

SL 44-775

He was aware of no organization at the Missouri State Penitentiary that acted as enforcers or who in anyway "ran" the penitentiary. He advised that if there was any single organization or man who runs the Missouri State Penitentiary that man would be BOB BURNS whom he described as a small man presently doing 75 years from St. Louis for armed robbery. BURNS' brother is supposedly a detective lieutenant in the St. Louis Police Department.

With respect to known gamblers at the Missouri State Penitentiary he advised that JOHNNIE JOHNSON from Kansas City and JACK KALENKA (phonetic) also from Kansas City were known gamblers who have now both been released from the penitentiary. He advised that CLYDE CASEY, GLEN CHERNICK, and "SLICK" STEDHAM were also gamblers. He advised he is unacquainted with a JOHNNIE VELANTI.

He advised that JAMES EARL RAY resided in B Hall when he was residing in C Hall at the penitentiary.

COX pointed out that he could furnish no information concerning RAY or the associates of RAY, however, he advised that should any information concerning RAY become known to him he will immediately contact the FBI. COX pointed out that he has "gone straight" since leaving the penitentiary, has a good job, and wants to stay on the right side of the law.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6-21-68

JOHN EUGENE GAWRON was interviewed at his residence. He stated he had no additional information to offer in view of subject's apprehension. He reiterated he had not seen or been contacted by subject since 1959.

He was unable to recall any further information concerning the robbery of the BANK OF ALTON, ALTON, ILLINOIS, and stated it was entirely possible that the person who had contacted him, who was known to him as "JIMMY," might have a different true name, as it is common for former convicts to use aliases, even among friends.

It was his understanding JERRY RAY had made an application for a passport, and that JOHN LARRY RAY was endeavoring to sell the GRAPEVINE TAVERN for enough money to finance a trip to England.

He stated he would immediately contact this office in the event he receives any information deemed by him to be pertinent in this case.

6-19-68

St. Louis, Missouri

SL: 44-775 - 966

On 6-19-68 at St. Louis, Missouri File #                       
by SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD :wma  
SA MARVIN R. DORAN Date dictated 6-20-68

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.

Date May 31, 1968

JOHN PAUL VELANTI, presently residing 3420 Cumberland, Maplewood, was interviewed at the St. Louis Office. He reiterated information previously furnished that he could not recall any specific instance in which he met subject JAMES EARL RAY while in the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) although he may have done so. He also advised he had no contact with subject RAY prior to his incarceration in the MSP or since his release from that institution.

He denied that he had recently obtained a revolver from any source and stated that if JIMMY CARPENTER had obtained a gun he knew nothing about it. He went on to state that he was doing everything within his power to avoid violating his parole and that obtaining a gun of any kind would be an extremely foolish act on his part.

With respect to his activities since his release from MSP on March 21, 1967, he stated he came immediately to St. Louis, Missouri, and for a short period of time was employed by the Baris Furniture Company at 11th and Delmar. He resided for a period of time at Dismas House located at Ninth and Cole. Around May 3 or 4, 1967, he obtained employment from the Bardgett Printing and Publishing Company, 2035 Delmar, where he worked until he was laid off in December, 1967. Although he was employed steadily at the publishing company, he worked part time on a desk job at Dismas House and also worked as a night cook quite a bit at John Clatto's Place located at Eighth and Delmar. He started working part time as a radio announcer in October, 1967 at Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, Illinois, and is presently employed full time as a radio announcer there.

VELANTI advised that a former inmate of the MSP one RUSSELL BRANNEN advised him in a conversation two or three weeks ago that he, BRANNEN, had on one occasion observed subject RAY in St. Louis subsequent to his escape from the MSP. BRANNEN stated that this was approximately ten days after RAY's escape and he saw him in the vicinity of the 1800 block of Mississippi Street in South St. Louis. He went on to say that BRANNEN made the statement that RAY did not escape from the MSP in a bread truck as generally reported but walked away from the institution with a group of visitors who were leaving. According to VELANTI, BRANNEN did not indicate he knew of any particular individual who might have assisted RAY in this escape. He could not furnish the exact address of BRANNEN but stated he believed he was still on parole to Missouri State parole officers in St. Louis, Missouri area.

On 5/29/68 at Maplewood, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 967  
by SA JAMES T. DEARBORN  
SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL/mjb Date dictated 5/29/68

SL: 44-775

VELANTI was questioned concerning the present whereabouts of JIMMY CARPENTER and he stated that although he had not seen JIMMY in several days he understood he was still residing at 1817 Rutger using the name JOHN MEZZO and employed as a cook at Clatto's located at Eighth and Delmar. He advised he had learned **CARPENTER** may have entered the St. Louis City Hospital to have an eye operation but had been unable to locate him and he also stated that CARPENTER had not reported to work for the last two nights at Clatto's Restaurant. He promised to locate CARPENTER as soon as possible and have him call the St. Louis FBI Office.

VELANTI advised upon questioning that he had heard nothing whatsoever which would indicate to him that subject JAMES EARL RAY might have been involved in the armed robbery of the Alton, Illinois, Bank which occurred in July, 1967.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 21, 1968

JAMES LOAMA OWENS, RFD 3, Sunrise Lake, De Soto, Missouri (Jefferson County), telephone JUstice 6-2044, was contacted by telephone, and he advised as follows:

The name of "BLACKIE" DE CORE (phonetic) which was mentioned by OWENS in an interview on May 16, 1967, is the name of that individual as OWENS knew it. He believes the name was actually spelled DE CORE, but is not certain in that respect. He feels definite in his recollection that the name was not pronounced DE COOK. The man OWENS knew as DE CORE was certainly not as big as six feet one inch, and 240 pounds, but was approximately five feet nine inches, and 180 pounds. DE CORE definitely had a criminal record and was on parole from the Illinois State Penitentiary, Menard, Illinois, at the time OWENS knew him in 1959.

On 5/17/68 at Jefferson County, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 968

by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING:bam Date dictated 5/20/68

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 24, 1968

JAMES LOAMA OWENS, Rural Route 3, Sunrise Lake, DeSoto, Missouri (Jefferson County) telephone Justice 6-2044, was contacted by telephone and inquiry was made of him as to what publications were habitually read by JAMES EARL RAY.

OWENS said that RAY was indiscriminate in his reading and that he read almost anything and everything he could get his hands on. OWENS said he did not believe he could identify any specific publication which RAY read. OWENS said however, that RAY read all the newspapers he could lay his hands on and particularly read the two major daily newspaper publications in St. Louis.

Inquiry was made of OWENS as to whether, in view of RAY's interest in automobiles and guns, as previously indicated by OWENS, RAY might not have read magazines pertaining to automobiles and guns. OWENS said he could not recall that RAY read any particular magazines devoted to those subjects but he did now recall that among all the various things that RAY read were included various sporting magazines. OWENS said that although he could not recall what specific magazines would have been included, he believed that the type of such magazines read by RAY would have included the type represented by Field and Stream and Argosy.

OWENS said he could not be more specific in describing or identifying publications read by RAY.

On 5/16/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 969  
by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING/leh 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.

Date June 24, 1968

JAMES (JIMMY) H. CARPENTER was interviewed at the Standard Service Station located on the southeast corner of 18th and Clark Streets where he spends most of his time. He still resides at 1817 Rutger Street, St. Louis. He has made arrangements to enter the St. Louis City Hospital, located on Lafayette Street, in the near future to have an eye operation for the removal of cataracts.

With reference to subject JAMES EARL RAY, CARPENTER reiterated information previously furnished in this matter. He stated RAY walked away from the Missouri State Penitentiary in the afternoon of April 23, 1967, and he, CARPENTER, was released on May 1, 1967. Approximately two weeks subsequent to his release he visited briefly with subject RAY on South 11th Street in St. Louis on two different occasions. On the second occasion he had a drink with RAY in a bar, name unrecalled, in the 1800 block of South 11th and he loaned RAY \$10 since he stated he was in need of money. RAY indicated he planned to obtain a gun possibly in East St. Louis, Illinois, and make a "score" in the near future.

CARPENTER in his brief visits with RAY got the impression RAY was living with some of his relatives not far from the 1800 block of South 11th, although RAY did not actually make a statement to that effect.

CARPENTER stated that subject might have been residing with JACK GAWRON, who resided in that area, but neither RAY nor GAWRON ever made a definite statement indicating that RAY was living with GAWRON.

CARPENTER repeated information previously furnished that although he considers himself one of subject RAY's closest friends in the Missouri State Penitentiary, he never heard him make any statements either in the penitentiary or after his escape that would link him in any way with the MARTIN LUTHER KING slaying. He went on to state that he felt certain that if RAY is involved it is through RAY's efforts to obtain money and not through any idealistic feelings or hate feelings that he might harbor.

