

Auto Seized At Atlanta; Hunt Widens

By United Press International and The Associated Press

ATLANTA—An impounded white Mustang resembling one that roared away from the scene of the sniper slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King last week in Memphis, is under close guard by the FBI.

"No comment," was the only word today from FBI officials, except to add no warrant has been issued for the car's registered owner, Eric Starvo Galt, 37, of Birmingham, Ala.



Mexican police artist made this sketch of King murder suspect seen in that country.



Rev. Ike Powell of Atlanta, whose call to police led to the seizure of a white Mustang.

Residents of a rooming house there said they hadn't seen Galt in three months.

The Los Angeles Times said gun sale records of a dealer believed to have sold the rifle used to kill King have been seized by FBI agents in Birmingham.

Using the rifle's serial number, agents obtained from the manufacturer, Remington Arms Co., the name of the wholesale distributor and apparently traced the retail sale to a Birmingham sporting goods store, the Times said.

The firm was not named.

Florida police, at the request of the FBI, had issued a statewide "locate and notify" alert for Galt, about the time the 1966 Mustang was towed into the FBI's Atlanta headquarters and cloaked in secrecy.

The FBI canceled the alert about five hours later. There was no explanation.

ROOMING HOUSE

Galt's address is a stucco, two-story rooming house in a South Birmingham neighborhood of old homes, high-rise apartments and modern office structures.

The owner of the rooming house refused to talk with newsmen last night, but one of the roomers, Percy Strickland, said he thought Galt was "one of the boys."

He couldn't remember him very well.

"The FBI has been asking

— Turn to Page 2, Col. 1

—From Page 1
about him plenty the last week," said Strickland.

AUTO FOUND

The Mustang, bearing 1968 Alabama license 1-38993, with two 1967 Mexican tourist stickers on its windows, was found in the parking lot of a southeast Atlanta apartment project about five blocks from the Capitol.

Several residents said the car had been there since last Friday, the day after King's slaying.

Mrs. Ernest Payne said she saw "a nice looking man" get out of the car Friday morning and walk away. She said he was about 5 feet, 10 inches tall, 170 pounds with sandy hair.

Another resident, Mrs. John H. Riley, said she saw the car early Friday, about 12 hours after King was shot 382 miles away.

OTHER REPORTS

Joe Manus said he had seen the car since last Friday and Mrs. Mary Bridges reported seeing a well-dressed, dark-haired man near the car recently.

Mrs. Bridges was uncertain whether the man resembled a police artist's sketch of the assassin who shot King.

One Memphis witness said he saw a man get into a white Mustang and take off

at high speed the day of the murder.

Another witness theorized the Mustang was not from Tennessee because it had no front tag and no Memphis city inspection sticker.

REPORT SOON

Earlier last night, in New York, U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark said regarding the King slaying that "we will report on some developments that should be made public soon."

Asked when, he replied, "When there are facts, a report will be made."

Clark said, however, "I remain as optimistic as I ever have been" that the killer will be caught.