

Trail of The King Assassin

ATLANTA — (UPI) — The mysterious fugitive in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. apparently went nightclubbing in Atlanta the night after the murder and hailed two taxis in a hippie neighborhood.

One taxi driver recalled the man — whom the FBI has identified as Eric Starvo Galt — because he tossed part of his fare onto the floor of the cab.

The man rode only two blocks and then hurriedly left the taxi. Apparently the same man caught another cab several blocks away and went to an apartment building.

The area is about seven miles from the public housing project where a white Mustang registered to Galt was abandoned April 5, more than 12 hours after King was shot to death by a white sniper in a motel in Memphis, Tenn., 382 miles away.

The 1966 Mustang had 1968 Alabama license plates and the registration gave Galt's address as a South Birmingham rooming house where residents hadn't seen him in three months.

FBI agents, tracing Galt's movements after the car was left in an apartment parking lot near the Georgia capitol the Friday after King's murder, apparently followed a trail to the Playroom nightclub.

One cab driver, when shown a sketch of Galt, said he remembered picking up the man four blocks away.

The driver said he halted in front of the Catacombs, an old house converted into a hippie nightspot. There was a crowd of hippies on the sidewalk.

He described the passenger as neat looking, about 28-30 years old, with a narrow face and dark hair combed in a slight pompadour. The description generally fits Galt, except the FBI sketch has him with a flat-top hair style.

The other cab driver said he picked up the man in the FBI sketch and drove him to an apartment building.