

James Earl Ray DID kill Martin Luther King — He told me so!

"I know James Earl Ray murdered Martin Luther King Jr. — because he admitted it to me!"

That's the blockbuster disclosure of Ray's long-time wife Anna — who for the first time ever has revealed full details of the convicted assassin's secret confession.

Speaking out in an exclusive ENQUIRER interview, Anna said:

"As I was talking to my husband by phone in his Tennessee prison cell in 1991, he suddenly blurted out that he had killed Dr. King.

"He said, 'Yeah, I did it — so what!'

"Until that point I had believed James was innocent. He just seemed like a good guy who'd been framed.

"I was shocked to the core when he frankly admitted he had pulled the trigger!"

Ray confessed to the 1968 slaying right after his arrest, but quickly recanted his confession and has insisted for nearly 30 years that he was railroaded. Many people believe he was the fall guy in a massive conspiracy.

Ray's lawyer recently asked

**— EX-WIFE
REVEALS IN
EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW**

a Tennessee court to let him test the rifle that Ray allegedly used to kill King. The attorney said modern ballistics tests will prove it's not the murder weapon.

Coretta King, the slain civil rights leader's widow, also begged a judge to grant a new trial for Ray — who's 68 and suffering from terminal cirrhosis of the liver. Mrs. King said a second trial is "our last



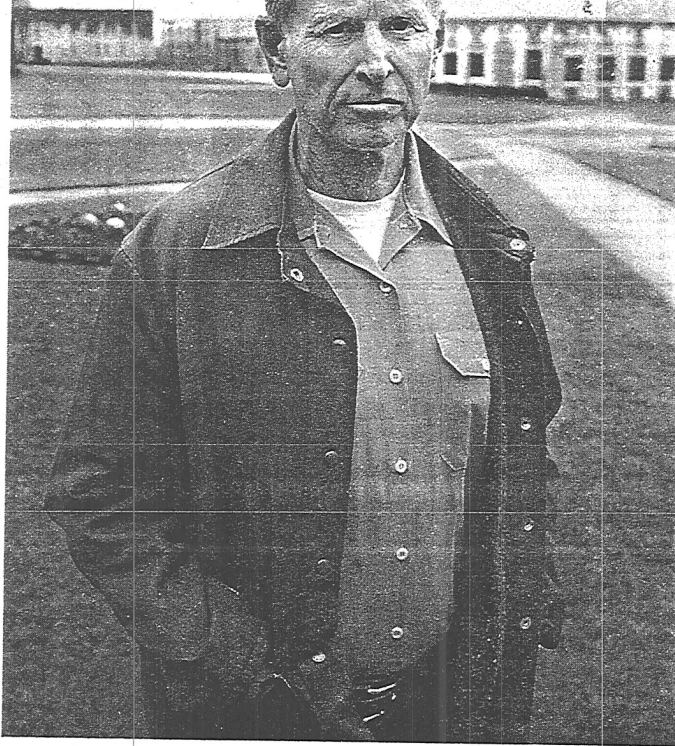
**CHILLING confession
drove Anna to end her 14-
year marriage.**

hope" to learn the truth. Now Anna, 49, has joined the fight to give Ray another day in court. But she doesn't expect his 99-year sentence to be overturned.

"A new trial using modern ballistics testing would simply prove his guilt a second time," declared the Knoxville artist, who married Ray behind bars in 1978 and was his wife for 14 years. "I know he's

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GUILTY! James
Earl Ray on
prison grounds.



as guilty as sin. He told me so!

"We were speaking on the phone in 1991 and he was telling me that he got \$12,000 for the yellow Mustang he drove on the day of Dr. King's assassination. My own car was broken down, and I asked him to send me \$800 so I could fix it.

"He said he'd already sent the money to his sister Carol. I felt hurt and asked: 'Why didn't you send the money to me — your wife?'

"He snarled in a nasty tone: 'She won't spend it.'

"When I asked him to just

lend me the \$800, he got even nastier and said: 'Do you have any collateral?' Then he made a smart crack about sending somebody to shoot up my house if I didn't pay him back.

"I was very shaken and said, 'I can't believe you would say these things to me. Until this moment I've never believed you could have killed Martin Luther King.'

"That's when he yelled: 'Yeah, I did it — so what!' Then he slammed down the phone.

"We never spoke again after that. Two years later we were divorced.

"James will never admit to the killing again — he'll carry his secret to the grave.

"He's created a mystique by recanting his original 150-page confession. He doesn't want to go down in history as the killer of Martin Luther King Jr., so he'll deny it to his death.

"But I'll never forget that chilling day he told me he did it."

— MELINDA CHAIT