

44-38861-2672

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5/2/68

SA JOHN L. PUDDISTER JAMES EARL RAY
JN

Attempts to identify individual depicted in
artist conception of ERIC STARVO in N. Central
& Northeastern section of Miss. negative.
Invest. at Southaven Minnow Shop, Southaven,
Miss., revealed shop only one which handled
Schlitz 12-oz. beer in pop-top cans and Home-
stead Stubby No. 20 brown paper bags. Results
of Lab. exam. of these items set forth. SUBJECT
SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS. - P -

Section 26 27

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA [REDACTED] Office: JACKSON
Date: May 2, 1968

Field Office File #: JN 157-9586

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
(DECEASED) - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: Motels and Standard service stations on major highways in North Central and Northeastern section of State of Miss. contacted in attempt to identify individual depicted in artist conception of ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as Harry Lowmeyer, John Willard. Color photo received from Memphis FBI Office of a bedspread and bath towel exhibited to personnel at motels in attempt to identify as being property of the particular motel with negative results. Investigation at Southaven Minnow Shop, Highway 51, Southaven, Miss., just south of the Tenn. State Line, disclosed this shop is the only establishment located which handled Schlitz 12-ounce beer in pop-top cans, as well as Homestead Stubby No. 20, brown paper bags. One empty Schlitz beer can and one brown paper bag obtained from Southaven Minnow Shop and forwarded to FBI Lab., Washington, D. C., for examination purposes. Results of FBI Lab. examination discloses brown paper bag similar in all observable characteristics to paper bag previously submitted. Personnel at minnow shop unable to identify artist conception and unable to identify photo of JAMES EARL RAY as depicted on Wanted Flyer No. 442-A. IN VIEW OF THE CRIME FOR WHICH SUBJECT BEING SOUGHT, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]

On the dates indicated, motels and Standard Service Stations on the below listed major highways in north central and northeastern portion of the State of Mississippi were contacted in this matter. Personnel at motels were exhibited composite drawings of ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as John Willard, Harvey Lowmeyer, received from the Memphis and Birmingham Divisions, along with a color photograph of a bedspread and bath towel received from the Memphis Division. Personnel at these motels failed to identify the composite photographs of GALT, as well as the bedspread or towel as property of their particular motel. The guest registration cards of motels contacted were personally checked by SA [REDACTED] from the period of March 29 to April 5, 1968, inclusive in an effort to determine if any guest using the name GALT, WILLARD, or LOWMEYER registered at that motel. These checks met with negative results.

Standard Service Stations on the indicated highways were also contacted and personnel at those service stations were also exhibited artist's conceptions of GALT, along with the colored photographs of the Standard Oil map of the United States and the Standard Oil map of Georgia - Alabama. Personnel at these service stations were questioned regarding a 1966 white Mustang with an Alabama tag. Contacts at these service stations also met with negative results.

April 10, 1968 - Highway 55 Interstate and Highway 51, north from Batesville, Mississippi, to the Tennessee State Line. Highway 78 southeast from the Tennessee State Line to the City Limits of Holly Springs, Mississippi.

April 11, 1968 - Highways 78, 6, and 45 within the City Limits of Tupelo, Mississippi. Highway 45 north from Tupelo, Mississippi, to Corinth, Mississippi. Highways 45

and 72 within the City Limits of Corinth, Mississippi.

April 12, 1968 - Highway 78 East from Tupelo, Mississippi, to the Alabama State Line. Highway 45 South from Tupelo, Mississippi, to Columbus, Mississippi. Highway 82 East from Mayhew, Mississippi, to the Alabama State Line. Highways 82 and 45 East within the City Limits of Columbus, Mississippi.

April 13, 1968 - Highway 82 West from Columbus, Mississippi, to Winona, Mississippi. Highway 51 North from Winona, Mississippi, to Grenada, Mississippi. Interstate 55 and Highway 51 North from Grenada, Mississippi, to Batesville, Mississippi.

April 16, 1968 - Highway 72 from the Alabama State Line to the Tennessee State Line. Highway 78 Southeast from Holly Springs, Mississippi, to Tupelo, Mississippi.

April 17, 1968, Highway 45 East from Shannon, Mississippi, to Columbus, Mississippi. Highway 278 East from Highway 45 East from New Wren, Mississippi, to the Alabama State Line. Highway 6 West from Tupelo, Mississippi, to Batesville, Mississippi. The notes from contacts with personnel at motels and Standard Oil Service Stations are being maintained in the Jackson file regarding this matter.

