

Memphis notes: the wit and humor of James Earl Ray/ Percy Foreman and George McMillan MW 11/1

When I first saw Ray on his transfer to Memphis, the morning of 10/21/74, he was without anything with which to write. I gave him a spare, black felt-tipped pen so he could make notes and write messages. He didn't have it the next day.

I asked him if he had lost it. He was in maximum-security Cellblock A, which is really secure, a metal tank that can be operated from the outside only, with many doors, each separately controlled.

Somebody stole it," he said. He then smiled and added, "Here damn creeks around here."

First time I ever heard him use as common a curseword as "damn," incidentally.

That is the day I asked him whether Foreman had asked him to cooperate with George McMillan.

He said that on 12/18/68 or on the occasion of some other court proceeding prior to it, when Foreman had walked part of the way back to his cell with him, he told Ray that McMillan had offered \$5,000 for background information. Ray declined. As he said in a 1970 statement, he had then felt that if he had to go with writers, with existing contracts he felt he had better stick with Hue.

(Foreman's file at the Mosker law firm in Nashville contained an unsigned copy of the McMillan/Ray family pressed contract. We got it on discovery. However, McMillan had also given Jerry a copy for the Ray family to sign. None did. Jerry gave it to Carol for safe keeping. I obtained it from Carol, coffee stains and all. That is the copy we put into the record with Jerry on the witness stand.)