68 indicated ROBERT STRADER was not currently wanted.

SI 44-561

B. INVESTIGATION, ELDORADO, ILLINOIS

JERRY KIRKADE, Principal, Eldorado High School, Eldorado, Illinois, on 4/29/68, made a search of past academic records available at the school. It was determined that in 1943 JAMES DEE RAY also known as Jimmy Ray graduated from the school. He is the son of J. A. RAY of Wason, Illinois, and was born on 9/10/25 in Saline County and entered the school 9/1/39 and graduated 5/30/43 with a rank of 105 out of 119. RAY'S year book photograph was examined as to identification with the subject in captioned case. The photo did not appear to be identical.

EMILIA JEAN FOX, nee Choisser, Eldorado Illinois, who is presently secretary to the principal at Eldorado High School stated that JAMES DEE RAY was a school mate of hers. She examined a photo of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that she is certain that the two are not identical. She further advised that she has seen JAMES DEE RAY within the past four years and that there is no question that his looks have not changed to the degree that he might resemble JAMES EARL RAY.

SI 44-561

C. CECIL RAY

- 205 -

Mrs. FRENCH was contacted at her home on 4/29/68.

She advised that her ex-son-in-law, CECIL RAY, formerly of Vandalia, Illinois, has been to her residence on approximately two occasions within the last five years, accompanied by an individual who resembled JAMES EARL RAY. It is her belief that CECIL RAY referred to this person as JAMES RAY. Mrs. FRENCH was unable to furnish any more specific information as to the times or when the visits were made.

She stated that CECIL RAY was separated from her step-daughter, JUDITH EARLINE RAY, who resides at 1013 Main Street, Highland, Illinois. They have been separated about four years. CECIL RAY is believed to be employed in JOLIET, ILL., as a truck driver for an unidentified Gas and Oil Company and was last seen by Mrs. FRENCH in 1966. CECIL RAY's parents are deceased but he is believed to have a brother who resides in Vandalia, Illinois, name unknown. CECIL RAY was employed as a bartender at one time at an unidentified bar on the main street in Vandalia. MRS. FRENCH had no photograph and could furnish no description of CECIL RAY.

By way of background concerning MRS. FRENCH, her husband EARL FRENCH was beat to death in Effingham, Illinois, in early 1967 and the case has not been solved. Mrs. FRENCH resides alone with her dog and according to Sheriff A. P. DITTER, is an avid beer drinker. Mrs. FRENCH did not appear to have been drinking at the time of the interview. She did refer to the death of her husband on several occasions and mentioned that she knew how
Mrs. FRENCH felt

JUDITH RAY, 1013 Main Street, Highland, Illinois, was interviewed April 30, 1968, concerning her knowledge of possible association with the subject, JAMES EARL RAY.

JUDITH RAY, stated that her husband, CECIL RAY, is at the present time separated from her although they are not divorced. She stated that there is a state warrant outstanding against her husband, CECIL, issued by the States Attorney's Office at Edwardsville, Illinois, charging her husband with nonsupport of the 4 children which she has. JUDITH RAY stated that it is her understanding from the States Attorney's Office At Edwardsville, Illinois, that her husband may have recently moved to Wisconsin, in order to escape the warrant outstanding against him in the State of Illinois.

However, she stated that his location, if he has moved to Wisconsin, is unknown to her. She further stated that it is her belief that her husband CECIL RAY has not moved to Wisconsin, but is instead living in Vandalia, Illinois, with some of his relatives. She stated that she has on several occasions contacted relatives of her husband in Vandalia but they have refused to help her locate her husband. She related that it is her belief that the relatives know the location of her husband but refuse to cooperate with her in finding him and they know the warrant will be issued against him.

Mrs. RAY stated that she does not know of any association which her husband may have had with the subject but said he could have associated with him before their marriage in 1955 and may have associated sometime since then with him in Alton, Illinois.

SEARCHED

INDEXED

She stated that approximately 11 years ago, she and her husband resided in a downtown apartment in Alton, Illinois, and they resided there for approximately 3 years. She stated that during their stay in Alton, her husband brought numerous friends home with him to drink in the apartment or play cards and he never identified any of these persons with him. She stated that she never inquired as to their identity and would not be familiar with the name JAMES EARL RAY.

Mrs. RAY stated that her husband is wellknown in the Vandalia, Illinois area in that he was raised in that City. She stated that her husband's relatives all live in Vandalia and they possibly may know the present whereabouts of her husband.

She stated that she is anxious to learn the present whereabouts of her husband and that she will cooperate with the FBI in any way possible in determining his location. She stated that it is her belief if anyone knows his present whereabouts, it will be a member of his family in Vandalia.

It is her belief that his relatives there may be protecting his present address.

She stated that a member of the family most likely to know his address will be GILBERT RAY who lives on Randolph Street, Vandalia, Illinois. She stated that a brother of her husband, LARRY RAY, also resides in Vandalia, Illinois, but his address is unknown.

