

James Earl Ray's Bride-to-Be Refuses Offers to Sell Story

PETROS, Tenn. (UPI) — Anna Sandhu says a number of publications have offered to pay as much as \$10,000 for rights to the story of her marriage to James Earl Ray today, but she says she doesn't want to run the risk of ruining his image.

Miss Sandhu, a 32-year-old divorcee and free-lance artist, and the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were to wed later today in a second-floor maximum security visiting room at Brushy Mountain State Prison.

The vows will be read by the Rev. James Lawson, described as a close associate of King.

Miss Sandhu said she had turned down all offers to buy her story.

"No amount of money is worth taking a chance to ruin the image of James as I know it," she said.

There will be no consummation of the marriage and no conjugal visits later, which Miss Sandhu said was "terrible."

"But I think the main thing in marriage is the emotional support and shelter two people give each other," the attractive blonde said.

"We've both endured a lot of hardship and know what it's like not to have anyone," Miss Sandhu said. "Now we're going to fill an empty spot in our lives."

Ray, 50, has never been married. Miss Sandhu first saw him last year when she was working as an artist at a hearing held



Ray



Miss Sandhu

for him and set up a correspondence with him at Brushy Mountain, where he is serving 99 years.

After the 4 p.m. private ceremony, the newlyweds will be allowed a short visit in the company of prison guards. Miss Sandhu said she will be allowed to visit Ray twice weekly.

She said she plans to return to Knoxville after the wedding to continue painting and selling her work.