

The things of Raymond Curtis's life

At the age of 14. In Dalton Georgia.  
I was put in jail for my first for time for:  
stealing pecans. And again for stealing  
fish hooks out of the 5+10 store at the  
age of 14 or 14½. At the age of 15 I  
ran away from home and went to  
Atlanta Georgia. After about three  
~~month~~ months in Atlanta I was  
put ~~in~~ in jail for stealing a man  
coat. I was given six mo. probation  
and given a bus ~~fare~~ ticket back  
to Dalton Ga. I went back to  
school after a few weeks. I ran away  
again and went to Chattanooga Tenn.  
where again I was caught and put in  
jail for stealing. They gave me 30 days  
in the chain gang. After about two weeks  
of it my mother came and got me and  
took me back home to Dalton Georgia.  
After a month or so I got on a freight  
train and went to Nashville Tenn. 44-1987 Sub M 85  
And again I was caught for stealing ~~my~~  
apples from a store. Two weeks later  
my mother came and got me and carried ~~me~~  
back home to Dalton Ga.

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20  
And I got in jail again in Dalton for stilling  
copper ~~wire~~ and selling it. So again my mother  
got me out. So at the age of about 16 I ran ~~away~~  
again. But this time I hoboed a freight going  
south and I made it to Davanna where I was  
caught and given 30 days in the chain gang for  
hobbing. I did the 30 days and hoboed a train  
to Jacksonville Florida. I started working  
around the produce market loading trucks.  
That is when I learn't the taste of beer swine  
do after hanging around there and taking the  
money out of the drunkers pockets after they passed  
out. Other words rolling the drunks.

After about a month of it I hoboed on to  
Tampa Florida. There I hung around the beer  
joints on scidrow rolling drunks. Until one day  
I got drunk and put in jail. I was given 15 days  
on the chain gang. After a day or two I escaped &  
went to Key West Florida. Again I got in jail  
for drunk. So they found out I was escaped from  
Tampa and sent me back. They gave me 15 more days  
for escaping. So after I did my time. I worked  
around the fishing boats for three or four months  
then I hoboed on to New Orleans. Where I hung  
around the bars rolling drunks. After about two  
months I was put in jail again for drunk  
and fighting.

and given 30 days on the chingang. So after about  
a week of it I escaped again. I hooked to El Paso  
Texas. There I was put in jail for hobbing. After  
about a week they told me to get out of town so  
I ~~had~~ hopped a freight to Los Angeles Calif.  
I went to work at an amusement park by day  
and rolled drinks at night. So after about a  
month or so of it I hopped a freight and went  
to San Francisco Calif. There I hung around sick  
row and rolled drinks again. So I joined up with  
a circus there and went to Seattle Washington.  
I met this boy in Seattle and quit the circus.  
So me and the boy stilled a car and went to Mon-  
tana. Drove the car to Montana and ~~drove it~~  
~~drove it~~ ditched it. And hooked a ride with a  
truck to Reno Nevada. We ~~tried to~~ rolled a  
man about half drunk and he called the law  
on us. My butty got caught but I got away.  
I went back to L.A. and on down to  
San Diego and over to Old Mexico. There I got  
caught and the police ran me back over the  
border. I ~~now~~ met up with a trucker and  
got a ride back to New Orleans. There I  
went to work on a sea going boat. After about  
two weeks of it it pulled in to New York where  
I quit. There I met up with this boy where  
we would hang around the hotels and ~~we~~ robbed

The room's when the people went out for dinner  
so after about a month of that which I didn't  
get caught I went back to Dalton Georgia. so  
after about 4 or 5 months I left home again and  
joined up with a carnival. I ~~stayed~~ stayed  
with it about 90 days till we reached Chicago Ill.  
Then I stayed on West Madison St. Where I  
started rolling drunks again and there were more  
drunks than any one man could roll. When I  
met this boy we started robbing Hotels & Apart-  
ments again while people were at work. so after  
about 4 or 5 months of that I got caught for  
burglary. And while I was in jail awaiting  
trial I got a letter from my mother stating  
I was to report to the induction center for  
the Army in Atlanta July the 29<sup>th</sup> 1944.  
so I ~~showed~~ showed the letter to the judge  
and he put me on the bus to Atlanta Ga.  
so I went in the Army and they sent me to  
Fort Bragg N.C. so after about 2 months Army  
I got drunk and went A.W.O.L. and came to  
Dalton Ga. after about 10 days they came and got  
me and put me in the grade guard house 30 days  
extra duty and shipped <sup>me</sup> to Camp Croft D.C. to take  
basic training. so after about 5 or 6 weeks I got  
drunk and went A.W.O.L. again and went back  
to Dalton Georgia.

About 3 or 4 weeks later they came and got me again  
 and took me back to camp and gave me 6 months  
 in the guard house. After I finished my training  
 they ~~shipped~~ shipped me to camp near Alabama  
 for Tank training. After about two mo. me and  
 my buddy went in to town on pass we got drunk  
 and met two men and robbed them of their money  
 and their car next day they caught us and took  
 us back to camp and put us in the guard ~~house~~  
 house. Before they tried us we escaped and  
 made it to New York City. There we rolled drinks  
 to get by on the law got after us and I got  
 away and my partner got caught. I hopped on to  
 Chicago from there on to Los Angeles Calif.  
 There I rolled drinks and robbed to get by on  
 for about 2 months until I got caught. The  
 State of Calif. gave me a year. At the end of  
 the year the Army came and got me and took  
 me to Fort Ord Calif. There they gave me a  
 year for A.W.O.L. and I did my year and was  
 discharged then come back to Dalton Ga.  
 August 1947. After a mo. I left home and  
 went to Chicago. I got back on rolling drinks  
 After a month of that I got a job driving  
 a truck on the ~~high~~ south side of Chicago  
 That is where I met my wife and we got  
 married in 1948.