CARPENTER exhibited a cooperative attitude and promised

---

On 6/21/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 970  
by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL *BB*  
SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD *WW* CBB: pdp Date dictated 6/24/68

SL: 44-775

to call the St. Louis Federal Bureau of Investigation Office immediately in the event he obtains any information which might be of value in determining how subject RAY might have come in possession of money he reportedly spent during the period subsequent to his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary and prior to his recent apprehension in London, England.



Date May 14, 1968

JAMES (JIMMY) H. CARPENTER, former Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) number 01761, presently residing 1817 Rutger Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was interviewed on May 12, 1968. CARPENTER was born [redacted] at Jonesboro, Arkansas. On May 1, 1967, he was released on parole from the MSP, Jefferson City, Missouri.

On June 1, 1967, CARPENTER was arrested in St. Louis, Missouri, on a charge of armed robbery and although not convicted on this charge he remained in the St. Louis City Jail for approximately nine months before being released at the time of his trial.

Shortly after his release from MSP CARPENTER advised he met subject JAMES EARL RAY on the street in the 1800 block of South 11th Street and conversed with him for a few minutes. According to CARPENTER, this date would have been around May 11, 1967, since he recalls he obtained employment on that date in St. Louis. At the time of this first contact subject RAY was wearing a mustache and mentioned the fact that he was "hot" and had to be careful. He was dressed in a sweater and dark trousers and this visit with subject RAY was very short.

CARPENTER recalled seeing RAY on another occasion on the street in the 1800 block of South 11th Street three or four days later. On this occasion he and subject RAY had a beer together in a tavern believed to be located on the west side of the street in the 1800 block. Subject RAY stated he was broke and CARPENTER loaned him \$10. RAY also mentioned he needed a "rod" to get hold of some money and CARPENTER told him he was trying to go straight, had no pistol, and would not try to get one.

CARPENTER mentioned he saw RAY on one other occasion two or three days later in approximately the same location. At this time he, CARPENTER, was in an automobile and RAY was on the street. He was of the opinion that RAY did not see him on this occasion. According to CARPENTER, although he does not recall the exact words of the conversation he got the impression from RAY that he was going to pull a holdup or robbery of some kind in St. Louis to get some money and then travel to the east side or somewhere in Illinois where he had

On 5/12/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 971  
by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL  
SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD CBB: pdp Date dictated 5/13/68

SL: 44-775

friends or relatives. He stated these individuals were not specifically mentioned but he got this impression from conversing with subject RAY.

CARPENTER advised subject RAY furnished no information concerning where he was staying in St. Louis and made no mention of associates or relatives with whom he might be associated or living. CARPENTER stated he did not observe RAY in company with any other individual on any of the above-mentioned occasions. He did state that RAY mentioned in the conversation that he "walked out" of the MSP with a group of visitors from the outside. It was CARPENTER's understanding that this was in connection with a ball game that had been played at the penitentiary and that the date, approximately, RAY walked away was April 24, 1967. CARPENTER was questioned specifically concerning any information he might have as to the identity of any individual assisting subject RAY in his escape and he stated he could furnish no information whatever in this respect. He further stated he has not seen subject RAY since around May 18, 1967, and is not in possession of any information concerning his possible whereabouts since that time.

CARPENTER advised he recalled subject RAY very well from his association with him at the MSP. He described RAY as a "loner" who participated in gambling in the penitentiary. He stated, however, that RAY spent so much of his time in solitary confinement due to his attempts to escape that he did not have much opportunity to participate in these activities. He advised that he was as close to RAY as anyone in the penitentiary and recalled that RAY took narcotics, and often came to his, CARPENTER's, cell to converse and offer narcotics to CARPENTER. With regard to RAY's closest associate at MSP, CARPENTER advised that he was as close to RAY as any inmate. He went on to state that based on this association and his general knowledge of RAY it was hard for him to imagine RAY being involved in the MARTIN LUTHER KING slaying. In this respect he stated he did not feel RAY would be motivated by animosity toward Dr. KING and was not the type of individual who would be trusted by people wanting to dispose of KING. He knew of no connections that RAY had while in MSP which

SL: 44-775

would afford him access to information regarding a planned assassination of Dr. KING. It is CARPENTER's opinion that if RAY made such connections he did so while on the run subsequent to his escape.

CARPENTER recalled an inmate at MSP known as (first name unknown) COOLEY (phonetic) described as white male, 45 years old at the present time, 6' tall, 150 pounds, slender build, black hair. He stated this individual walked with a noticeable limp, believed to be in his right leg, and that the right leg was curved out noticeably. He advised that COOLEY was an inmate at MSP on two separate occasions. He believes that COOLEY was last released prior to 1960 when subject RAY entered MSP. COOLEY worked in the penitentiary kitchen. He described COOLEY as a "fanatic". CARPENTER could relate no specific circumstances on which he based his opinion that COOLEY was a fanatic, or what COOLEY was fanatical about. CARPENTER merely stated that COOLEY had "way out" ideas, and that he, COOLEY, attempted to appear as an intellectual. He recalled that COOLEY read science and sex books continually. Inasmuch as COOLEY's last release was prior to subject RAY's incarceration at MSP, CARPENTER does not believe there was any association between subject RAY and this COOLEY. CARPENTER knows of no organization known as COOLEY's organization or any group headed by COOLEY.

During the interview CARPENTER mentioned an individual known to him as JACK (last name unknown) who in May of 1967 was in charge of a rooming house at 1805 South 11th Street. CARPENTER met this individual while incarcerated in St. Louis subsequent to his arrest on June 1, 1967. It was his recollection that JACK (last name unknown) was arrested on June 2, 1967, suspected of burglary of a tavern located near his residence at 1805 South 11th.

During conversation with JACK (last name unknown), who was described as a white male, age 70, 6' tall, 200 pounds, gray hair, subject RAY was discussed. Although JACK did not specifically say so, CARPENTER got the impression that RAY

SL: 44-775

was probably living with him or staying part-time with him at 1805 South 11th. He also recalled JACK mentioning subject having a brother residing somewhere in the general area. Although CARPENTER could not recall the brother's name he thought it to be JOHN. JACK (last name unknown) advised it was his understanding that subject RAY, who was well known to him, was believed to have walked away from the penitentiary following a ball game.

It was CARPENTER's understanding that JACK (last name unknown) had never done any time in Missouri but had spent approximately 29 years in penitentiaries in Illinois on charges of safe cracking, robbery and so forth. At the time JACK was arrested in St. Louis on June 2, 1967, he was extremely worried because his parole out of Illinois did not expire for a period of two or three more weeks.

CARPENTER stated that during his incarceration at MSP he "ran the store" for quite a period of time. He is presently employed as a cook for JOHNNY CLAYTON at 18th and Delmar Streets and plans to enter the St. Louis City Hospital in the near future for an eye operation to remove cataracts. About the time CARPENTER saw subject RAY in St. Louis he was employed for a short period of time as a cook in a cafeteria located in the Mart Building in St. Louis.

Date May 13, 1968

JOHN PAUL VELANTI upon re-interview on May 12, 1968, stated after considering the matter he now recalls one JIMMY RAYE (phonetic), a white male, age 27, 6'1", 150 pounds, left handed, who was somewhat active in gambling activities at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). This individual was also a basketball player at the institution. RAYE is still believed to be at MSP and at one time an older brother, believed to be LARRY RAYE, was an inmate at the penitentiary. VELANTI is of the opinion this RAYE may be confused with subject JAMES EARL RAY by the person furnishing information regarding an association between him and subject RAY.

VELANTI recalled JIMMY RAYE (phonetic) having been in trouble in connection with a gambling debt owed to TEX MARTIN, MSP inmate, described as a white male doing a 25 year sentence from Kansas City on a rape charge. MARTIN was also active in running gambling games. VELANTI persuaded MARTIN to "lay off" RAYE in connection with the gambling debt owed him. He further recalled this incident having taken place in 1963 or 1964 at which time JIMMY RAYE was housed in C Hall while he, VELANTI, was residing in G Hall.

VELANTI stated his wife's true name at the time he married her was BETTYE PITTARD. While in MSP he corresponded with her under this name as well as under the names BETTYE PRITCHARD, BETTYE PETERSON and BETTYE VELANTI. He was not positive but believed her maiden name to be PETERSON. His wife under the name BETTYE PITTARD was employed for several years as a key punch operator for the Louisiana - Arkansas Railroad at both their Shreveport and Atlanta offices. Her parents and relatives are believed to reside in Atlanta. He recalled that BETTYE was at one time a member of the downtown branch of the Alcoholics Anonymous Club in Shreveport, Louisiana. She also may have been a member of Alcoholics Anonymous in Atlanta.

