

The Dr. King Manhunt

GALT'S BROTHER IN CUSTODY?



THEY KNEW GALT AS DANCE STUDENT
Instructor Kathy Norton, manager Rod Arvidson

—AP Photo

New Gun Clue in Slaying Hunt for Galt Spreading

By United Press International
and Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM (Ala.)—
FBI sources indicated today the "alleged brother" of Eric Starvo Galt may be in their custody, helping them search for the man accused of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The FBI also apparently has reason to believe that Galt, 36, a mysterious graduate bartender with several aliases, may have returned to Birmingham after disappearing in Atlanta.

WRONG GUN

An FBI source said that after Galt purchased a gun at a Birmingham sporting goods store about a week before King was killed, he took it to the man he said was his brother.

His brother, the source said, told him, "That's not the gun we need." The source refused to say whether the knowledge of this conversation meant the unnamed second man in the alleged conspiracy was in their custody.

The FBI has charged Galt with conspiring to violate the civil rights of King. Memphis police later filed a murder charge against Galt.

DEATH PENALTY

Only the FBI warrant mentioned the alleged brother, and it did not include him in the charge.

The state charge of first-degree murder was filed against Galt in Memphis where King, 39, civil rights leader, was shot to death on a motel balcony April 4 by a

sniper who fled from a nearby rooming house.

First-degree murder in

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Tennessee carries the death penalty although the electric chair has not been used in the state since 1960.

The maximum penalty under the federal charge of conspiracy to violate a person's civil rights is a \$5000 fine and 10-year prison sentence.

The FBI statement said a 30.06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight found near the rooming house shortly after King was slain was purchased March 30 in Birmingham.

The statement did not connect Galt directly with the rifle.

PHOTOGRAPH

The FBI released a photograph of Galt and solicited public aid in finding him. Whether this appeal meant the trail had become cold was unclear, but U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark said he felt this is not the situation.

The picture, which had to have the eyes "opened" by an artist, brought uncertain responses from witnesses who were acquainted with Galt or saw the fleeing sniper.

"Unless he was wearing a wig or had a face lift or something, it's not the man I saw," said Charles Q. Stevens, who lives at the rooming house from which the fatal shot apparently was fired.

"The hair is too full and the face is too young," he said.

A source in Birmingham said the photograph was taken within the past three months, although the FBI did not specify when it was made. The photo has sharp contrast, making hair and features very dark.

"It's very near, but I'm not sure," was the reaction of Peter Cherpes, owner of a Birmingham boarding house

where an Eric Galt stayed from Aug. 26 to Oct. 7 last year.

"I don't really know," Cherpes said. "It's so hard to tell. His hair seemed to be lighter."

The FBI, relying on witnesses, said the fugitive has been described as a white man, 5-8 to 5-11, weighing 160 to 175 pounds, with brown hair in a brush cut, blue eyes, straight nose.

Persons who have met Galt described him as a loner with a "rural" speech and little schooling, fond of vodka, beer and hillbilly music.

The FBI statement also said, "The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his left hand. His left ear protrudes further from his head than his right ear."

Galt has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmeyer, the FBI said. The assassin registered at the Memphis rooming house under the name of John Willard.

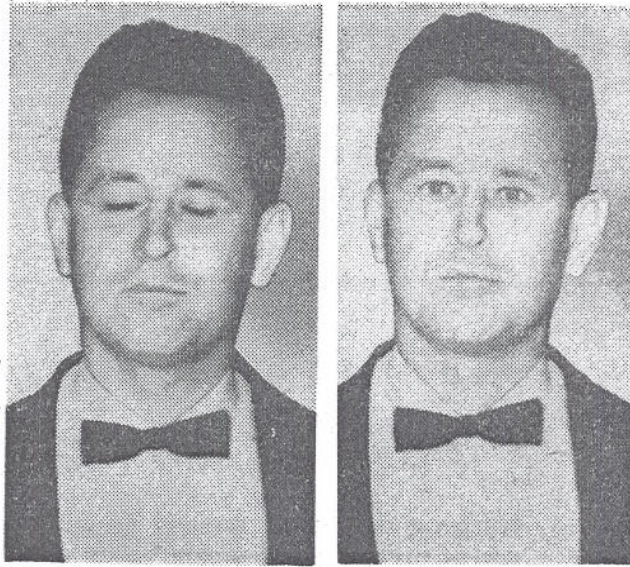
The statement said Galt claimed to have been a cook on Mississippi riverboats, a merchant seaman and "is said to be an avid dancer."

IN LOS ANGELES

Galt, the FBI said, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang with Alabama license plates abandoned in Atlanta the day after King was shot to death.

Galt was said to have taken dancing lessons in Long Beach, Calif., in recent months.

While in the Los Angeles area early this year, Galt took a course in bartending and graduated March 2, the FBI said. In Hollywood, director Thomas Reyes Lau of the International School of Bartending said Galt took a four-week course but refused a job.



FBI RELEASED THESE PHOTOS OF ERIC GALT

Original is at left; artist drew open the eyes

—AP Photo