SA JOHN L. PUDDISTER
May 2, 1968 JACKSON
pp. 905-920

SA HOWARD H. RICE
May 13, 1968 NEWARK
pp. 921-942

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JOHN L. PUDDISTER Office: JACKSON
Date: May 2, 1968

Field Office File #: JN 157-9586 Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
(DECEASED) - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: Motels and Standard service stations on major highways in North Central and Northeastern section of State of Miss. contacted in attempt to identify individual depicted in artist conception of ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as Harry Lowmeyer, John Willard. Color photo received from Memphis FBI Office of a bedspread and bath towel exhibited to personnel at motels in attempt to identify as being property of the particular motel with negative results. Investigation at Southaven Minnow Shop, Highway 51, Southaven, Miss., just south of the Tenn. State Line, disclosed this shop is the only establishment located which handled Schlitz 12-ounce beer in pop-top cans, as well as Homestead Stubby No. 20, brown paper bags. One empty Schlitz beer can and one brown paper bag obtained from Southaven Minnow Shop and forwarded to FBI Lab., Washington, D. C., for examination purposes. Results of FBI Lab. examination discloses brown paper bag similar in all observable characteristics to paper bag previously submitted. Personnel at minnow shop unable to identify artist conception and unable to identify photo of JAMES EARL RAY as depicted on Wanted Flyer No. 442-A. IN VIEW OF THE CRIME FOR WHICH SUBJECT BEING SOUGHT, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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DETAILS:

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JN 157-9586
JWS/bls
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The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES W. SAMMON:

On the dates indicated, motels and Standard Service Stations on the below listed major highways in north central and northeastern portion of the State of Mississippi were contacted in this matter. Personnel at motels were exhibited composite drawings of ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as John Willard, Harvey Lowmeyer, received from the Memphis and Birmingham Divisions, along with a color photograph of a bedspread and bath towel received from the Memphis Division. Personnel at these motels failed to identify the composite photographs of GALT, as well as the bedspread or towel as property of their particular motel. The guest registration cards of motels contacted were personally checked by SA JAMES W. SAMMON from the period of March 29 to April 5, 1968, inclusive in an effort to determine if any guest using the name GALT, WILLARD, or LOWMEYER registered at that motel. These checks met with negative results.

Standard Service Stations on the indicated highways were also contacted and personnel at those service stations were also exhibited artist's conceptions of GALT, along with the colored photographs of the Standard Oil map of the United States and the Standard Oil map of Georgia - Alabama. Personnel at these service stations were questioned regarding a 1966 white Mustang with an Alabama tag. Contacts at these service stations also met with negative results.

April 10, 1968 - Highway 55 Interstate and Highway 51, north from Batesville, Mississippi, to the Tennessee State Line. Highway 78 southeast from the Tennessee State Line to the City Limits of Holly Springs, Mississippi.

April 11, 1968 - Highways 78, 6, and 45 within the City Limits of Tupelo, Mississippi. Highway 45 north from Tupelo, Mississippi, to Corinth, Mississippi. Highways 45

and 72 within the City Limits of Corinth, Mississippi.

April 12, 1968 - Highway 78 East from Tupelo, Mississippi, to the Alabama State Line. Highway 45 South from Tupelo, Mississippi, to Columbus, Mississippi. Highway 82 East from Mayhew, Mississippi, to the Alabama State Line. Highways 82 and 45 East within the City Limits of Columbus, Mississippi.

April 13,1968 - Highway 82 West from Columbus, Mississippi, to Winona, Mississippi. Highway 51 North from Winona, Mississippi, to Grenada, Mississippi. Interstate 55 and Highway 51 North from Grenada, Mississippi, to Batesville, Mississippi.

April 16, 1968 - Highway 72 from the Alabama State Line to the Tennessee State Line. Highway 78 Southeast from Holly Springs, Mississippi, to Tupelo, Mississippi.

April 17, 1968, Highway 45 East from Shannon, Mississippi, to Columbus, Mississippi. Highway 278 East from Highway 45 East from New Wren, Mississippi, to the Alabama State Line. Highway 6 West from Tupelo, Mississippi, to Batesville, Mississippi. The notes from contacts with personnel at motels and Standard Oil Service Stations are being maintained in the Jackson file regarding this matter.

The following motels affiliated with Friendship Inns were contacted on the indicated dates and personnel there were interviewed as set forth above and in addition, the color photograph containing the Friendship Inn Cashmire Bouquet soap wrapper was exhibited with negative results.