I worked driving this truck for about a year.  
 One day my boss left his ~~wallet~~ wallet laying  
 on ~~his~~ desk with quite a bit of money in it  
 and I got it and he never knew where it went.  
 After a ~~month~~ month more I quit and  
 went to work driving a bus. Then I met this  
 man we went to robbing taverns & liquor stores.  
 We would ~~rob~~ rob from 1 to 3 a night. We robbed  
 over a 100 taverns & liquor stores on the South  
 side of Chicago. Robbing by night & driving a bus  
 by day was a little too much so I quit driving  
 the bus and went to robbing full time. So we  
 moved out to Moline & Blue Island Elgin-Rock-  
 ford and the towns surrounding Chicago robbing  
 payrolls & taverns and any thing that look good.  
 So we came back in to Chicago back in bread robbing.  
 The bookies they couldn't call the law because  
 we were breaking the law themselves. So we moved  
 out to Calumet City. It was owned by the  
 syndicate all the beer joints - liquor stores - nightclubs  
 bookies joints were owned and run by the syndicate.  
 So we started robbing them. Until we heard the  
 syndicate were so hot after us we had to move out.  
 Because if the syndicate had caught us we wouldn't  
 have went to no jail. So we started driving to  
 Saint Louis Missouri once a week. Then we would  
 rob 2 or 3 liquor stores & beer joints on the North side.

While the law was checking them out we would ~~not~~ be on the south side robbing 2 or 3 more. Then we would cross the river to East Saint Louis. Then the next morning we would drive back to Chicago and never get caught. One week we went to Quincy Ill. which is a mother town run by the syndicate. We robbed a bookie joint owned by the syndicate. The syndicate got so hot on us it took us five days to ~~get to Chicago~~ to find a way out of town. But we made it back to Chicago. (This happened between 1948-1954) We robbed so many we had to find us a new territory to keep from robbing the same place the 2 or 3rd time. I owned my own home at Oaklawn Ill. so we started driving up into Wisconsin over in to Elwood and I bought a farm in Indiana where we robbed in Gary - Hammond - Valparaiso - LaPorte - San Paul - Indianapolis - so we decided the banks would be better. So we started robbing banks. We robbed a bank in Cuckoo Indiana and got a pretty good little bundle there. So we went down to Fairview Missouri and robbed one there and went back to Chicago and we robbed a big jewelry store on the North side of Chicago.

So on February 15<sup>th</sup> 1955 we went to South West  
 City Missouri right on the border of Kansas -  
 Oklahoma - Arkansas. So we robbed the South  
 West City Bank. And we got \$56,000. Went back  
 to Chicago the F.B.I were waiting on me when I  
 got there. The Federal <sup>took</sup> ~~took~~ me to Kansas City,  
 Missouri to await trial. There I met James Earl  
 Ray we were in the same ~~cell~~ cell together  
 for about 6 months. He was tried and gave  
 3 years for forgery ~~to~~ and I was gave 17 years  
 for bank robbery we were sent to Leavenworth  
~~Penitentiary~~ Penitentiary and we were good  
 friends there also. After about 6 months <sup>I</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup>  
 transferred to Atlanta Federal ~~Penitentiary~~  
 Penitentiary. There I stayed until 1962 about  
 7 to 7 1/2 years. There you couldn't get any beer  
 wine or liquor so when you were down in ~~the~~  
 the dumps or depressed you could swap cigarettes  
 for pop pills or some other kind of dope. So in  
 the mean time I got filed a riot on the  
~~state~~ robbery charge the state of Missouri had  
 on me. So they tried me and gave ten years.  
 So after about 7 1/2 I made parole to the  
 state of Missouri in 1962 which is a hell  
 whole. I didn't think there was a place  
 on earth excited like it. Dope dey



Murder is a common every day activity in the Missouri Penitentiary. So when I got there I met my old pal James Earl Ray he was there also doing 20 years for robbery. Then me and him became close buddies again. There I fell back on the jess jills a close again in order to get with what was going on there. And hoping & praying every day that I would see the day I would get out again. For I couldn't ~~have~~ have been no closer to hell than I was there. So after about 3 years I talked the warden in to sending me out to one of the state farms. ~~But there I was like a~~ After I had been locked up so long that out there on the farm I was like a dog that been chained up <sup>and</sup> had been turned loose for the first time. You could get liquor out there so one night I got drunk and I took off for (Georgia). Within 3 days I was back inside the prison walls and they gave me 10 more years for running. So I went back to the jess jills and walking the yard with my friends. So I did another year and made paroll back to Dalton Georgia.

After I got back to Dalton in 1966 I went to work with my brother selling cars. I was doing good. Then drinking came back to my family. Only after about 6 months of freedom I was accused and charged with murder. Although I am not guilty I was found guilty and given a life sentence. I have been sitting in jail two years waiting <sup>on</sup> of the suprem court. I have been doing nothing but thinking of my life and what I have done to it. As with the things I have done justice has caught up with me even ~~in the present of the charge~~ ~~that I am in the~~ though I am innocent of the murder charge against me. Thinking about it the funniest part is I am in the same cell now for murder I was first put in at the age of 14 for stilling ~~seconds~~ 29 years ago.

You had better look out.  
 For if you go there once  
 You can go there twice.