

Key Clue Left By Ray at Atlanta Room

Los Angeles Times

ATLANTA, June 13 — Accused assassin James Earl Ray apparently stayed at a cheap Atlanta rooming house for at least a week before the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King and left the clue there that led to his true identity.

Jimmy Garner, landlord of the apartment house, said today that a man using Ray's principal alias, Eric Starvo Galt, rented a room March 24 and paid a second week's rent March 31. Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis April 4.

In the first-floor room Galt rented, the FBI found an Atlanta map with two areas circled: Dr. King's Atlanta residence and the Ebenezer Baptist Church where the civil rights leader was co-pastor with his father.

Also on the map was a well-defined fingerprint which the FBI used in an exhaustive search that eventually showed Galt was actually Ray.

Also found in a storage room was a television set the suspect allegedly had secured in a trade with a girl friend in Los Angeles.

Atlanta first entered the picture on April 11 when residents of a public housing project told police a white Mustang auto had been parked in a nearby parking lot since about 9 a.m. on April 5. The vehicle was registered under the Galt alias.

Landlord Garner said he saw the suspect only three times. The house is in Atlanta's "zipie" district, and its tenants are mostly transients.

DATE 6/14/68

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THE WASHINGTON POST
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44-703-662

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