With respect to a date on which he could have been involved committing a crime in Atlanta, VELANTI advised he was released from the penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, on July 27, 1958, and picked up in Kansas City on February 9, 1959. During the period between these two dates he spent most

On 5/12/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 972  
by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL  
SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD CBB: pdp Date dictated 5/13/68

SL: 44-775

of his time as an employee of the Monte Young Carnival which operates out of Salt Lake City. This carnival was operated by a female, one NINA (last name unknown). During this employment VELANTI worked under the name and Social Security Number of a sheep herder by the name of WREZ XYLOIX (pronounced RAY ZELWAH). When the carnival closed the season in October he went to Shreveport, Louisiana, where he resided with his wife, BETTYE, until the time he was picked up in February 1959 in Kansas City. He stated that he used the name XYLOIX in order to avoid possible arrest in the State of Oregon where he was wanted for investigation armed robbery. He advised that Oregon had placed a detainer against him upon his release from Leavenworth, but that he had "beat" this detainer at Leavenworth, Kansas, and was never returned to Oregon.

During the course of the interview VELANTI mentioned the name of a former MSP inmate presently in the St. Louis area, one JAMES CARPENTER, who might be in a position to furnish information concerning activities of subject RAY in the MSP.

Date May 13, 1968

JOHN PAUL VELANTI was re-interviewed at the St. Louis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and furnished the following information:

He described JAMES W. BROWN of Birmingham, Alabama, as a good friend with whom he "celled" and also "took care of" in Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). He described BROWN as a friend who would have no reason to lie about him. He first met BROWN in the MSP at Jefferson City, Missouri, although they were previously in the Kansas City Jail at the same time but occupied different tanks. He associated with BROWN while both were inmates at the MSP and after both had been transferred to the minimum security prison at Moberly, Missouri.

VELANTI denied recalling any conversations whatever with subject JAMES EARL RAY and still insists he does not know subject RAY.

VELANTI admitted running a poker game and lottery at MSP and in this capacity had numerous inmates working for him in various halls at the penitentiary. He knew all of these individuals personally and recalls their names. He specifically mentioned one such individual as BILL KAUFFMAN. He specifically recalled that subject RAY did not work for him and recalled no inmate at the MSP with either first or last name RAY with whom he associated or conversed at length.

He denied planning or executing a burglary or robbery of the oil company or any other establishment in Atlanta, Georgia, and advised that if he had pulled such a job it would have been alone.

He denied ever having lived in Atlanta but recalled having stayed there overnight on a couple of occasions when driving through.

VELANTI stated he married his wife, BETTYE, nee PRITCHARD, in 1965 in Juarez, Mexico. He has no information whatever concerning her present whereabouts. Her last address known to him was 1270 Chaney Drive, Bossier City, Louisiana. VELANTI's son, JAMES, by a previous marriage to SHIRLEY HOLSTEIN

---

On 5/11/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 973  
by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL  
SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD CBB: pdp Date dictated 5/13/68

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.

SL: 44-775

was killed at the age of 15 in a car wreck in 1962 in Atlanta. VELANTI was married to SHIRLEY HOLSTEIN in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1948 and they were divorced around 1950. He stated this son never resided with his present wife, BETTYE.

VELANTI emphatically denied being questioned while in jail at Kansas City or at the MSP concerning any gangster in the Kansas City area. He was questioned by Detective HATFIELD, Kansas City Police Department, in regard to the offense for which he was convicted in Kansas City. This was on a charge of armed robbery of one JOHN RINGO who at that time operated the Drake Hotel in Kansas City. VELANTI stated he was not guilty of this robbery; however, he took a "bum rap" in the matter rather than divulge his actual whereabouts and the person or persons with whom he was associated at the time the robbery was committed. The other violation, according to VELANTI, was in the State of Kansas and he would probably have received more time than the 20 years he got in Missouri. He also was of the opinion at the time that he could beat the rap in Missouri.

VELANTI refused to discuss his actual whereabouts at the time of the Drake Hotel robbery, the violation in which he was involved, or the person or persons with whom he was associated in this matter. He stated any investigation in this matter could possibly jeopardize his present parole status even though the Statute of Limitations has run on that crime.

VELANTI denied any knowledge of the connection between New Orleans gangsters and gangsters in Kansas City. He stated he has no relatives residing in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, or Atlanta, Georgia.

VELANTI admitted having considered attempting to escape from the MSP but never planned such an escape with any accomplice. He denied ever having heard of a prisoner's plan to escape to Liberia or having a place he could hide out in a cave in Virginia.

Subsequent to the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, VELANTI admits fighting with a fellow prisoner outside



SL: 44-775

the Catholic chapel at the MSP because of a derogatory statement made by this prisoner concerning President KENNEDY as a Catholic. He does not recall the name of this prisoner and no charges were filed in connection with the incident. He denied that this individual could have been subject JAMES EARL RAY. He does recall Father SCHAFER was at that time the Chaplain but understands that Father SCHAFER now has a parish in California, Missouri. The above-described incident took place at the MSP in 1963.

VELANTI recalled that when he was in the MSP A Hall was occupied by Negroes; however, he understands it now houses trustees.

VELANTI stated he could recall many prisoners making derogatory remarks concerning Negroes but he advised that inasmuch as he is Catholic, derogatory remarks regarding Catholics were not made in his presence.

When questioned concerning any individuals who might dislike him and furnish false information concerning his alleged association with RAY, VELANTI mentioned the following individuals:

JOHNNY SHELTON, white, male, age 28, believed presently back in MSP on an armed robbery charge from Kansas City, Missouri;

MIKE NOVOGRADIC (phonetic), white, male, age 26, believed to be doing 25 years at MSP on a charge of assault and molestation from Kansas City;

"BUGA RED" TOWNSEND, white, male, doing life at MSP for killing a priest.

Date May 22, 1968

JOSEPH H. MC CORMICK, 2115a Park, Apartment #5, was re-interviewed at the St. Louis Federal Bureau of Investigation office and furnished the following information:

He has known JACK GAWRON for approximately 15 years. He met JACK GAWRON when the two of them were working out of Manpower, Incorporated, St. Louis, Missouri. He has associated with JACK since that time, but has been very close to JACK for only the past five years. When he first met JACK, JACK was residing in the vicinity of Mississippi and Hickory, St. Louis, Missouri. JACK's home was near Homer Townsley's Neighborhood Bar. He and JACK often drank at this bar. MC CORMICK pointed out that TOWNSLEY is no longer in business and he is presently a bondsman at the St. Louis area.

MC CORMICK again viewed photographs of RAY as depicted on Federal Bureau of Investigation wanted flyer number 442-A. He advised that he does not recall ever having seen this man. Although he associated with JACK GAWRON in 1958 and 1959, he does not recall subject RAY having lived or associated with GAWRON.

MC CORMICK was shown a standup photograph of subject, RAY, taken by the St. Louis Police Department, at the time of RAY's arrest in 1959. MC CORMICK advised that he knows this man and recalls having drank with him at TOWNSLEY's at Mississippi and Hickory. MC CORMICK was then quite sure he knew the man and insisted that he had seen him before, however, he advised that he has not seen RAY since GAWRON moved from the vicinity of Mississippi and Hickory.

MC CORMICK pointed out that he visits GAWRON at GAWRON's residence practically every evening after work. He has never seen the subject, RAY, at GAWRON's place.

Regarding a conversation between he and GAWRON concerning the subject, MC CORMICK advised that approximately six weeks ago, the first part of April, 1968, GAWRON started talking about RAY. MC CORMICK does not recall GAWRON mentioning RAY prior to this time. MC CORMICK recalls that this was approximately the time that subject, RAY's, photograph

On 5/15/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 974  
by SA GEORGE M. PEET  
SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD WHW/leh Date dictated 5/17/68

SL 44-775

was published in the newspaper. He advised that just he and GAWRON were drinking at GAWRON's house when GAWRON mentioned RAY.

GAWRON refers to subject, RAY, as JIMMY, and told MC CORMICK that RAY was his "foster son." GAWRON stated that he and RAY "took a couple of joints together." MC CORMICK understood him to mean that they had pulled armed robberies together. GAWRON did not state when and where these holdups occurred. GAWRON also stated that RAY had escaped from the penitentiary.

MC CORMICK at first advised that GAWRON stated he had seen RAY approximately six weeks before RAY's picture was published in the paper. Later in the interview, MC CORMICK advised GAWRON had stated he saw RAY six weeks ago. This would have been around the first of April according to MC CORMICK. The discrepancy in the dates on which GAWRON supposedly saw RAY were brought to MC CORMICK's attention. He stated he was confused as to exactly when this meet was supposed to have occurred and does not recall if it was six weeks prior to RAY's photograph appearing in the paper, or simply six weeks ago. He did state that the meet supposedly occurred near the intersection of 18th and Lafayette, St. Louis, Missouri. MC CORMICK pointed out that there is a drug store and a couple of bars at this location, and assumes that the meet took place in a bar. At this point, MC CORMICK advised that it was at this time that GAWRON and RAY supposedly pulled the armed robberies together. MC CORMICK advised that this was the impression that he got from JACK. However, he advised that it was equally possible that JACK was referring to armed robberies pulled by him, GAWRON, and RAY in 1959 or earlier.

