

James Earl Ray Says He'll Marry in Prison

Knoxville, Tenn.

James Earl Ray, the convicted murderer of Martin Luther King Jr., will marry a courtroom artist within the next two weeks, his brother and lawyer said yesterday.

Ray, serving a 99-year term for the 1968 slaying of the civil rights leader, confirmed his wedding plans after a Knoxville newspaper disclosed them, his brother Jerry said.

"He called me today and he didn't have an exact date but that it would be within the next week or two weeks," Jerry Ray said in a telephone interview from Atlanta.

Jerry Ray and lawyer Mark Lane identified the bride-to-be as Anna Sandhu, 32, of Knoxville, a free-lance artist who has done work for two local television stations.

They said the wedding will take place in prison.

Brushy Mountain Penitentiary Warden Stonney Lane said he has received no papers from Ray requesting to be married. The warden would not let reporters talk with Ray yesterday.

"I'm a prison warden," he said. "I don't play Cupid for these people."

Sandhu told the Knoxville Journal that she is marrying Ray because she loves him. She said she was divorced about five years ago after a three-year marriage. Ray, 50, has never been married.

"When we first met, I guess I mainly felt sympathetic about his situation," Sandhu said. "But those feelings have changed now, to love



UPI Telephoto

ANNA SANDHU 'He's a lovable man'

and concern. I want people to know that. He's a lovable man, and not an anti-social maniac."

Ray pleaded guilty to the King assassination, but has since maintained that he is innocent. Sandhu said she believes him.

Sandhu said she first met Ray during a television taping last fall. For the past several months she has visited Ray twice a week, prison officials said.

Lane, who represented Ray when he testified before a special House assassinations committee in August and at his trial last October for escaping from prison in June, 1977, said he did not know of the wedding plans until yesterday.

Associated Press