

The things of ~~Raymond~~ Curtis's life

At the age of 14, in Dalton Georgia. I was put in jail for my first time for: stilling pecans. And again for stilling fish hooks out of the 5+10 store at the age of 14 or 14½. At the age of 15 I ran away from home and went to Atlanta Georgia. After about three months in Atlanta I was put ~~in~~ in jail for stilling a man coat. I was given six mo. probation and given a bus ~~to~~ ticket back to Dalton Ga. I went back to school after a few weeks. I ran away again and went to Chattanooga Tenn. where again I was caught and put in jail for stilling. They gave me 30 days in the chain gang. After about two weeks of it my mother came and got me and took me back home to Dalton Georgia. After a month or so I got on a freight train and went to Nashville Tenn. 44-1987 Sub M 85. And again I was caught for stilling apples from a store. Two weeks later my mother came and got me and carried me back home to Dalton Ga.

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And I got in jail again in Dalton for stilling
copper ~~wire~~ and selling it. So again my mother
got me out. So at the age of about 16 I ran ~~away~~
again. But this time I hoboed a freight going
south and I made it to Savanna where I was
caught and given 30 days in the chingang for
hoboeing. I did the 30 days and hoboed a train
to Jacksonville Florida. I started working
around the produce market loading trucks.
That is when I learn't the taste of beer swine
do after hanging around them and taking the
money out of the drunkers pockets after they passed
out. Other words rolling the drunks.

After about a month of it I hoboed on to
Tampa Florida. There I hung around the beer
joints on sidrow rolling drunks. Until one day
I got drunk and put in jail. I was given 15 days
on the chingang. After a day or two I escaped &
went to Key West Florida. Again I got in jail
for drunk. So they found out I was escaped from
Tampa and sent me back. They gave me 15 more days
for escaping. So after I did my time. I worked
around the fishing boats for three or four months
then I hoboed on to New Orleans. Where I hung
around the bars rolling drunks. After about two
months I was put in jail again for drunk
and fighting.

and given 30 days on the chingang. So after about
a week of it I escaped again. I hopped to El Paso
Texas where I was put in jail for hobbing. After
about a week they took me to get out of town so
I ~~hopped~~ hopped a freight to Los Angeles Calif
I went to work at an amusement park by day
and rolled drinks at night. So after about a
month or so of it I hopped a freight and went
to San Francisco Calif. There I hung around side
row and rolled drinks again. So I joined up with
a circus there and went to Seattle Washington
I met this boy in Seattle and quit the circus.
So me and the boy stole a car and went to Mon-
tana. Drove the car to Montana and ~~drove it~~
~~drove it~~ ditched it. And hooked a ride with a
truck to Reno Nevada. We ~~took~~ rolled a
man about half drunk and he called the law
on us. My buddy got caught but I got away.
I went back to L.A. and on down to
Don Diego and over to Old Mexico. There I got
caught and the police ran me back over the
border. I ~~met~~ met up with a trucker and
got a ride back to New Orleans. There I
went to work on a sea going boat. After about
two weeks of it it pulled in to New York where
I quit. There I met up with this boy where
we would hang around the hotels and ~~rob~~ robbed

The room's when the people went out for dinner
do after about a month of that which I didn't
get caught I went back to Dalton Georgia. So
after about 4 or 5 months I left home again and
joined up with a carnival. I ~~stayed~~ stayed
with it about 90 days till we reached Chicago Ill.
There I stayed on West Madison St. Where I
started rolling drunk again and there were more
drunk than any one man could roll. When I
met this boy we started robbing Hotels & Apart-
ments again while people were at work. So after
about 4 or 5 months of that I got caught for
burglary. And while I was in jail awaiting
trial I got a letter from my mother stating
I was to report to the induction center for
the Army in Atlanta July the 29th 1944.
So I ~~showed~~ showed the letter to the judge
and he put me on the bus to Atlanta Ga.
do I went in the Army and they sent me to
Fort Bragg N.C. do after about 2 months Army
I got drunk and went A.W.O.L. and came to
Dalton Ga. After about 10 days they came and got
me and put me in the grade guard house 30 days
extra duty a shipped ^{me} to Camp Croft S.C. to take
basic training. do after about 5 or 6 weeks I got
drunk and went A.W.O.L. again and went back
to Dalton Georgia.

About 3 or 4 weeks later they came and got me again and took me back to camp and gave me 6 months in the guard house. After I finished my training they shipped me to camp near Alabama for Tank training. After about two mos. me and my buddy went in to town on pass we got drunk and met two men and robbed them of their money and their car next day they caught us and took us back to camp and put us in the guard house. Before they tried us we escaped and made it to New York City. There we rolled drunk to get by on the low got after us and I got away and my partner got caught. I hopped on to Chicago from there on to San Angeles Calif. There I rolled drunk and robbed to get by on for about 2 months until I got caught. The State of Calif. gave me a year. At the end of the year the Army came and got me and took me to Fort Ord Calif. There they gave me a year for A.W.O.L. and I did my year and was discharged then come back to Dalton Ga.