MARY MILTON, Registration Clerk, Townhouse Motel, Friendship Inn, Highway 45 South, Tupelo, Mississippi, which motel uses Camay soap with Friendship Inn wrapper, on April 11, 1968.

Mrs. BROOKS PHILLIPS, Southern Motel, Friendship Inn, Corinth, Mississippi, which motel does handle Cashmire Bouquet with Friendship Motel wrapper, on April 11, 1968.

However, Southern Motel was negative on photographs of GALT; negative on bedspread; and negative on bath towel.

Mrs. ANNIE LOUISE HUDSON, Marshall Motel, Friendship Inn, Highway 45 North, West Point, Mississippi, contacted April 12, 1968.

WILLIAM DOVES, Registration Clerk, Columbus Motel, Friendship Inn, Highway 82 East, Columbus, Mississippi, does not use soap wrapped with Friendship paper, contacted April 12, 1968.

The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES W. SAMMON on April 15, 1968, in the Southaven, Mississippi, area, Highway 51, south of the Tennessee State Line in Mississippi.

The following dealer outlets in that area were contacted in an effort to determine if they had any twelve-ounce Schlitz pop-top beer cans with the brewery date of March 15, 1968, which was sold by them in six packs held with a plastic ring. The following beer outlets in that area were contacted on April 15, 1968, with negative results:

SHIRLEY JERET, Stop and Go Store, Highway 51 South.

MARY SNELL, Cashier, BILL RAGLAND, Manager, and LESTER ENOCHS, Stock Man, A and P Supermarket, Highway 51 South, Southaven, Mississippi.

BILL BEALE, Seven Eleven Store, Highway 51 South, Southaven, Mississippi.

MARY DRUMMOND, Drummond Drive-Inn, Highway 51 South, Southaven, Mississippi.

The composite photographs of GALT from Memphis and Birmingham were also exhibited to the above individuals at beer outlets in Southaven, Mississippi, with negative results.

In contacting motels on Highway 51 North on April 10, 1968, RAYMOND ROBINSON, owner of the Thrift Courts Motel

at Senatobia, Mississippi, advised that for the past three or four weeks, a white male, name unknown, 25 to 30 years old, had been staying at that motel. ROBINSON said that this individual is employed in Stray Horn, Mississippi, on Highway 4 where he is employed constructing a water tower. ROBINSON said that this individual drives a white Mustang with an Alabama license.

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Date 4/22/68

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DONALD DICKSON was located in Stray Horn, Mississippi, at the sight of the construction of a water tower. DICKSON said that he has been in the Senatobia, Mississippi, area for the past three weeks and that he is employed for R. D. Cole Manufacturing Company of Newnan, Georgia, which company constructs water towers. DICKSON said he has been so employed for the past nine years and is a foreman of that company.

DICKSON said that on April 4, 1968, he was in bed asleep at the Thrift Courts Motel in Senatobia, Mississippi, when one of his employees came into the room advising him that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot and killed in Memphis, Tennessee. DICKSON said that an employee, TOM CANNON, and DOUG IVEY can vouch for his presence at the motel when KING was assassinated. DICKSON said that his 1967 white Mustang automobile was parked at the motel at that time.

DICKSON said that he is not responsible for the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, nor can he furnish any information in that regard.

The following is a description of DICKSON obtained through observation and interview:

Sex:	Male
Race:	White
Age:	29
Date of Birth:	June 4, 1938
Place of Birth:	Fayetteville, Georgia
Residence:	Route 1, Fayetteville, Georgia
Height:	6 feet
Weight:	160
Eyes:	Brown

On 4/10/68 at Stray Horn, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA JAMES W. SAMMON/bls Date dictated 4/15/68

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Hair:	Light brown, short, curly, and parted
Complexion:	Ruddy
Build:	Slender
Education:	10th grade
Marital Status:	Single
Military Service:	U.S. Army, 53348507 from 1961 to 1963 - honorable
Employment:	Foreman for R.D. Cole Manufacturing Company, Newnan, Georgia, for past nine years
Automobile:	1967 white Mustang, 1968 Georgia license 112-D-484
Previous Arrests:	No admits

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/22/68

DONALD SEWELL, employee, 7-11 Store, Number 34, 6099 Millbranch, Southaven, Mississippi, after being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the investigation, furnished the following information:

He stated that the 7-11 Store purchases its beer from the Service Beverage Company at Clarksdale, Mississippi.

