

P-S **Press-Scimitar** Postscripts on the News

Ray Attorney Shifts Base of Operations

Mark Lane, author and attorney who does the talking for James Earl Ray, recently bought a house in Memphis and has settled in for his effort to prove Ray's innocence in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Lane's house — a large, four-bedroom structure at 1177 Central — also serves as headquarters for the investigation into the King slaying that he and his associates are conducting, the 51-year-old Lane said.

Sitting in his living room recently and rubbing the head of his big collie, Crispin, Lane said that he expects to file a motion for a new trial for Ray, based on alleged new evidence, within the next few weeks.

"I think James Earl Ray will be out of jail in a year," the new Memphian predicted.

Lane said former Criminal Court of Appeals Judge Charles Galbreath, who is now practicing law in Nashville, has become associated with him in the case. "I showed him the evidence we now have and told him what we expect to



MARK LANE

get, and he felt there was no doubt we would get a new trial," Lane said.

"That's why I moved to Memphis, so I could be here on the scene, for the trial and its preparation. The witnesses are here, the action will be here. The nation and the state and the people, as well as Ray, deserve a trial."

LANE is the bearded attorney who sat beside Ray while the House Assassinations Committee picked Ray's story apart on national television in August. The attorney said he was undaunted by

the experience and plans to go back with Ray for more.

Lane, a leading conspiracy theorist on the deaths of both King and President John Kennedy, said the House committee indicated it wants Ray to return to Washington in November. "They said they want him to discuss conspiracy," Lane said.

Ray — serving a 99-year sentence at Brushy Mountain State Prison on his guilty plea to the April 4, 1968, killing in Memphis — was hazy about many de-

tails when he testified before the committee in August.

However, Lane maintained it was "understandable" that Ray was unable to recall many details the committee sought. "After all," Lane said, "they were asking him about details of things that happened 10 years ago. Probably most of those on the committee, themselves, could not recall where they were last Tuesday."

IN ADDITION to trying to free Ray, Lane's other time-consuming diversions in Memphis include plants and gardening, painting in a "Van Gogh style," and cooking elaborate 11-course Chinese dinners in his kitchen. Since buying his home in September and moving from Los Angeles, he already has set out a large bed of tulips and is planning to put in a "big garden" in the spring.

Working with him as secretaries and legal assistants are April Ferguson, a lawyer who once was one of Lane's students, and Barbara Pickerell and Barbara Rabbito.

Also staying with him is Mrs. Grace Walden, who was a resident of the Main Street flop house from which the bullet allegedly was fired to kill King. Mrs. Walden was committed to Western Mental Health Institute at Bolivar shortly after the murder, when a probate court found that she was mentally incompetent and a ward of the court.

Lane, who with Memphis attorney Duncan Ragsdale became Mrs. Walden's guardian earlier this year, said she "is doing fine, considering what she has been through for the last 10 years. She's a nice lady. She reads about a book a day and can really remember little about those 10 years."

MRS. WALDEN, 62, seemed much at

home to a reporter who visited Lane's house. During the reporter's stay, Mrs. Walden was observed going upstairs and downstairs a number of times. She finally felt it necessary to explain herself: "I always am either downstairs and my cigarettes upstairs or vice versa, and I'm too stingy to buy two packs — one for each place — so I just go up and down the stairs a lot."

Mrs. Walden also has a small orange and white kitten, which she named Malcolm, on whom she lavishes much affection.

Lane said he is making his living "by doing some occasional legal work" and by lecturing and writing. His latest book, *Code Name Zorro*, written in 1977 with comedian Dick Gregory, is about a secret Atlanta-based cadre of FBI agents which Lane says was set up by the late J. Edgar Hoover to "get King."

Lane said the next book he plans "will be the transcript of the James Earl Ray trial in Memphis."

He added: "I thought I was making a great sacrifice, leaving California and coming to Memphis. But I find, since moving here in September, that I am enjoying it."

October 29, 1968

Earl Ray, gave House investigators information that former and current FBI agents assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Delegate Walter Fauntroy of the District of Columbia, chairman of the House assassinations subcommittee investigating King's murder, said he was disappointed.