

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)

4/23/68

SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD

MURKIN

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
FUGITIVE; UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST

On 4/19/68 W. L. RUDD, Post Office Inspector, Kansas City Division, Kansas City, Missouri, advised that he had been the case agent of the Post Office case involving JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER TERRY RIFE. He stated that the file is somewhat in less than desired shape and should have been destroyed previously. From memory and the file in the office RUDD furnished the following information:

He stated that on 3/22/55 JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER TERRY RIFE were arrested in Hannibal, Missouri, by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and were charged with forgery of U. S. Postal Money Orders. Investigation revealed that these money orders had been stolen in a burglary at the Kellerville, Illinois, Post Office approximately 1:30 a.m. 3/7/55. At least 66 blank postal money orders and validating stamps were stolen. 34 of these money orders had been recovered and were cashed at St. Petersburg, Florida; Miami, Florida; Tallahassee, Florida; St. Louis, Missouri; New Orleans, Louisiana; Memphis, Tennessee; Hot Springs, Arkansas; and Kansas City, Missouri. Subjects had been driving a 1946-47 Nash, which they traded for a 1949 Lincoln, Amacker Motors, 135 Northeast 36th Street, Miami, Florida, on 5/14/55. Upon interview RAY and RIFE claimed to have obtained the stolen money orders from an unknown man in Quincy, Illinois.

Both subjects admitted to their guilt in a signed statement and were convicted in United States District Court. The following descriptive data was obtained through memory of RUDD and from the files:

(1-44-760)
(1-88-9440)
WAW:ss
(2) *ss*

44-1987-Sub-491
Witschard

Name JAMES EARL RAY, aka
James Walton,
Willard J. Mc Bride,
Vernon Mc Bride

Residence 1429 Cherry; and
215 Oak, Quincy, Illinois

Employment Painter

Birth March 10, 1928 at
Alton, Illinois

Race White

Sex Male

Height 5'10"

Weight 170

Hair Brown

Eyes Blue

Complexion Medium

Education Two years high school

Military service U. S. Army, three years,
general discharge under
honorable conditions

Arrests May, 1952, Chicago, Illinois,
two years robbery served at
Pontiac, Illinois, released
March, 1954

FBI number 306443A

Associates Mrs. KATHERINE LORIE BUSKIRK,
Age 16 (1955), claimed met on
March 22, 1955

Name WALTER TERRY BERRY, aka
Willard J. Mc Bride,
Walter T. Berry

Race White

Sex Male

Height 5'9 3/4"

Weight 160 pounds

Hair Brown

Eyes Gray

Scars and marks Tattoo of cross on left arm

Birth 7/19/24 at Quincy, Illinois

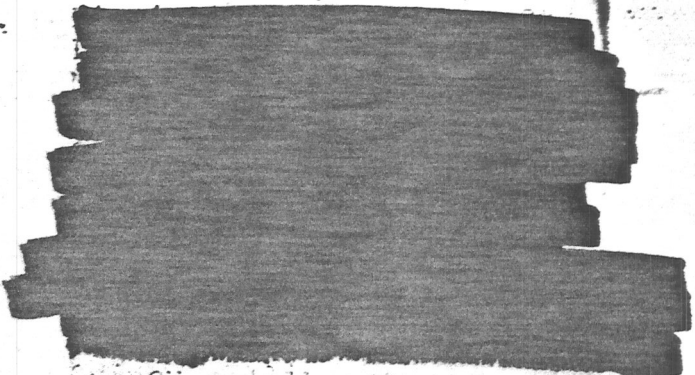
Education High school

FBI number [REDACTED]

Military service [REDACTED]
dishonorable
served four years U. S.

KC 44-760

Arrests



Residences

Agency, 1121
Park Hotel, Montgomery City
Missouri

RUDDALL advised that when apprehended these subjects had been staying at the Park Hotel in Montgomery City, Missouri. He furnished a list of places where the money orders had been cashed by the subjects.