He stated that the Schlitz delivery man appears at that store every Wednesday.

He advised after examining his stock of Schlitz 12 ounce pop top cans that he had two six packs in his refrigerator with the date March 15, 1968. He stated that this 7-11 Store uses Toreador paper sacks. He advised they do not utilize a number or size 20 paper sack.

He was displayed artist's conception drawings from Birmingham and Memphis, Tennessee.

SEWELL recalled that in the latter part of March, 1968, a white male approximately 5'9" to 5'10" in height, age 27 to 28 years of age, small frame, with a dark crew hair cut, wearing a gray suit with black pin stripes, glasses with black rims, purchased beer at that store.

SEWELL stated that he could not recall what brand of beer this individual bought or how he paid for it.

SEWELL stated that he recalled this incident as the authorities in Memphis, Tennessee, had put a curfew on beer and liquor sales and that at the same time this individual was in the checkout line, a highway patrolman came to the store and told him to cut off beer sales.

On 4/15/68 at Southaven, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA KENNETH P. HUGHES/pac Date dictated 4/19/68

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According to SEWELL, the patrolman adised him that the individuals in line could make their purchases but no other individuals would be allowed to purchase beer. SEWELL estimated the time at 3:30 p.m.

He stated that he recalled this incident as after this white male purchased the beer, he, SEWELL, had to request him to leave the store as he was "cursing" due to the fact that the beer sales had been cut off.

SEWELL stated that he had to tell this individual to leave the store.

SEWELL again stated that he believes this incident took place during the latter part of March, 1968, when the City of Memphis first experienced racial problems.

SEWELL stated that he had never seen this individual before and has not seen him since. He stated he did not see which way he turned when he left the store nor did he observe an automobile.

He stated that this individual vaguely resembled the artist's conception drawing from Birmingham.

SEWELL stated that he doubted he could recognize this individual if he saw him again.

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Dole 4/22/68

Located at the Southaven Minnow Shop, Highway 51, just south of the Tennessee State Line in Mississippi, were numerous six packs of Schlitz twelve-ounce beer in the pop-top can, held together in the six pack with a plastic ring, which beer was brewed by the date March 15, 1968. A can of this beer was obtained.

Also located in that minnow shop was a brown paper bag stamped "Homestead. Stubby. 20". One of the brown paper bags was obtained.

BILL and JANE MC LAUGHLIN and their son WILLIE MC LAUGHLIN, the proprietors of that minnow shop, were all interviewed in this matter, and composite photographs of GALT exhibited to them with negative results. Neither they nor LAWRENCE PARKER, a frequent customer to the minnow shop, could identify GALT by photograph, nor did they recall an individual driving a white Mustang with an Alabama license purchasing a six pack of twelve-ounce pop-top Schlitz beer from their minnow shop.

Mr. MC LAUGHLIN advised that GUS (last name unknown), a salesman for the Service Beverage Company of Clarksdale, Mississippi, delivers their beer to them, and that from his records, on April 1, 1968, he purchased 17 cases of twelve-ounce Schlitz pop-top beer; on April 10, eight cases; on April 11, six cases; and on April 15, 1968, two cases.

It was noted that the Southaven Minnow Shop is one-half mile south on Highway 51 from the Tennessee State Line in Mississippi and exactly three miles south of the Oliver Rexall Drug Store on Highway 51, Whitehaven, Memphis, Tennessee.

On 4/15/68 at Southaven, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA JAMES W. SAMMON/bls Date dictated 4/19/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/22/68

LEW HOUSTON, Manager of Service Beverage, a Schlitz Beer Distributor, Clarksdale, Mississippi, advised that all their beer is brewed and sent to them from their Schlitz Brewery in Longview, Texas.

HOUSTON said that GUS THOMPSON is their truck salesman to the Southaven, Mississippi, area and does deliver Schlitz beer to the Southaven Minnow Shop in Southaven, Mississippi.

HOUSTON said on March 15, 1968, his company received 2100 cases of the twelve-ounce pop-top Schlitz beer from their Longview, Texas, brewery and all of that beer has been distributed.

HOUSTON said that on March 20, 1968, his company was shipped 924 cases of that beer from Longview, Texas, and that he has 35 cases of that particular beer left, which was brewed at Longview on March 15, 1968, which date is recorded on the cans. HOUSTON said that this particular shipment was sent on March 15, 1968, from Longview to him.