The following motels affiliated with Friendship Inns were contacted on the indicated dates and personnel there were interviewed as set forth above and in addition, the color photograph containing the Friendship Inn Cashmere Bouquet soap wrapper was exhibited with negative results.

MARY MILTON, Registration Clerk, Townhouse Motel, Friendship Inn, Highway 45 South, Tupelo, Mississippi, which motel uses Camay soap with Friendship Inn wrapper, on April 11, 1968.

Mrs. BROOKS PHILLIPS, Southern Motel, Friendship Inn, Corinth, Mississippi, which motel does handle Cashmere Bouquet with Friendship Motel wrapper, on April 11, 1968.

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However, Southern Motel was negative on photographs of GALT; negative on bedspread; and negative on bath towel.

Mrs. ANNIE LOUISE HUDSON, Marshall Motel, Friendship Inn, Highway 45 North, West Point, Mississippi, contacted April 12, 1968.

WILLIAM DOVES, Registration Clerk, Columbus Motel, Friendship Inn, Highway 82 East, Columbus, Mississippi, does not use soap wrapped with Friendship paper, contacted April 12, 1968.

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED] on April 15, 1968, in the Southaven, Mississippi, area, Highway 51, south of the Tennessee State Line in Mississippi.

The following dealer outlets in that area were contacted in an effort to determine if they had any twelve-ounce Schlitz pop-top beer cans with the brewery date of March 15, 1968, which was sold by them in six packs held with a plastic ring. The following beer outlets in that area were contacted on April 15, 1968, with negative results:

- SHIRLEY JERET, Stop and Go Store, Highway 51 South.
- MARY SNELL, Cashier, BILL RAGLAND, Manager, and LESTER ENOCHS, Stock Man, A and P Supermarket, Highway 51 South, Southaven, Mississippi.
- BILL BEALE, Seven Eleven Store, Highway 51 South, Southaven, Mississippi.
- MARY DRUMMOND, Drummond Drive-Inn, Highway 51 South, Southaven, Mississippi.

The composite photographs of GALT from Memphis and Birmingham were also exhibited to the above individuals at beer outlets in Southaven, Mississippi, with negative results.

In contacting motels on Highway 51 North on April 10, 1968, RAYMOND ROBINSON, owner of the Thrift Courts Motel

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at Senatobia, Mississippi, advised that for the past three or four weeks, a white male; name unknown, 25 to 30 years old, had been staying at that motel. ROBINSON said that this individual is employed in Stray Horn, Mississippi, on Highway 6 where he is employed [REDACTED] ROBINSON said that this individual drives a white Mustang with an Alabama license.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/22/68

Located at the Southaven Minnow Shop, Highway 51, just south of the Tennessee State Line in Mississippi, were numerous six packs of Schlitz twelve-ounce beer in the pop-top can, held together in the six pack with a plastic ring, which beer was brewed by the date March 15, 1968. A can of this beer was obtained.

Also located in that minnow shop was a brown paper bag stamped "Homestead. Stubby. 20". One of the brown paper bags was obtained.

BILL and JANE MC LAUCHLIN and their son WILLIE MC LAUCHLIN, the proprietors of that minnow shop, were all interviewed in this matter, and composite photographs of GALT exhibited to them with negative results. Neither they nor LAWRENCE PARKER, a frequent customer to the minnow shop, could identify GALT by photograph, nor did they recall an individual driving a white Mustang with an Alabama license purchasing a six pack of twelve-ounce pop-top Schlitz beer from their minnow shop. 1

Mr. MC LAUCHLIN advised that GUS (last name unknown), a salesman for the Service Beverage Company of Clarksdale, Mississippi, delivers their beer to them, and that from his records, on April 1, 1968, he purchased 17 cases of twelve-ounce Schlitz pop-top beer; on April 10, eight cases; on April 11, six cases; and on April 15, 1968, two cases.

It was noted that the Southaven Minnow Shop is one-half mile south on Highway 51 from the Tennessee State Line in Mississippi and exactly three miles south of the Oliver Rexall Drug Store on Highway 51, Whitehaven, Memphis, Tennessee.

On 4/15/68 at Southaven, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 4/19/68

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