

People



Ray Fiancee?

Anna Sandhu, a 33-year-old Knoxville free-lance artist, says she will marry James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year prison term for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ray, 50, and Miss Sandhu, a courtroom artist, first saw each other in a courtroom in 1977. Stoney Lane, warden at Brushy Mountain Penitentiary near Petros, Tenn., said Ray had told him nothing about any impending marriage.

PAGE 12

Ray's Kin, Lawyer Verify Wedding Plan

MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1978

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Within the next two weeks, James Earl Ray will marry a television courtroom artist inside Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, his brother and lawyer say.

Ray, serving 99 years for the 1968 slaying of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., confirmed his wedding plans after a Knoxville newspaper disclosed them, his brother, Jerry Ray, said yesterday.

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

Mrs. Sandhu told *The Knoxville Journal* in a copy-righted story 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," Mrs. Sandhu said. "But those feelings have changed now, to love and concern. I want people to know that. He's a loveable man, and not an antisocial maniac."

Lane, who represented Ray when he testified before the House Assassinations Committee in August and at his trial

last October for escaping from the East Tennessee prison in June 1977, said he did not know of the pending wedding plans until yesterday.

"I talked to him . . . and this is the happiest he's seemed since I've known him," Lane said in a telephone interview from San Francisco.

Jerry Ray said he first learned his brother might get married when he visited him three weeks ago.

Brushy Mountain Warden Stoney Lane, no relation to Mark Lane, said he received no papers from Ray requesting to be married. The warden would not let reporters talk with Ray.

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

Prison Chaplain Paul Jones said he gave Ray the forms for a marriage application, but did not remember when. Jones said it is not unusual for prisoners to ask for the applications and never return them.

Mrs. Sandhu said she first met Ray during a television taping last fall. In recent months she has visited Ray twice a week, prison officials said. She said she believes Ray's story that he did not kill King.

"They're all just picking on him because he's weaker, trying to frame him into a crime he didn't commit," she said.



Mrs. Anna Sandhu

10/12/78

Harold:

As I had 4 stories to do while in DC last week, no time to get with you.

Hope all well there.

Best,

Phil