GAWRON has advised him that he, GAWRON, has been talking to the FBI about RAY. GAWRON did not state whether or not he was telling the truth to the FBI. GAWRON stated he was scared and that he did not like to be bothered by the FBI.

MC CORMICK advised that he was arrested last September for the theft of a television set. He is now on nine months probation for this offense. He was in the city jail, cell number 22 with a JIMMY (last name unknown). JIMMY has within the past week, began coming to GAWRON's home. At the time that he and JIMMY were in jail, GAWRON and JAMES RAMSEY were also in jail. MC CORMICK was in jail approximately

SL 44-775

two months. GAWRON was released before him, and JIMMY was released only recently. While in jail, he overheard no conversation between JIMMY and GAWRON regarding RAY. He advised at that time GAWRON and RAMSEY were in jail for the burglary of Art's Tavern, Soulard and South 11th Streets.

He recalls that sometime ago, the exact date unknown to him, RAMSEY, GAWRON and someone else went to Arkansas to rob a variety store. They had previously cased this store. MC CORMICK recalled that they did not rob this store as they had planned for some reason unknown to him.

Regarding the financial status of GAWRON, MC CORMICK advised that GAWRON generally has a couple of hundred dollars with him all the time. He stated that GAWRON receives a Government check and plays cards frequently. He advised that GAWRON also has an account at Manufacturer's Bank on South Broadway.

MC CORMICK advised that GAWRON has no telephone, but frequently goes out to make telephone calls at a pay phone located in front of a Catholic church at 12th and Lafayette, St. Louis.

It is his opinion that GAWRON would not tell the FBI where RAY is, even if he knew. He stated that GAWRON is "a little nuts." He stated he believes this because of the fact that GAWRON keeps approximately fifteen cats in his home and one dog. GAWRON kisses the cats and refers to them as "baby." He stated that GAWRON sleeps with all the cats and his dog.

MC CORMICK advised that he lived next door to JACK at 1805 South 11th Street downstairs with JIM RAMSEY for approximately two months. He recalls that he lived there at the time JACK was arrested in June, 1967. He did not see the subject, RAY, in the vicinity of JACK's home at that time.

MC CORMICK described RAMSEY as a "loud mouth, who would come in on anybody." He stated that he is sure that RAMSEY would tell the FBI if he had any knowledge of RAY. MC CORMICK pointed out that he would certainly tell the FBI if he knew where RAY was at present. He pointed out that he will immediately contact the FBI should any information concerning RAY become known to him.

SL 44-775

Regarding any trips that GAWRON may have taken recently, MC CORMICK advised that he knows of no trips with the exception of the preceding Monday and Tuesday nights when JACK did not come home until two or three a.m. He knows that JACK came home this late, only because JACK told him so. He advised that this is not like JACK and he assumes that JACK may have gone to Madison, Illinois, on these nights to pick up a pistol for JIMMY (last name unknown) and a man from Louisiana, who have recently been frequenting JACK's residence.

MC CORMICK advised that JACK has never mentioned to him anyone ever having given him \$250 or any bank loot.

MC CORMICK advised that it was not possible for RAY to have stayed with JACK when he, MC CORMICK, resided at 1805 South 11th Street. He pointed out that at that time he and JACK were so closely associated that he would have surely seen RAY had he been in the area.

The following description of MC CORMICK was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	JOSEPH M. MC CORMICK
Address	2115a Park, Apartment 5
Telephone	None
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Sioux City, Iowa
Height	5'9"
Weight	170 pounds
Hair	Black-gray
Eyes	Hazel, wears glasses,
	left eye noticeably crossed
Employed	Bee Line Trucking Company, Incorporated, 718 South 7th Street, as mechanic's helper.
Health	Suffered nervous breakdown, 1955, spent one month in Malcolm Bliss Hospital, St. Louis
Characteristics	Throughout the interview it was noticed that MC CORMICK is very nervous, easily be- comes confused, and often contradicts himself.

SL 44-775

Criminal Record

Admits no felonies,  
has served time in work-  
house, now on probation  
to THOMAS MANGOGNA, St.  
Louis Municipal Courts  
Building.

Date May 22, 1968

MARIE MC MURTY, 1634 South 18th Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was interviewed at her residence and furnished the following information:

She was employed as a waitress at Opal's Bar, 1805 Lafayette, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1958, or 1959.

She viewed photographs of subject, JAMES EARL RAY as depicted on Federal Bureau of Investigation wanted flyer number 442-A dated April 19, 1968. She advised that she does not recall ever having seen RAY at Opal's Bar and that the name, JAMES EARL RAY, had no significance to her prior to the recent publicity concerning him.

MC MURTY advised she would immediately advise the FBI should she gain any information concerning RAY.

---

On 5/15/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 975  
by SA JACK WILLIAMS *zlw*  
SA WILLIAM E. WARFIELD *WW* / WWH/leh Date dictated 5/17/68

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.

Date May 22, 1968

OPAL HIGHLY, 1630 South 18th Street, was interviewed at her residence and furnished the following information:

She formerly was the operator of Opal's Bar, 1805 Lafayette. She advised that she ran Opal's Bar at this location from 1947 until 1961. From September, 1939, until 1945 she operated a bar, also known as Opal's Bar, at a different location near 18th and Lafayette, St. Louis, Missouri.

She viewed photographs of subject, JAMES EARL RAY, as depicted on Federal Bureau of Investigation wanted flyer number 442-A dated April 19, 1968. She advised that the two photographs appearing on the left side of the wanted flyer appear to be familiar but that she cannot associate the face with a name or place. She advised that she has read accounts of the MARTIN LUTHER KING slaying in the newspaper and advised that this picture may appear familiar to her inasmuch as she has previously seen it in the newspaper.

HIGHLY pointed out that she does not recall the names of patrons frequently visiting her bar. She did know some of her patrons by their first names. The name JAMES RAY means nothing to her.

She is acquainted with a JACK (last name unknown) who limps, and has been in and out of the penitentiary all of his life. She advised that JACK (last name unknown) would now be approximately 70 years old. He used to live around Kennett Place, or another nearby street. She advised that she did not recall this man until recently when the man spoke with an associate of her, TED RICHARDSON, who also works for her. This man advised that his name was JACK and told RICHARDSON to ask HIGHLY if she remembered him. HIGHLY pointed out that she did not remember him at that time. Later, JACK (last name unknown) again contacted RICHARDSON and told RICHARDSON to tell HIGHLY that he was the man who used to come in her place with a big woman and a boy who liked to dance. Upon receipt of this information, HIGHLY recalled JACK as a frequent patron at Opal's Bar. He always came in with a big woman who drank beer. This was approximately fifteen years ago. The woman who accompanied JACK had a boy

On 5/15/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 976  
by SA F. JACK WILLIAMS  
SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD *WHW* /leh Date dictated 5/17/68



SL 44-775

about fifteen years old. The boy liked to dance and often danced at the bar.

HIGHLY does not believe that the dancing boy was subject, JAMES EARL RAY. She noted that the dancer would only be about 30 years of age at this time.

HIGHLY advised that she was always at the bar during its hours of operation and was well acquainted with the customers. She advised that a LESTER GUIBOR, presently employed at National Fixture, 7000 South Broadway, used to tend bar for her. She advised that MARIE MC MURTY, 1634 South 18th Street, was employed by her in Opal's Bar as a waitress.

HIGHLY advised that should she gain any information concerning JAMES EARL RAY, she would immediately contact the FBI.

Date May 22, 1968

JOSEPH H. MC CORMICK, 2115a Park, Apartment #5, was interviewed at his place of employment, Bee Line Trucking Company, 718 South 7th Street, St. Louis, Missouri. MC CORMICK furnished the following information:

He viewed photographs of subject, JAMES EARL RAY, as depicted on Federal Bureau of Investigation wanted flyer 442-A dated April 19, 1968. MC CORMICK advised that he did not know this man, and had never heard anyone speak of him.

MC CORMICK at first denied having lived in the 1800 block of South 11th Street, but later in the interview did admit that he resided with one JIM RAMSEY at 1805 South 11th Street, approximately four months ago. He advised that he and RAMSEY resided at this address for approximately two months.

He stated that RAMSEY worked in a shipyard in St. Louis in the vicinity of 8300 South Broadway. RAMSEY is currently in Waldenberg, Arkansas, where he supposedly has relatives. MC CORMICK advised that prior to moving to the South 11th Street address he resided at 1910 Rutger. In May of 1967, MC CORMICK believes that he lived at 809 Allen rear.

