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King Assassin 420 2 Takes 800

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Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - FBI agents have been given a new identification for the man they seek in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but the new identification seems to have muddled even more the mystery of who fired the single shot that killed King here the night of April 4.

The FBI had issued a conspiracy warrant last Wednesday for Eric Starvo Galt. Two days later the agency said a comparison of fingerprints found in the King investigation revealed that Galt in reality was James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old escapee from a Missouri prison.

A murder warrant issued here in Galt's name subsequently was amended to carry the name of Ray.

The second identity was only the latest in a series of puzzles which have surrounded the few known facts of the investigation.

Witnesses who said they saw the alleged assassin the the flophouse from which the fatal bullet was fired said he appeared to be between 26 and 32 years of age. The FBI's Wednesday announcement said Galt had given his birth date as July 20, 1931-which would make him 36. Friday the FBI said Ray

GALT

1) RAY

2) GALT

2) RAY

was 40. The FBI also said Galt was said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965, in Birmingham during September and October 1967 and in Long Beach, Calif., from December 1967 to February 1968.

But during the time Galt allegedly took dancing lessons in New Orleans, Ray was serving part of a 20-year term for armed robbery in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City.

GALT

At the time Galt was attending a bartending school in California, a duplicate Alabama driver's license was mailed to him at a rooming house in Birmingham.

The woman who runs the flophouse here said the man to whom she rented a room just three hours before King was slain had a Southern drawl. The FBI said Galt liked

3) GALT

4) GALT

country and Western music and drank beer and vodka.

In Jefferson City, an inmate of the Missouri prison, who said he "ran around" with Ray, said Ray-listed

3) RAY

4) RAY

as a native of Illinois-did not have a Southern accent. "Jim didn't drink, except a little prison home brew,"

said the convict, who asked not to be identified. "He never talked about himself very much and never expressed any liking for music, dancing and he was too tight to gamble."

5) GALT

Galt seemingly was a free spender. Aside from the dancing lessons, which cost him about \$500 in California alone, he paid \$2,000 cash for a white Mustang that is now impounded in Atlanta, and attended the bartending school.

6) RAY

"He was tight as a tick," the Missouri convict said of Ray. "Boy, if you owed him money, even a few cents, he'd bug you to death."

The penitentiary inmate said he did not think Ray was the king of man who would kill for profit. And the warden, Harold Swenson, who remembers Ray, added, "It's odd, but I won't believe he did it (killed King) until it is proven.

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"None of the inmates gave us any feedback after the first pictures of Ray were published. They usually talk about an inmate after he's done something. They really blab about it. But while he's doing something, you don't hear a word."

Ray was examined at State Hospital No. 1 at Fulton, Mo., from Sept. 8, 1966 to Oct. 17, 1966. Dr. Donald B. Peterson, hospital superintendent, said they had been asked only to determine whether Ray was mentally capable of standing trial.

"He showed no more nervousness than the average person awaiting trial," Dr. Peterson said. "He was rather reserved, but we just didn't find anything unusual."

"There was nothing in his mental makeup or background to indicate anything but a recidivistic (habitual) criminal whose crimes were all associated with money. We didn't find anything to indicate he was a killer or had tendencies to kill."

The official report from the hospital said Ray had "no hallucinations or illusions, was oriented as to time, place and person." His "mood effect" was described as "somewhat tense and anxious and at times showed mild depressions, but not of psychotic proportions."

Ray's IQ was listed as 105, considered normal.

In a separate psychological report, Dec. 20, 1966, for the Missouri State Board of Probation and Parole, Ray was reported to have a number of complaints, such as pain in the "solar plexus (pit of the stomach), tachycardia (rapid heart action), and intracranial (inside the skull) tension."

"When we commented that these were rather large words, he said he had been reading up in the medical literature," the report said. It added that at certain times, Ray thought he had cancer or heart trouble.

Ray was never married, but lived for brief periods with women, the report said. It added: "This man's basic problem revolves around what appears to be an increasingly severe obsessive, compulsive trend."

"He states that at the age of 10 he awoke one night and thought he had lost his eyesight. He became quite fearful. These various fears confront him from time to time and in a typical obsessive way. He feels he must do certain things in order to undo what he feels is going to occur and might result in harm to him."

The report recommended that Ray not be granted parole.

Ray tried unsuccessfully to escape from the penitentiary on Nov. 19, 1961, eight months after he was admitted, and on April 11, 1966. He succeeded between 2 and 3 p.m. on April 23, 1967, apparently by hiding in a three-by-five foot wooden bread box. He was working in the penitentiary bakery at the time.

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