Another brother, STANLEY RAY resides in Vira, Illinois, and both parents of her husband are deceased.

Mrs. RAY stated that LEONARD BOWLE is a close friend of her husband and may possibly know his present whereabouts. She stated that he is the owner of Metzgers Tavern, Vandalia, Illinois, and the exact address is unknown to her.

She further stated that PRESTON PRIOR who is the owner of a Mobil Station in Vandalia, which station is located at the junction of the Old Highway and the New Super Highway may possibly know her husband's present whereabouts in that her husband has worked for him from time to time.

Mrs. RAY stated that she knows very little about her husband's associates and that he would be the one to contact concerning them. She further stated that she knew very little of her husband's family background before they were married and there may be some associates at that time that she is unfamiliar with.

SI 44-561

RCH:skt

1

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

At Edwardsville, Illinois

States Attorney LEON D. SCROGGINS, Madison County Court House, reviewed files maintained in his office and stated that a warrant for neglect and refusal was issued for CECIL RAY on complaint of his wife JUDITH in Madison County Court at Edwardsville. He stated that the information obtained at the time the complaint and warrant were issued disclosed that CECIL RAY was residing in Joliet, Illinois, and accordingly, certified copies of the warrant were forwarded to authorities at Joliet.

He indicated that he had no knowledge of the current whereabouts of CECIL RAY and that nothing in file indicated anything except that he was in Joliet.

On 5-13-68, Sheriff LEONARD KELLY, Fayette County, Vandalia, advised there are several members of the RAY family in the vicinity and he was seriously doubtful of any connection with the suspect in this case. According to investigation conducted to locate CECIL RAY, all members of the family are not too smart and prone to using alcohol to excess.

In this respect, LARRY RAY, a City of Vandalia employee, was jailed over the weekend of 5/11-12/68 for threatening his wife, but released on \$25.00 bond.

MARION KIRKPATRICK, an employee of the USPO, advised CECIL RAY lived in the same neighborhood, but has not been in Vandalia for at least two years, unless very briefly. No removal could be located at USPO, and no mail received during recent past. Tax and voter's records also negative.

GILBERT RAY, City of Vandalia employee in the street and garbage work, advised 5-14-68, he is an uncle of CECIL RAY and, to his knowledge, he has not heard of JAMES EARL RAY, but possibly CECIL could have known him, since at one time he was at Edwardsville and Alton. There is a brother STANLEY RAY who GILBERT believes is in Vira, Ill., where he works at Crane Packing CO. There is a half brother, RICHARD RISLEY, who lives in Joliet, address unknown. GILBERT RAY advised he had not seen or heard from CECIL RAY in several months and the last he knew he was in Peoria, Illinois, working at a Shite (phonetic) Service Station, probably the Site brand of independent stations.

LEONARD BOWLES former associate of CECIL RAY advised he had heard nothing from him for two or three years. BOWLES no longer operates a tavern but helps his son-in-law in the tire recapping business. PRESTON PRIOR former associate, also had no recent information of CECIL's whereabouts. INDEXED

SI 44-561

During contact with Sheriff KELLY and Chief DALE SLATER, May 14, 1968, both advised that the entire family of this group "were a little on the stupid side."

5-29-68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, DETROIT (44-989)
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) P
RE: MURKIN
OO:ME

Reurtel, 5-4-68.

Investigation at 4343 Lafayette, SLMO, on 5-5 through 5-7-68, determined a female resident at that address, Mrs. FRANK HIGGS, had no information concerning this matter and apparently was not the person referred to in retel.

Mrs. JACKIE NOTTINGHAM, 4343a Lafayette, SLMO, on 5-7-68, advised her mother, Mrs. GLADYS JOHNSON, 1819 Rutger, SLMO, lived in the same neighborhood in SL where JAMES EARL RAY reportedly once lived but her mother did not know RAY and had no information concerning RAY. Mrs. NOTTINGHAM did not know RAY and none of her relatives know RAY.

Mrs. GLADYS JOHNSON, 1817-19 Rutger, SL, on 5-8-68, advised she never knew JAMES EARL RAY and had no information concerning RAY. She heard on TV or read in newspapers that RAY once lived in the same neighborhood, however, she does not know anyone acquainted with RAY.

Mrs. JOHNSON said she remains at home most of the time taking care of her invalid son, W. B. JOHNSON.

The above information furnished to the Detroit Office for information purposes inasmuch as this inquiry was conducted on the basis of information received from DE 1085-R.

2 - Detroit
① - St. Louis
RJW:amb
(3)

[Handwritten signature]

File Stripped
5.8.72
Chester

44-775-810

SEARCHED	_____
SERIALIZED	_____
INDEXED	_____
FILED	_____

[Handwritten signature]