

Ray Confirms Intentions For Wedding, No Date Set

By CAROL BYRD
Journal State Reporter

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"Yes, we're getting married, but we're not sure of the exact date yet," James Earl Ray said Thursday in a telephone interview from Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary.

"The warden has to approve the papers, and then we have to get a blood test."

Ray, the 50-year-old confessed assassin of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said he and Knoxville Anna Sandhu will marry "within the next two to three weeks."

He declined to discuss his year-long relationship with Mrs. Sandhu, 32, saying "I don't want to talk about the details in the papers. It's just between Anna and me."

Mrs. Sandhu appeared on the NBC-TV Today Show Thursday morning, but Ray was unable to watch the interview.

"We only get one channel up here, and it wasn't that one," he said.

When questioned about Warden Ston-



Ray

ney Lane's continued denials of a planned marriage, Ray said.

"Well, I asked the warden to not say anything until we got it all worked out. I just didn't want Anna in any kind of trouble."

Warden Lane said he remembered the conversation with Ray, which took place about a week ago.

"I was kind of kidding him, and asked him if wedding bells were going to ring," Lane recalled. "He got embarrassed and asked me not to tell anybody."

"But until he turns in those papers, I can only assume that there's not going to be a marriage."

Ray said all the paperwork should be completed within the next week.

During her interview with Jane Pauley of the Today Show, Mrs. Sandhu referred to Ray as the "bionic man," saying "no one would fight that hard unless they were truly innocent."

Mrs. Sandhu also maintained her stand that Ray is innocent of the 1968 slaying of the civil rights leader.

"I'm sure he's innocent," she said. "I've taken the trouble to do a lot of research, and there's no doubt."

As to Miss Pauley's question — "How does one fall in love with a convicted assassin?" — she answered simply: "You don't plan it."

She also said she has asked the Rev. James Lawson, a close friend of Dr. King's, to perform the ceremony, but had received no firm commitment.

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