

KNOWN AS 'JOHN WILLARD'**Three Describe Assassin Suspect**

MEMPHIS (AP) — He said his name was John Willard and he spoke with a Southern drawl. He wanted a room and Mrs. Bessie Brewer, landlady of the rooming house at 422½ South Main, showed him two.

The time was 3:15 p. m., 166 minutes before an assassin's bullet felled Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on a motel balcony.

THIS IS the way the people of the rooming house recall the suspect, as reported by the Memphis Commercial-Appeal:

Mrs. Brewer—

"He was a clean, neat man. I showed him room 8, a \$10-a-

week kitchenette, but he said, and receded on each side.

"I only want a sleeping room."

"I **SHOWED** him room 5 and he said, 'This will be fine.'

B. L. Reeves, 74, retired hotel clerk—

"I saw him when she checked him in. He had his back to me, but I judge he was about 5-feet-11. He had dark hair and a pretty neat hair cut."

CHARLIE Q. Stephens, occupant of room 6—

"He was clean shaven and had a long, sharp nose. He had normal eyes and a square chin, thick hair at the front

"He was wearing a black solid color dress suit, a white shirt and a very dark or black, narrow tie. He combed his hair straight back."

NONE recalled seeing him after that until about 5 p. m. Stephens said about that time the man went down the hall to the bathroom from room 5. The distance is about 13 steps.

The second-floor bathroom window holds a commanding view of the Lorraine motel where King lodged, 205 feet and 3 inches away. Much better than room 5.

At 6:01 p. m. the shot crackled.

"I was in the kitchen working on a radio," Stephens said.

"When that explosion went off, it sounded like a German 88. I went to the door and walked out into the hall. I could see the man at the offset in the hall. He had in his hand something wrapped in a newspaper."

THE MAN fled down 20 steps to the ground.

"I got a glimpse of him going away after he dropped the rifle in front of my place," said G. W. Canipe, owner of an amusement firm. "He didn't seem to be running."