

FBI Still Pressing Ray Hunt

WASHINGTON — (AP) — More than a month and a half after the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, FBI agents across the nation are reported still actively searching for the man accused of the killing — James Earl Ray.

FBI headquarters has been silent for weeks on the case, except to say that it still is being actively investigated — and that the bureau is not simply waiting for Ray to turn up some place.

Ray, 40, escaped April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City where he had served eight years of a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

The last official statement from the FBI on Ray was a one-paragraph description issued May 7 along with two new photographs of him.

One, said to be the best photo yet made public of Ray, shows him wearing a dark-checked sport jacket. It was taken earlier this year in California. The others, showing him wearing dark glasses, was taken last November as he sat in a night club in Mexico.

Meanwhile, reports continue to appear that Ray has been spotted at a number of places.

Just yesterday, officials in Pottsville, Pa., asked the FBI to supply a dental chart of Ray to determine if he might be a corpse found there.

Although there have been several reports that Ray may be dead, Justice Department officials say there is no evidence to support or refute this.

There even was a report that Ray was living in a hippie colony along the New Jersey shore.

And there have been several cases in which individuals have been questioned by police, who thought the individuals resembled the description of Dr. King's accused assassin.

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Teeth Checked To Determine If Body Is Ray's

POTTSVILLE, Pa. (AP) — State police and local officials reported last night they were investigating the remote possibility the body of a man found in a shallow grave near here was that of the alleged assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Richard Russell, Schuylkill County district attorney, said state police have asked the FBI for dental records of 40-year-old James Earl Ray for positive identification.

Other methods of identifying the body have proved fruitless, he said, because of the advanced state of decomposition.

The body, containing four bullet wounds—with three bullets recovered—was found May 7 by two state forestry workers near Brandonville, approximately 20 miles north of this northeast Pennsylvania community.

A special report showed the decomposition was caused by lime which was placed on the body, Russell said.