MC CORMICK advised that he is acquainted with JACK GAWRON and that he used to work with GAWRON out of Manpower, Incorporated, St. Louis, Missouri. He advised that he last saw GAWRON that morning on the way to work. He explained that GAWRON is a good friend of his and he often sees him both in the morning, prior to going to work, and in the evening after work. MC CORMICK first denied ever having heard GAWRON mention the name of JAMES EARL RAY. Later in the interview, MC CORMICK advised that he had heard GAWRON mention the name of RAY. GAWRON had advised him that RAY was his "foster son." GAWRON also told him that he, GAWRON, and RAY had "poked up" a couple of places. GAWRON did not mention when or where these holdups occurred, nor did he mention the amount obtained. MC CORMICK recalled that GAWRON advised him that he had seen subject, RAY, approximately six weeks ago. MC CORMICK advised that he was unaware of the location or circumstances of this meet.

On 5/15/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 977  
by SA F. JACK WILLIAMS *FW*  
SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD *WHW* /leh Date dictated 5/17/68

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.

SL 44-775

With respect to associates of GAWRON, MC CORMICK advised that GAWRON drinks frequently at Peanut's Bar, 1601 Park, St. Louis, Missouri. GAWRON associates with the owner of this bar, known only as PEANUTS to MC CORMICK. GAWRON also associates with one ORVILLE "WHITEY" KILLION, who resides at 1617a Park. KILLION often runs poker games at his residence, and GAWRON frequents the poker games held there. According to MC CORMICK, KILLION is presently at Koch Hospital suffering from tuberculosis. KILLION reports to the hospital at given intervals for treatment.

Last Monday, two ex-convicts came to GAWRON's home. One of these men was a JIMMY (last name unknown) who MC CORMICK described as a white male, 65, 5'8", wearing a felt hat. The other man, name unknown, MC CORMICK described as a white male, 40s, 5'7", 160 pounds, short and thin with black hair. This man is from Louisiana. JIMMY at one time robbed a bar at Grand and Chouteau.

Last night, May 14, 1968, the same two men returned to GAWRON's residence. GAWRON gave the man from Louisiana a "silver plated" .38 caliber, snubnose revolver. The man had requested this revolver from GAWRON on the preceding Monday night. Although GAWRON did not specifically state so, MC CORMICK believes this gun was obtained by GAWRON in Madison, Illinois. GAWRON has spoken to him of connections that he has at a bar in Madison, Illinois. Something was wrong with this gun because when held up the bullet would fall out of it. GAWRON and the man from Louisiana taped the bullets in the gun. According to MC CORMICK this man wanted the gun to hold up a couple of places.

The man from Louisiana offered him, MC CORMICK, \$250 to kill a man. The man from Louisiana did not mention the prospective victim's name or why he wanted the man killed. MC CORMICK advised that he declined this offer and would not kill a man for \$1,000 much less \$250.

MC CORMICK said he is convinced that GAWRON saw subject, RAY, in St. Louis. He pointed out that GAWRON has not left the St. Louis area to his knowledge, and that he visits GAWRON daily.

Approximately one week ago, GAWRON told him that RAY is presently in Algiers. MC CORMICK understood him to mean

SL 44-775

that RAY was out of the continental United States. GAWRON did not say, and MC CORMICK has no idea of the source of this information.

Date 6/25/68

JERRY RAY was interviewed outside the Grapevine Tavern, Illinois and Arsenal Avenue, at which time he stated he had arrived in St. Louis the previous day and spent the night with his sister, CAROL PEPPER. He indicated that during the previous week he was in Chicago, Illinois, where he had been hiding in a Chicago hotel, which he had left un-named, in an effort to avoid reporters and newscasters. He indicated that while in St. Louis he will either stay with his sister, CAROL PEPPER, or at the St. Regis Hotel under the name of JERRY W. RYAN. He exhibited to the interviewing agent a recently obtained Illinois driver's license under that name. RAY stated that he intended to visit his father at Center, Missouri, tomorrow and then intended to return to St. Louis on Thursday, June 20, 1968. He then plans to leave for Memphis, Tennessee, on Friday, June 21, 1968, where he intends to obtain employment until after the trial of his brother, JAMES EARL RAY.

RAY stated that he has not heard from his brother in London, however, did make the comment that he still does not believe that his brother killed MARTIN LUTHUR KING and that he was paid to establish the ERIC STARVO GALT identity.

On 6/17/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 978  
by SA ROBERT A. HESS:hcv Date dictated 6/21/68

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.

Date 6/25/68

JOHN LARRY RAY was interviewed outside the Grapevine Tavern, Illinois and Arsenal Avenue, at which time he stated he had been closed the entire previous week for the safety of the patrons of the tavern, since on one occasion earlier in the week three car loads of Negroes were reported to be observing the tavern. He indicated that he had also been hiding from reporters but would not reveal the location where he had taken refuge.

RAY indicated he had opened this bar this date for business as usual and NAOMI REGAZZI is currently working as barmaid for him. JOHN RAY stated there was no truth in regards to newspaper accounts of him having received a telephone call from Canada and stated that he does not know anyone in Canada. He indicated that he believed the telephone at the Grapevine Tavern is tapped and that the FBI and other law enforcement agencies would probably be aware of all of his phone calls. He did not specifically state that he believed the FBI was responsible for tapping his phone.

RAY also stated that he has had no contact from his brother, JAMES EARL RAY, and he further has no intentions of going to London, England, to see him. He commented that he doubted if he could get a passport for such a trip. He further denied that he has at this time retained any lawyer for his brother. RAY did state that he has written to his brother in London and told him to get in touch with his sister, CAROL PEPPER, if he needs anything as CAROL is the one who is most accessible. He provided his brother with CAROL's current address and telephone number.

RAY was again questioned regarding source of income for his brother at which time he stated that his brother never had any real needs for money as he was always able to pick it up by ways of burglaries or robberies during his travels. He indicated this was, of course, the reason why he was sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary.

RAY indicated that he had recently sold his Thunderbird automobile and had purchased a 1963, four-door, white colored Chrysler for \$500 from a private individual.

RAY stated that his brother JERRY RAY had arrived in St. Louis on the previous day from Chicago, Illinois, and stayed last night with his sister, CAROL PEPPER. RAY stated that JERRY was at the time of interview inside the tavern and stated he wanted to talk to the interviewing agent.

On 6/17/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 979  
by SA ROBERT A. HESS:hcv Date dictated 6/21/68

Date June 5, 1968

JOHN LARRY RAY was located and interviewed while he was tending bar at the Grapevine Tavern at the intersection of Arsenal and Illinois.

RAY stated that he has not had any contact with his brother, JAMES EARL RAY, since last interviewed nor has he received any information regarding the whereabouts of his brother since he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). JOHN RAY did make the comment that he did believe his brother was probably out of the country or either he was deceased as he feels he would have been apprehended by this time.

RAY denied any contact with his brother, JERRY RAY, since JERRY was in St. Louis, either telephonically or by mail.

JOHN RAY was questioned regarding the whereabouts of CLARENCE HAYNES, at which time RAY stated that HAYNES is employed with a local drayage firm and is extremely difficult to locate during the daylight hours. He stated that HAYNES does reside at 1822 North 21st Street, however, it is unlikely that he normally spends much time at that location. RAY explained this by saying that HAYNES' wife RUBY is currently in the hospital for treatment of a heart ailment.

RAY stated that NAOMI REGAZZI has returned to work at the Grapevine Tavern since she worked the previous Saturday and several nights during the past week. RAY could not explain if she would be employed on a permanent or temporary basis since he had not discussed work arrangements with her.

An extended interview with RAY was not possible due to the entrance of several patrons into the tavern and, therefore, the interview was terminated.

On 5/28/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 980  
by SA ROBERT A. HESS/mjb Date dictated 5/31/68

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 13, 1968

WILLIAM E. RUSSELL, 9703 Holiday Gardens, residence phone 423-0460, was interviewed at that location at which time he provided the following information:

RUSSELL after being apprised of the identity of the interviewing agent stated that he was released from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) on April 5, 1968, after serving a total of 39 months for armed robbery. RUSSELL stated that he had received three six-year sentences and one five-year sentence, however, would not elaborate regarding his criminal activities leading to his conviction. RUSSELL commented that since he has been released from prison he has acquired a good job, has married and is making every effort to "go straight." He added that he has discontinued any association with his previous friends and did not desire in any way to furnish any information to any law enforcement agency for fear of reprisals and possibly getting him involved in illegal activity. RUSSELL after being advised of the explicit purpose of the interview stated that he had no objection talking about JAMES EARL RAY because he felt he had very little knowledge of RAY; however, it should not be expected that he would provide the names of any individuals who were connected with RAY or himself at the MSP.

RUSSELL indicated that he first met JAMES EARL RAY when he, RUSSELL, was working as an inmate barber and thus on several occasions had the occasion to cut RAY's hair. He stated he probably knew RAY approximately two to three years and described him as a very closed mouth individual who kept primarily to himself. RUSSELL added that by keeping to himself was part of the reason RAY tried so many escapes from the MSP and nearly pulled them off. He stated that no one really knew his plans, therefore, was ahead percentage wise on chances of being successful.