August 1947. After a mos. I left home and went to Chicago. I got back on rolling drunk. After a month of that I got a job driving a truck on the South side of Chicago. That is where I met my wife and we got married in 1948.

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I worked driving this truck for about a year.
One day my boss left his ~~wallet~~ wallet laying
on ~~his~~ desk with quite a bit of money in it
and I got it and he never knew where it went.
After a ~~month~~ month more I quit and
went to work driving a bus. Then I met this
man we went to robbing taverns & liquor stores.
We would ~~rob~~ rob from 1 to 3 a night. We robbed
over a 100 taverns & liquor stores on the South
side of Chicago. Robbing by night & driving a bus
by day was a little too much so I quit driving
the bus and went to robbing full time. So we
moved out to Moline & Blue Island Elgin-Rock-
ford and the towns surrounding Chicago robbing
payrolls & taverns and any thing that look good.
So we came back in to Chicago back in ~~line~~ robbing
the bookies they couldn't call the law because
we were breaking the law themselves. So we moved
out to Calumet City. It was owned by the
Sindicato all the beer joints - liquor stores - nightclubs
bookies joints were owned and run by the Sindicato.
So we started robbing them. Until we heard the
Sindicato were so hot after us we had to move out.
Because if the Sindicato had caught us we wouldn't
have went to no jail. So we started driving to
Saint Louis Missouri once a week. Then we would
rob 2 or 3 liquor stores & beer joints on the North Side.

While the law was checking them out we would
~~would~~ be on the south side robbing 2 or 3
more. Then we would cross the river to East
Saint Louis. Then the next morning we would
drive back to Chicago and never get caught.
One week we went to Quincy Ill. which
is a north town run by the syndicate. We
robbed a bookie joint owned by the syndicate.
The syndicate got so hot on us it took us
five days to ~~get to town~~ to find a
way out of town. But we made it
back to Chicago. (This happened between 1948-
1954) We robbed so many we had to find us
a new territory to keep from robbing the same
place the 2 or 3rd time. I owned my own home
at Oaklawn Ill. so we started driving up
into Wisconsin over in to Iowa and I bought
a farm in Indiana where we robbed in Gary -
Hammond - Valparaiso - LaPorte - Dan Pos -
Indianapolis - so we decided the banks
would be better. So we started robbing banks
We robbed a bank in South Indiana and got
a pretty good little bundle there. So we went
down to Illinois Missouri and robbed one there and
went back to Chicago and we robbed a big
juvvy store on the North side of Chicago.

On February 15th 1955 we went to South West
City Missouri right on the border of Kansas -
Arkansas - Arkansas. So we robbed the South
West City Bank. And we got \$50,000. Went back
to Chicago the F.B.I were waiting on me when I
got there. The Federal ^{took} me to Kansas City
Missouri to await trial. There I met James Earl
Ray we were in the same cell together
for about 6 months. He was tried and gave
3 years for forgery and I was given 17 years
for bank robbery we were sent to Leavenworth
~~Penitentiary~~ Penitentiary and we were good
friends there also. After about 6 months ^{I was}
transferred to Atlanta Federal ~~Penitentiary~~
Penitentiary. There I stayed until 1962 about
7 to 7 1/2 years. There you couldn't get any beer
wine or liquor so when you were down in ~~the~~
the dumps or depressed you could swap cigarettes
for pop pills or some other kind of dope. So in
the mean time I felt filed a suit on the
~~state~~ robbery charge the state of Missouri took
on me. So they tried me and gave ten years.
So after about 7 1/2 I made parole to the
state of Missouri in 1962 which is a hell
whole. I didn't think there was a place
on earth excited like it. Dope day

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Murder is a common every day activity in
the Missouri Penitentiary. So when I got there
I met my old pal James Earl Ray he was
there also doing 20 years for robbery. Then
me and him became close buddies again. There
I fell back on the pep pills a close again
in order to get with what was going on there.
and hoping & praying every day that I would
see the day I would get out again. For I
couldn't see have been no closer to hell than
I was there. So after about 3 years I talked
the warden in to sending me out to one of
the state farms. ~~Out there I was like a~~
After I had been locked up so long that
out there on the farm I was like a dog
that been chained up ^{and} had been turned loose
for the first time. You could get liquor
out there so one night I got drunk and
I took off for (Georgia). Within 3 days
I was back inside the prison walls and
they gave me 10 more years for running.
So I went back to the pep pills and
watching the yard with my friends. So I
did another year and made peroll back
to Dalton Georgia.

After I got back to Dalton in 1966 I went
to work with my brother selling cars. I
was doing good. When drinking came back to
my family. Only after about 6 months of freedom
I was accused and charged with murder.
Although I am not guilty I was found guilty
and given a life sentence. I have been sitting
in jail two years waiting on the supreme court.
I have been doing nothing but thinking of my
life and what I have done to it. As with
the things I have done justice has caught up
with me even ~~in the present of it being~~
~~that I am in the present~~ though I am
innocent of the murder charge against me.
Thinking about it the funniest part is I
am in the same cell now for murder I was
first put in at the age of 14 for stilling
because 29 years ago.

You had better look out.
For if you go there once
You can go there twice.