

James Earl Ray to Marry in Prison Friday

Petros, Tenn.

James Earl Ray and a freelance television courtroom artist will marry Friday behind the walls of Brushy Mountain Penitentiary, prison officials said yesterday.

Warden Stonney Lane said the ceremony is to be conducted in the prison's visitors gallery by a minister who claims to have worked with slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Anna Sandhu, a 32-year-old

Knoxville divorcee, announced last week that she planned to marry Ray, who is serving a 99-year term for King's 1968 murder in Memphis.

The warden said that the couple will be allowed only five guests at the wedding and that no reporters or photographers will be permitted at the ceremony. "I don't want this turned into a circus," he

said.

Tennessee Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson said last night that the state has no provision for conjugal visits, and that no such visit would be permitted after the ceremony.

The Rev. James Lawson, pastor of the Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, said he will perform the ceremony.

Lawson is a former minister of a black church in Memphis and claims to have helped convince King to visit the city to support striking municipal garbage collectors.

Sandhu met Ray a year ago when he was on trial for his escape from the prison in June, 1977. Ray, 50, has never been married.