RUSSELL commented that he was not aware of anyone who was close to JAMES EARL RAY in the MSP; however, he added "anyone who says they knew JIM RAY real well are liars."

RUSSELL related that at the time of RAY's escape in April, 1967, RUSSELL was working on the farm and he has no knowledge of any of the details regarding RAY's escape. In regard to RAY's activities after the escape, RUSSELL stated that he does not know if RAY would have come to St. Louis, Missouri, and he stated he was not aware of where RAY's home is and attributed this fact to RAY's being extremely quiet in nature and it was not a subject that was ever discussed. RUSSELL

On 6/7/68 at Overland, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 981  
by SA ROBERT W. HESS/mjb Date dictated 6/11/68

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.



SL: 44-775

described RAY as being a man whom you would not know how smart or dumb he is simply by his being so quiet.

RUSSELL denied having any extended conversations with RAY and those occasions when they did talk most of the discussion concerned prison life, conditions therein, etc. RUSSELL acknowledged that RAY did use amphetamines; however, had no knowledge of RAY dealing in same. There was no discussion regarding travel inside or outside the United States and there was no indication by RAY of any knowledge of a foreign language.

RUSSELL stated that RAY is not a "muscle man"; however, he does not know if he is capable of killing anyone. He stated he has had no contact with RAY since RAY's escape, since he has no idea of RUSSELL's current whereabouts. RUSSELL is of the opinion that he would not help RAY if RAY should contact him; however, he does not feel that he would advise the FBI if he had been contacted by RAY.

RUSSELL was apprised of the provisions of the Harboring Statute and stated he was completely familiar with them; however, again reiterated that he would not help JAMES EARL RAY or anyone else.

All the known photos of JAMES EARL RAY were exhibited to RUSSELL and he stated the one taken in 1966 at the MSP is the one most familiar to him and resembles RAY as RUSSELL knew him.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 13, 1968

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, Rural Free Delivery, Center, Missouri, on May 9, 1968, advised that he had heard nothing whatever from subject.

Mr. RAYNES volunteered that his sons JOHN and JERRY had visited him he believed the night of Monday, May 6, 1968, and had departed early on the following morning. He described them as "a couple of idiots" and stated that most of their visit was spent in arguing. Both were drinking heavily. He said JOHN appeared angry with JERRY and indicated his resentment as well as that of their sister, CAROL PEPPER, of JERRY's action in having sold Life Magazine a story about the family which they both agreed had been half lies.

It was Mr. RAYNES' understanding that JERRY had received money for giving the Life interview and that such money was being used by him during his visit to St. Louis. He indicated his own personal resentment against JERRY for having given the magazine the story.

Mr. RAYNES stated it was his understanding that JERRY planned to return to the Chicago area soon and that he would not spend any further time with him at the farm during this trip. He stated that "JERRY is nuts, and there is no telling what he will actually do".

Mr. RAYNES indicated personal resentment of the article which had appeared in Life Magazine saying that the house in which the family had lived in Ewing, Missouri, had not had a dirt floor when the family lived in it as alleged by the magazine. He stated the house had not been in good shape but that he had worked hard to improve it.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he had lived some time with the children's mother, LUCILLE MAHER, in a common-law relationship before their marriage. He was unable to recall the date of their marriage but did remember that they were married by a Justice of the Peace in the State of Florida. He recalled that they had lived for awhile in Tallahassee, Florida, and indicated that the marriage might have occurred there.

---

On 5/9/68 at RFD Center, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 982  
by SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN *WRO*  
SA JAMES A. DUFFEY : pdp Date dictated 5/10/68

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.

SL: 44-775

Mr. RAYNES stated he had little formal education and experiences considerable difficulty in recalling dates, but he was sure that either in the late 1920's or early 1930's he was married to the children's mother in Florida under the name of JERRY RAYNES or JERRY RAYNS. He stated that lack of education was responsible for the two spellings he had used of his surname.

Mr. RAYNES further advised that approximately four days prior to the interview some reporter and his companion had attempted to force their way into his house but that he had refused to talk with them and had ordered them from the premises.

Mr. RAYNES reiterated previous statements that he had no contact with and no knowledge or information concerning the subject or his whereabouts following the subject's escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1967. He was unable to recall any statements or indications from any of his children that they had any further information concerning the subject in this regard.

Mr. RAYNES was again advised of the provisions of the Federal Harboring Statute. He promised he would contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation immediately in the event he receives any information concerning the subject or his whereabouts.

Date June 5, 1968

Mrs. ALBERT (CAROL) PEPPER, 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri, advised that she had received no additional information whatever bearing on the possible location of her brother, JAMES EARL RAY, since she was last interviewed.

Inquiry was made of Mrs. PEPPER as to whether, in the event she should receive some pertinent information regarding her brother, she would furnish such information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Mrs. PEPPER then stated that she would have no expectations whatever that her brother would communicate with her in any way, pointing out that he did not know her current address or her current unpublished telephone number. She added that she felt that he did not believe that he could expect any help from her and she said that, as a matter of fact, she would not be at all interested or willing to help him as she did not want herself and particularly her children to be in any way involved with him. She said that if she should hear from RAY and be convinced of his innocence she might find it difficult to furnish such information to the FBI. It was pointed out to Mrs. PEPPER that in the event RAY should be innocent or there should be any extenuating circumstances the entire matter would in any event be most readily resolved through locating RAY at the earliest possible time. Mrs. PEPPER expressed understanding and agreement with this idea.

Inquiry was made of Mrs. PEPPER as to her whereabouts and activities during the period between April and July, 1967. She said she was living at that period of time with her husband and two children at 712-a Shenandoah, St. Louis. She recalled that beginning in about the summer of 1966 and ending in about July or August, 1967, she was employed as a teacher's aide or assistant teacher in the "Head Start Program" at St. Joseph's School located at Twelfth and Russell Streets, St. Louis. In this employment she worked regularly during that period on Monday through Friday, each week, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 or 4:30 p.m. daily. This work involved the teaching of children three to five years of age. She was employed in this work by the Catholic Archdiocese on

On 6/5/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 923  
by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR:jfb 6/5/68  
SAA HOWARD C. KENNEDY OK Date dictated \_\_\_\_\_

SL: 44-775

Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, under Sister ANN CLARICE, Supervisor of the "Head Start Program" for this Archdiocese. She was paid for her work by check from the Archdiocese, although she understood that at least some of the funds for the "Head Start Program" were furnished the Archdiocese by the Human Development Corporation. Mrs. PEPPER recalled that she missed only one day from work during the entire period of her employment and that day was due to the illness of her youngest child.

Mrs. PEPPER said her first knowledge of the escape of her brother, JAMES EARL RAY, from the Missouri State Penitentiary was when she heard or read news reports regarding the escape but she is unable to recall the approximate time she heard such reports. However, since reported identification of RAY as the alleged assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING, Mrs. PEPPER has heard or read reports to the effect that his escape from the penitentiary was not officially reported or given publicity for perhaps several weeks after the escape occurred. Mrs. PEPPER, therefore, assumed that she herself would not have learned of the escape from news reports until perhaps several weeks after the escape.

Date May 28, 1968

Mrs. ALBERT (CAROL) PEPPER, 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri, was recontacted. She said she had understood that within the preceding two or three days, an interview with her brother, JOHN LARRY RAY, had been reported in the St. Louis Globe Democrat but she, herself, had not seen the article in the newspaper. She said she understood from her brother, JOHN LARRY RAY, that a reporter from the Globe Democrat had showed JOHN an article which had been written for publication in the St. Louis Post Dispatch newspaper and which was filled with untruths about the family. It was for this reason and in order that the truth might be furnished the press, that JOHN consented to the interview by a representative of the St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Mrs. PEPPER said that she had received no additional information whatever since she was last interviewed bearing on the possible whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY. She volunteered a statement to the effect that she feels certain that no member of the family has been contacted by JAMES EARL RAY or has been aware of his whereabouts since his escape except for what has appeared in the press. She said she felt sure that if any of the family had been contacted by RAY or had received some information regarding him she would certainly have known of it because the family would have told her.

On 5/24/68 at Maplewood, Missouri File # SL 44-775 *984*  
by SAA HOWARD C. KENNEDY  
SA ALBERT J. RUSHING *10/1/68* Date dictated 5/28/68

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.

