

WEATHER

Mostly
Sunny, 70s.

Tomorrow:
Fair, 70-75.

SUNSET: 6:39 P.M.
SUNRISE
TOMORROW:
5:11 A.M.

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**LATE
CITY**

Over the
Counter Stocks
Scratches

From the People Who Knew Him:

**STORY OF THE
KING'S SUSPECT**

By **DAVID LARSEN**

HOLLYWOOD—Eric Starvo Galt, prime suspect in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. emerged today as:

¶A fervent supporter of the Presidential bid of former Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace.

¶A man who made at least one mysterious trip in recent months to New Orleans, a fact which appears to be of great interest to the FBI.

[District Attorney Garrison's office in New Orleans told the New York Post that his files are being checked to see what they have on Galt, if anything.]

¶A steady drinker, alternately moody and contentious in public.

This picture came into focus out of a series of interviews with persons who knew Galt when he lived in Los Angeles.

A songwriter whom Galt drove to New Orleans and back in a white Mustang said he had a strong impression that the suspect was not using his right name.

The statement was made by Charles Stein, 38, who was offered the free ride after he agreed to add his signature to the drive by Wallace to qualify for a place on the California June primary ballot.

Stein said his sister, Rita, had made the arrangements. While at the Sultan Room, a lounge at 5533½ Hollywood Blvd., she had let it be known that her two children had to return soon from her sister's place in New Orleans. Galt let it be known that he would be going there.

Stein appeared at the Sultan Room that same night

Continued on Page 8

Continued from Page 1

and Galt agreed to take him along to fetch the children if Stein would sign up for Wallace.

The next day, Stein said, Galt picked him up at the sister's home and drove him to Wallace headquarters.

"I thought he was some kind of politician," Stein recalled. "I got the impression they all knew him."

Robert Walters, campaign coordinator for Wallace in California, disputed this. "We checked all of our name

files here—particularly those from the North Hollywood office—and found nothing under the name of Galt or the other names he reportedly used," Walter said.

Stein said that after he had registered for Wallace's American Independent Party, he and Galt departed that afternoon on the two-day trip to New Orleans.

Galt did not disclose why he was making the drive. He told his passenger he "knew some people there." He said he had been there before.

Made Phone Calls

While passing through Texas, according to the songwriter, Galt made several long-distance calls from phone booths, but

declined to discuss any of them.

Stein said Galt went to uncommon pains to impress upon him his name, emphasizing it in unnecessary ways, such as when they checked in at motels.

"I think he was establishing a fictitious identity," Stein said. "I got these vibrations. I don't think it was his real name."

Galt told his passenger he had just sold a bar in Mexico. "I didn't believe it," Stein said. "His Spanish was too touristy."

During the drive the suspect also remarked that he liked to hunt, Stein said.

The Subject of Race

Stein said that at one point he brought up the subject of race with his companion, commenting that the same creator made everybody and that color is just incidental. He said Galt was noncommittal.

Stein said he is a believer in the equality of races. The night of the assassination of Dr. King, he recalled, he wrote a song entitled: "Though His Body Is Gone, Luther Is Living On."

The bearded songwriter said he "kept getting strange vibrations" about Galt. "I felt something was wrong," Stein said.

Stein said he believes the suspect made a subsequent trip to New Orleans. "I heard he was asking people if they wanted him to drop anything off while he was down there," Stein said.

Stein said FBI agents have been visiting him almost every day, showing great interest in the suspect's activities in New Orleans.

He said that he and Galt went

their separate ways while in that city, and he had no idea what his companion was up to.

At the time of the trip, Galt was staying in a Los Angeles apartment. Residents there either did not know or remained tight-lipped about him.

A Regular There

However, Galt subsequently moved to a hotel, the St. Francis, at 5533 Hollywood Blvd. One block away is a cocktail lounge known as the Rabbits Foot Club, at 5623 Hollywood Blvd.

The crowd there remembers Eric Starvo Galt very well.

Until three or four weeks ago, according to bartender Bo Del Monte, Galt was a nightly patron.

He would come in at around 9 p.m., perch on a stool near the door, and order the first of several screwdrivers (vodka and

orange juice).

Adele Lewis, who was working there at the time, recalled that Galt often got into arguments when he tried to strike up conversations.

"He once asked me if he could buy me a drink," she said. "Since I was working, I said no."

"Huh, you think you're too good," Galt bristled.

But the thing everybody at the Rabbits Foot Club remembers most about Galt is the big dispute he got into.

Talking to Woman

Jim Morrison, who was the bartender that night, recalled that Galt had begun talking with a young woman named Pattie. Somehow the conversation turned to Negroes, and she declared them to be "good people."

Suddenly, Galt began dragging her by the arm toward the door.

"I'll drop you off in Watts and we'll see how you like it there!" Galt shouted.

Del Monte said another customer who had been dating the girl followed the pair outside, and Galt fled.

A short time later, according



The Rev. Ralph Abernathy (c), who succeeded the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as head of Southern Christian Leadership Conference, meets in Atlanta with Rev. James Bevel (l) and Bernard LaFayette to plan Poor People's March in Washington starting April 29. Associated Press Wirephoto

The hunt for Galt goes on. Story on page 26.

to Del Monte, a Negro was struck in the head by a rock while in a nearby parking lot.

Morrison remembered that as Galt would sit at the bar, sipping his screwdrivers, he often preached his support of Wallace.

"He's the man we want," the bartender quoted Galt as saying.

Del Monte said Galt once tried to begin a conversation with a Negro girl, but that she walked away from him.

Nobody interviewed at the Rabbits Foot Club remembered Galt furnishing his name. In fact, nobody realized who he was until his picture appeared in newspapers yesterday.

Del Monte said the photo of Galt with his eyes closed caused an immediate recollection. "That's the way he sat here," the bartender said. "When he wasn't talking, he would sit sort of dozing."

Del Monte said Galt usually

had four or five screwdrivers a night.

Joe Peters, bartender at the Sultan Room, said Galt sometimes drank vodka and Coca Cola at his place.

Galt apparently was not one to get names straight. In his application to attend a Los Angeles bartending school, the suspect listed as a former employer a "Mr. Willer" of 751 S. Figueroa St.

Presumably he was referring to R. J. Weiler, who runs an office building at that address. Weiler was unavailable for comment.

As character references, Galt listed three persons:

"Marie Deninno," a cocktail waitress at the Sultan Room. She said her name is Marie Martin.

"Rita Steen," of the Hollywood address, who is presumed to be Rita Stein, sister of the passenger on the trip to New Orleans; and cousin of Marie Martin.

"Charley Deninno, also of the Hollywood address, presumed to be Charles Stein.