

**Local Control Control Control** Larry, who left the Chicago area and his job for St. Louis Friday afternoon, said he and his other brother, John, both have been cleared by the FBI. John Ray, whose whereabouts have been unknown, has been located by the FBI and has been found to have no connection with the slaving, according to Jerry, who said FBI agents told him of John's clearance. The agents did not tell him where John had been

found, Jerry Ray said. He said he has had no contact with John since January when John was working as a bartender in New York City and called him on the telephone. Jerry said his last contact with James was a letter James wrote him about a week before escaping from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City April 23, 1967. "He won't contact anyhody in the family, I'm positive of first," Jerry said, because James will know the FBI is watching all his relatives.

## Octon in Jail

Between the ages of 14 and 20, Jerry, now 32, was out of jail only one year, but he has not been in trouble gines. For the last four years, he has worked as a maintenance man at a public country club near Chicago. He is regarded as a quist, pleasant man by his employers and by the few people who know him in the town near the club. The club's owners had not known of Jerry's police record, but when the news broke, instead of firing him-as Ray says most employers would-they attempted to shield him from publicity and helped him in other ways. Jerry said he was not working with the FBI, but acknowledged he has been in frequent contact with the bureau since agents took him to their Chicago office for questioning the night of April 19, when Eric Starvo Galt was identified by the FBI as James

fact that his help had not been found. If he had been killed and framed, Jerry reasons, the murderers would want the body discovered "to draw the heat off of them."

Earl Ray. Two days carlier, Gall had been charged with ecceptracy

If the persons involved in the plot checked James' record, his brother said, they would have found that he could be trusted because he has never testified for the police against his "rap partners" in other crimes.

James was sentenced to 20 years in Missouri because he refused to give information to the police, Jerry Ray said, and he himself once took a fiveyear sentence rather than talk. "That runs in the family, that stuff," he said. This leads him to hope the conspirators arranged for his brother to take sometuary in a country that dots not have an extradition treaty with the United States. The FBI odd him it has never tidnaped a wanted mantion shother country, Jer-

He described James as a miles person who makes a files of a "doesn't oragie," and has "a strong triggie."

\*Berrything he did he thought he did the best and the always figured he'd never set caught. Otherarises he wouldn't have loss he wouldn't have loss he berry said.

Jerry said his brother never peted violently in converties with any of his risks. The just used a run as a thing you'd need f you leave going to convert an armed robpery, he said.

James was not a sadist, as under armed robbers are - committing their crimes for the opportunity they offer to strike or shoot people as well as for the money, Jerry said.

Lie said his brother did not express anti-Negro fealings in the letters they exchanged or during the visits Jerry paid to James in Jefferson City. "The truth is he didn't have much feeling toward them one way or another," Jerry said.

"He didn't associate with them and neither do L\* be added, adding that facilities in the Missouri prison were segregated.

"If he did shoot that man (Dr. King), it was not because of any race hatred. It was something else," Jerry said. He said his brother was a quiet prisoner who had lew friends and did not get into trouble. "He was an avid reader" of nonfiction, Jerry Ray said, particularly True, Argosy, and various detective magazines. "He liked hig steaks. He wanted me to smuggle blondes and steaks in down there (in Jefferson City), but I couldn't get uither one in," he said.

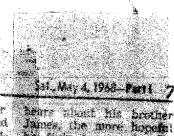
Jerry's acquaintance with his brother was in some ways limited, however. They have been outside of prison at the same time only once in the last 16 years.

Indeed the habit of ex-

changing letters and visits marks Jerry and James as unusually close in the Ray family, which be came fragmented when they were children. Jerry said he had not seen a sister who lives near. Chicago since 1964, when both attended the funeral of a younger brother.

As for his own future, Jerry said he had no job waiting in St. Louis and no plans. What he does will depend on what happens, on how soon he can move hack into the shadows of anonymity.

The country club job had occupier h 1 m several



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Mery Rug, almost

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## \* Los Angeles Cimes

times as long as any other. He had planned to spirit his life at it and apparents ly would like to return. Meanwhile, the less he