Date 5-16-68

Mrs. ALBERT B. (CAROL) PEPPER was recontacted at her residence, 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri. She again specifically denied that she has had any contact with her brother, JAMES RAY, since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary in April, 1967, or that she has had any knowledge whatever of his whereabouts since that time other than what she has derived from the news media. Although Mrs. PEPPER expressed her willingness and intention to notify the FBI if she should at any time be contacted by him or if she should receive any information regarding him she stated that she would certainly not expect that he would contact her and she noted in that regard that RAY would not be aware of her current address or her new un-published telephone number. She further pointed out that other than their brother, JERRY RAY, who is in the Chicago area, she believes all of the family have moved since RAY's escape from the penitentiary and that JERRY RAY would, therefore, be the only one whose address would be known to JAMES RAY.

With regard to the Grapevine Tavern, Mrs. PEPPER commented that the tavern has barely been making expenses since it was opened about the first of the current year and, therefore, it may not continue in operation very long.

---

On 5-14-68 at Maplewood, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 985  
by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING  
SA HOWARD C. KENNEDY *HCK* AJR:amb Date dictated 5-15-68

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.

Date May 14, 1968

Mrs. ALBERT B. (CAROL ANN) PEPPER, 2025 Bellevue, stated her new unpublished telephone number is 645-9152. She was interviewed on May 10, 1968, by SAs HOWARD C. KENNEDY and ALBERT J. RUSHING at which time she furnished the following information:

Mrs. PEPPER is the sister of subject, JAMES EARL RAY, but is 13 years younger than subject and in all of her life has had very little contact or association with the subject having seen him only approximately three or four times in her life. These three or four times when she has seen him all occurred in the City of St. Louis after Mrs. PEPPER came to St. Louis when she was 16 years old to reside with her father in St. Louis and all of the occasions when she saw the subject were brief encounters such as when she saw him on the street. She believes the last time she saw the subject was probably in 1959 or earlier when she encountered him on the street in South St. Louis at which time she was in the company of their brother, FRANK (BUZZY) RAY, who is now deceased. Her first recollection of seeing him was following his discharge from military service.

Mrs. PEPPER was born [redacted] at Ewing, Missouri. She went to school at Quincy, Illinois, where she resided with her mother, LUCILLE RYAN. Mrs. PEPPER's birth certificate showed her name as RAYNES which she understands is an incorrect spelling of the name of her father, whose name is RAYNS and who now resides near Center, Missouri, to which location he recently moved from St. Louis, Missouri. Mrs. PEPPER prior to marriage, used the name CAROL RYAN, the same surname used by her mother, LUCILLE RYAN. Mrs. PEPPER is unable to account for the variations in the surnames and she is aware that various ones of her brothers and sister have used the surname RAY. So far as she knows they all had the same father although she expressed uncertainty in that regard and she assumes that the variations of the name are simply because her brothers and sisters decided to use the name RAY, a variation of the name RAYNS.

When Mrs. PEPPER was 16 years of age, she left her mother's residence in Quincy and came to St. Louis where she lived with her father at 1727 South 11th Street. She did

On 5/10/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 986  
by SA HOWARD C. KENNEDY  
SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR/leh Date dictated 5/10/68



SL 44-775

not attend school after she moved to St. Louis but had various jobs including a period of employment at Kresge's, a dime store, located on Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri, no longer in existence. She is not now employed. Her last employment having been by the Catholic Archdiocese in St. Louis as a teacher in the Head Start Program which was conducted at St. Joseph's School on South 12th Street in St. Louis. The later employment was for a period of about one year during the latter part of the residence of Mr. and Mrs. PEPPER at 712a Shenandoah, St. Louis, from which address they moved to their present address in the Maplewood in about October, 1967.

Sometime after Mrs. PEPPER came to St. Louis at the age of 16 years to reside with her father, her mother also came to St. Louis and resided with Mrs. PEPPER's maternal grandmother, MARY MAHER, at 1913 Hickory, St. Louis. Mrs. PEPPER however, did not at any time actually reside in St. Louis with her mother, although she occasionally spent brief periods of time with her mother at the mother's address. After the death of Mrs. PEPPER's mother in early 1961, Mrs. PEPPER did reside for a period of a few months with her grandmother, Mrs. MAHER, in St. Louis, until Mrs. PEPPER was married in St. Louis to ALBERT B. PEPPER in December, 1961.

Mrs. PEPPER and her husband have two children, ALBERT, age 6, and JIMMY, age 4.

After subject, JAMES EARL RAY, was arrested and convicted on the charge for which he was sent to the Missouri State Penitentiary, Mrs. PEPPER has not ever seen him again on any occasion. For a time after he went to the penitentiary she did write letters to him on behalf of her grandmother, Mrs. MAHER and used the latter's name in the letters and she continued this practice after the death of the grandmother in 1963, continuing to use the name of Mrs. MARY MAHER, who was an approved correspondent of subject's in the penitentiary. Mrs. PEPPER estimates that after the death of her grandmother she probably wrote no more than three or four letters to the subject at the penitentiary. She is unable to recall the last such letter she wrote to him but the last time may have been as late as the early part of 1967. She occasionally received a letter from subject while he was in the penitentiary and believes she received no more than two or three letters from him. Mrs. PEPPER did not ever visit subject at

SL 44-775

the penitentiary or attempt to do so and insofar as she knows her husband did not ever visit him at the penitentiary. She advised she has understood from her husband that the latter has never seen the subject in his life.

Mrs. PEPPER has not at any time had any contact either direct or indirect with the subject since his escape in 1967 from the Missouri State Penitentiary. She has no knowledge of any person who has had information regarding the subject's whereabouts and stated she could furnish no such information regarding his whereabouts. She, herself, first learned that he had escaped from the penitentiary when she heard it on the radio and she knew nothing about any plans for the escape. She stated she has had no indication that anyone in her family or otherwise has been in any way in contact with the subject or had information regarding his whereabouts since his escape.

Inquiry was made of Mrs. PEPPER regarding whether she recalled anything about the receipt of a money order in approximately January, 1967, which was reportedly in the amount of \$15.00 and was sent by an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary to the ALBERT PEPPER Stationery Company, 712a Shenandoah, St. Louis.

In response to direct questions concerning this matter, she advised that she may have received a money order on one occasion but to the best of her recollection, it was for \$2.00 or \$3.00 and it may have been in payment for magazines which her brother had requested she mail to him. It was her recollection that if she received a money order it was received earlier than January, 1967. She said she never at any time mailed magazines to him and does not recall what disposition she may have made of any money order after it was received. Later in the interview she said the money order may have been for as much as \$15.00 but she does not recall. She also acknowledged that she might have cashed such a money order but she cannot specifically remember having done so. In this connection, she said her memory is very vague.

In response to soliciting by interviewing agents, Mrs. PEPPER stated that she would be entirely willing to notify the St. Louis Office of the FBI if she should at any time in

SL 44-775

the future receive any information which might have bearing on locating the subject. She also stated that she would be entirely willing to be interviewed further in the event there should be any additional matters on which an interview with her would be desired.

Mrs. PEPPER said that her first knowledge of the subject's involvement in this matter was when she heard the news announcement on the radio and she said she has never had any information regarding the possible involvement other than that which has appeared in the news media. She said she had never known of anything in her brother's attitude or associations which would suggest any motive for his involvement in the killing of a Negro leader such as MARTIN LUTHER KING.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 13, 1968

JAMES DAVID DAILEY was interviewed at Portageville, Missouri, from 12:25 p.m. to 1:17 p.m., June 7, 1968. Interviewing Special Agents identified themselves to him by exhibition of their credentials at the outset. He was then warned of his rights by Special Agent DOBSON. DAILEY stated he was well aware of his rights and, that while he was quite willing to furnish any information in his possession concerning this case, he did not desire to execute a waiver of his rights or any other document.

He stated photographs of subject had been exhibited to him during previous interviews, and that he had viewed several photographs of subject on television and in various newspapers during recent weeks. He was positive in his own mind that he had never knowingly seen subject. He expressed the opinion that anyone who said he knew the subject would undoubtedly be motivated by personal animosity or by a desire to divert official attention from their own activities.

DAILEY likewise was unable to recall ever having seen any of the subject's relatives. He stated if he could see the relatives face-to-face, he might be able to remember some of them as persons he may have seen while he was living in St. Louis, Missouri, as he understood from newspapers some of them resided in areas where his restaurant and home were located, but in any event, he was certain he had no association with any of them, as their names were in no way familiar to him.

To the best of his knowledge, he worked at his restaurant in St. Louis, Missouri, each day during the period from April 23, to July 18, 1967. He had no records which would substantiate this belief but noted that a small restaurant of the type he operated in St. Louis usually requires the daily presence and effort of the owner to "break even."

He specifically denied making any trips to, or in the vicinities of, the Missouri State Prison at Jefferson City, Missouri, or the Renz Prison Farm, nearby, during this period. All such trips made by him were subsequent to the escape, apprehension and return of his boyhood friend, THOMAS B. CREWS, from the Missouri State Penitentiary during, he believed, September of 1967.