HOUSTON said that therefore all Schlitz beer brewed at Longview, Texas, on March 15, 1968, was received by him on March 20, 1968, and that of the 924 cases received, he has 35 cases remaining. HOUSTON said that from his records, the Southaven Minnow Shop on March 21, 1968, received four cases of the twelve-ounce pop-top Schlitz beer; on March 28, 1968, five cases; and on March 30, 1968, twelve cases. HOUSTON said that that beer received at the Southaven Minnow Shop would have been a portion of the beer brewed in Longview, Texas, on March 15, 1968, and received by him in Clarksdale on March 20, 1968.

On 4/17/68 at Clarksdale, Mississippi File# Jackson 157-9586

by SA JAMES W. SAMMON/bls Date dictated 4/19/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/22/68

Mr. V. P. WAIT, Manager, Senatobia Tobacco Company, was interviewed concerning the distribution of a Number 20 brown paper bag with the name "Homestead Stubby" written on it, at which time WAIT furnished the following information:

WAIT advised that Senatobia Tobacco Company is a branch of Pettis Cigar Company and that they (Senatobia Tobacco) do handle a Number 20 brown paper bag with the name "Homestead Stubby" on it.

WAIT advised that the Southaven Minnow Shop, located on Route 51, adjacent to the Mississippi - Tennessee State Line, is the only store that is presently purchasing this bag. WAIT stated that the Southaven Minnow Shop has presently been purchasing about 250 of these bags every two weeks.

WAIT further adised that the Southaven Minnow Shop is the only store that is presently buying that particular bag in that area. WAIT stated that the "Market Place", located on Route 51, across from the Southaven Minnow Shop, had purchased this particular bag around Christmas of 1967, but this had only been a one time order.

WAIT advised that the closest store to the Southaven Minnow Shop that is presently using this particular bag is Treadways Grocery, which is in Cockrum, Mississippi, in the southern part of DeSoto County.

On 4/18/68 at SENATOBIA, MISSISSIPPI File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA WILLIAM P. LAWLER, JR. /jdh Date dictated 4/19/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/22/68

GROVER KINNY, Stock Manager, Pettis Company, Oxford, Mississippi, was contacted concerning the distribution of a Number 20 brown paper bag with the name "Homestead Stubby" written on it, at which time KINNY furnished the following information:

KINNY advised that Pettis Cigar Company buys a Number 20 brown paper bag bearing the name "Homestead Stubby" from the Graham Paper Company in Memphis.

KINNY advised that distribution to stores in the extreme northern part of Mississippi is handled by Senatobia Tobacco Company, in Senatobia, Mississippi, which is a branch of Pettis Cigar Company, and that specific information concerning the sale of this bag would have to be obtained from Senatobia Tobacco.

On 4/18/68 at OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA WILLIAM P. LAWLER, JR. /jdh Date dictated 4/19/68

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 29, 1968

The wanted flier on JAMES EARL RAY, Wanted Flier Number 442-A, was exhibited to BILL MC LAUGHLIN; his wife, Mrs. BILL MC LAUGHLIN; and his seventeen-year-old son, WILLIAM MC LAUGHLIN, JR.

All advised that RAY is totally unknown to them and that they do not recall that individual purchasing a six-pack of twelve-ounce pop-top Schlitz beer, while driving a white Mustang automobile with an Alabama license.

On 4/24/68 at Southaven, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA JAMES W. SAMMON /blw Date dictated 4/27/68

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By communication dated April 17, 1968, the following items were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D.C., by the Jackson FBI Office:

One empty Schlitz beer can, 12-ounce size, from Southaven Minnow Shop, Southaven, Mississippi;

One brown paper bag from Southaven Minnow Shop, Southaven, Mississippi.

By communication dated April 24, 1968, the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D.C., furnished the following information:

Specimens received 4/19/68

K169 Empty Schlitz beer can, 12-ounce size, from Southaven Minnow Shop
K170 Brown paper bag from Southaven Minnow Shop

Results of examination:

Marks appearing in the number impressions on the bottoms of K169 and the previously submitted Q53 can of beer were identified as having been made by the same number dies. The marks on the Q52 can of beer were not identified with K169 or Q53, possibly because the marks were not so deeply or completely impressed in Q52.

The K170 paper bag was found to be similar in all observable characteristics to the Q55 paper bag which was previously submitted.