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CHICAGO AP - James Earl Ray, charged with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., worked in a north suburban restaurant for two months in early 1967, The Chicago Tribune said Wednesday in a copyrighted article.

The articles, in Thursday morning editions, said that Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Klingeman, owners of the Indian Trail Restaurant in suburban Winnetka, hired Ray as a dishwasher shortly after his escape April 3, 1967, from the Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City.

They found their employe, who gave the name John L. Rayns, so efficient that they raised his salary from \$105 to \$117.50 a week, Mrs. Klingeman told the Tribune.

However, she said that Ray seemed preoccupied, received several phone calls a week, and - the day before he quit - received a strange, unidentified visitor at the back door.

The Klingemans were unaware that John L. Rayns was really James Earl Ray until mid-August, when a magazine writer, commissioned by Ray to write his life story, contacted them. They then informed the FBI.

Recalling Ray's record as her employe, Mrs. Klingeman said: "I'm sure there's good in him. I've hired at least 1,000 employes over the last 35 years and thought myself a good judge of people."

The day after the mysterious visitor appeared at the back door, Ray failed to come to work. One day later, the Klingemans got a letter from "Rayns," postmarked Quincy, Ill., asking that they forward his back pay to a Winnetka post office box.

He said that he was taking a job on a ship. Later, the FBI located his brother, Jerome, 32, working as a groundskeeper at a country club near the restaurant.

Eight pay checks, signed by the Klingemans and cashed by "Rayns" while he was working for them were turned over to the FBI.

Mrs. Klingeman said she later learned that the social security number "Rayns" gave on his application for a job was that of James Earl Ray.

She said that she was told by FBI agents in an interview Aug. 24 that her information "had supplied the missing link" in the government's study of Ray's whereabouts from the time of the jailbreak until he was seized in London for the King assassination.

Mrs. Klingeman said that the FBI had shown her photographs of Ray that she and her husband identified as "Rayns."

However, when the FBI first released photos of Ray as a suspect in the King case, neither she nor any of her employes connected them with "Rayns," she said.

Ray was familiar with the Chicago area, from having worked here in 1950 and 1951. He was arrested in the armed robbery of a Chicago cab driver in 1952.

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