---

On 6/7/68 at Portageville, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 987  
by SA HAROLD R. DOBSON<sup>HRD</sup> and SA EDWARD M. MORELAND<sup>HRD</sup> HRD/klr Date dictated 6/11/68

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.

SL: 44-775

He recalled that during the fall of 1967, CREWS had appeared at his restaurant one evening and had confided to him that he had escaped. CREWS made no mention of the manner in which he had escaped but it appeared to DAILEY that he had probably stolen some civilian attire from a clothesline, as he was not in prison garb. CREWS indicated he had walked a considerable distance following his escape and had finally managed to obtain transportation on a bus bound for St. Louis.

DAILEY and CREWS "sat up all night talking." During their conversation, DAILEY attempted, to the best of his ability, to convince CREWS to give himself up, but was unsuccessful. CREWS was "scared to death" and appeared to be an extremely desperate individual. It was evident to DAILEY that, unless CREWS was successful in legitimately obtaining sufficient funds to continue his flight, he would undoubtedly "pull some job in which somebody might get hurt." Therefore, DAILEY gave him \$100. Two or three days thereafter, CREWS was apprehended and returned to the prison.

DAILEY stated he was well aware that his action in this regard constituted a violation of state harboring statutes, but he preferred to consider it as "insurance" against some innocent person getting hurt. He freely admitted what he had done to members of the St. Louis Police Department.

Following CREWS' return to the prison, it became apparent he was suffering from terminal cancer. Due to this fact, DAILEY has since visited him on several occasions and has attempted to secure his release through Jefferson City attorney DAVID BRANDON.

DAILEY stated specifically he had never visited or corresponded with CREWS at the prison prior to CREWS' escape and return.

DAILEY stated positively he had never known or aided the subject in any way, and had never been in a position to have assisted him in any manner. Neither he nor any member of his family have owned, controlled, or enjoyed the use of any rural or farm property anywhere, which might be used as a hiding place for an escapee, at any time subsequent to subject's escape.

SL: 44-775

He expressed the opinion that the subject is undoubtedly dead or out of the country as he would otherwise have been found by this time. He mentioned that the reward for subject's apprehension, which he understood had been offered by Memphis businessmen, was of sufficient size to cause anyone the subject might have contacted to turn him over to the authorities.

DAILEY further expressed the belief that it would be impossible for any prisoner to "simply walk out" with a crowd of visitors at the Missouri State Prison without the gross negligence or the connivance of prison guards.

DAILEY stated he would immediately contact the FBI in the event any information concerning subject or his whereabouts comes to his attention.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5-21-68

Mrs. ALBERT (CAROL) PEPPER, 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri, was interviewed at her residence, at which time she furnished the following information:

Mrs. PEPPER has received no information regarding her brother, JAMES EARL RAY (whome she refers to as JIM), since the last previous interview with her by the FBI.

Within the past several days, police officers from the St. Louis Police Department came to see Mrs. PEPPER indicating to her that they had received some inquiry from a newspaper, possibly "The Los Angeles Times" according to Mrs. PEPPER's recollection of what they said; this inquiry having to do with the finances of the RAY family. The police officers apparently came to see Mrs. PEPPER just to find out some general information about her, and they suggested to her that if people wanted to talk to her about her finances, she might want to obtain a lawyer. A representative of "The St. Louis Post Dispatch" newspaper also came to see Mrs. PEPPER within the preceding few days, but she refused to talk to him. Mrs. PEPPER has heard from an acquaintance that there was an article a few days ago in "The St. Louis Post Dispatch" which seemed to be a rehash of the erroneous information which appeared in a "Life Magazine" article concerning the RAY family, but Mrs. PEPPER herself did not read this newspaper article.

Mrs. PEPPER and her family went to see her father at Center, Missouri, over the preceding weekend, May 18-19, 1968. She has been customarily going to see him there during weekends and usually takes him groceries. She is the one in the family who maintains contact with the father and looks after his needs. The farm which the father bought about six months ago is believed to consist of about forty acres of which a little is probably tillable, and she thinks her father will grow corn on this part of the farm, but the remainder is suitable only for livestock and grazing. She thinks that he paid some amount in the neighborhood of \$2,600 for this farm. Mrs. PEPPER is uncertain in her recollection, but believes it may be correct that she gave him a check drawn on her account in the amount of \$1,900 at the time he was purchasing this farm and which was applied to the purchase. If so, this money

On 5-20-68 at Maplewood, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 988  
by SA HARRY C. JUNG  
SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR:ral Date dictated 5-20-68

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.



SL 44-775

would have been his money. Mrs. PEPPER sometimes keeps his money in her checking account or savings account, and she thinks this may have occurred in this instance. On the other hand, she may have given him such a check as a loan, but she is uncertain in her recollection. Sometime before her father purchased the farm, he sold the property in St. Louis which he formerly owned at 1819 Park, this property consisting of a two-story residential building. Mrs. PEPPER believes he received something like \$2,800 from the sale of this property. She believes that the \$1,900 which she may have returned to him in the form of her check represented part of the proceeds of the sale of that property which he gave her to keep for him in her account. In any event Mrs. PEPPER is certain that she did not herself pay for any part of the purchase of the farm by her father, and if she gave him the check for \$1,900, this was a return of his money or a loan.

While Mrs. PEPPER's father resided in St. Louis before the purchase of the farm at Center, Missouri, he had various jobs, such as, service station attendant, and he also at one time operated a second-hand store where he sold junk. This business was also located on Park Avenue, but was somewhere east of Twelfth Street, a considerable distance from 1819 Park. Her father did not own the property where he conducted this second-hand business.

Until Mr. and Mrs. PEPPER moved to their present residence in the fall of 1967, Mrs. PEPPER was always employed ever since their marriage in December of 1961. During that period of time, they have practiced thrift and economy and have always endeavored to save something from their income. They opened a savings account several years ago at the Bohemian Savings and Loan Association on South Eighteenth Street in St. Louis in the same area where they resided. A few years ago when the Bohemian Savings and Loan Association was moved to a remote section of the city, they transferred their savings account to the Manufacturers Bank and Trust Company, where they have continued to have a joint savings account. ALBERT PEPPER has been employed for more than three years by the Ace Construction and Engineering Company, which is affiliated with the New Market Hardware Store. His earnings in this employment is \$3 per hour, and in some weeks he works overtime on Saturdays. Mrs. PEPPER's last employment was with



SL 44-775

the "Head Start" School Program, and she was employed there by the Catholic Archdiocese being paid at the rate of \$60 per week. She had this employment for about a year until Mr. and Mrs. PEPPER moved in the fall of 1967 to their present address. Her last employment before that was in cleaning work at an office building at 1015 Locust in St. Louis. Because she and her husband have always endeavored to be economical and saving in the handling of their family finances, they were able to accumulate funds in their savings account. When they contracted in the fall of 1967 to purchase the house where they now live for a purchase price of \$10,500, they withdrew the necessary money for the downpayment from their savings account.

Mrs. PEPPER has no idea and no knowledge as to whether her father may ever have given Mrs. PEPPER's brother, JOHN LARRY RAY, any funds to hold for her father.

Mrs. PEPPER has no information regarding a trip to California made by her brother, JOHN LARRY RAY, in the summer of 1967 and never knew or heard that he made such a trip.

One of the places in St. Louis where Mrs. PEPPER lived with her father prior to her marriage was 1727 South Eleventh Street. She believes her brother BUZZY lived with them there part of the time, but she is certain that her brother JIM never lived with them there. Mrs. PEPPER never had any knowledge of her brother JIM having used the name O'CONNOR, and she never knew of any bank accounts he may have had at any bank at any time. In fact, Mrs. PEPPER had so little contact or knowledge of her brother JIM that she can now recall having seen him only on possibly a couple of occasions when she was small and shortly after he was discharged from military service, and she recalls seeing him on one occasion on the street in South St. Louis at some later time after she moved to St. Louis with her father. Although Mrs. PEPPER was known as CAROL RYAN as of 1959, she has no knowledge or recollection of having received any checks from her brother JIM or from any person under the name JAMES CARL O'CONNOR, either in 1959 or any other time. She can think of no reason why she might ever have received any such checks. Mrs. PEPPER is certain that she has never had any financial dealings of any type with her brother JIM in her life.

SL 44-775

With regard to the matter of a money order directed from an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary to the Albert Pepper Stationery Company, 712 Shenandoah, St. Louis, Mrs. PEPPER has still been unable to remember anything further regarding such a matter since she was previously interviewed regarding this matter. She still does vaguely remember that someone told her one time while he was in the penitentiary that he wanted magazines sent to him, but she cannot remember having sent magazines to him and cannot recall that she was ever reimbursed for doing so. She is certain, however, that there was never any Albert Pepper Stationery Company at 712 Shenandoah.

Mrs. PEPPER has no recollection that she has ever known of a person named Y. P. WEBBE or V. P. WEBBE, and this name is not in any way familiar or significant to her.