

## Ray's '1st Crime' As a Schoolboy

Chicago Sun-Times

EWING (Mo.) — The crime career of James Earl Ray, suspected of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., began in this backwater community before he was old enough to shave.

Ewing postmaster Carlyle Washburn, 38, recalls that Ray, then known as Jimmy Raynes, stole the local school's hot lunch money when in the eighth or ninth grade.

Washburn was a classmate of Ray.

Washburn said he doesn't remember how much money was involved, but he did recall that school officials forced Ray to return the funds.

Ray, later known as Eric Starvo Galt, spent his formative years living with his parents and two younger brothers in a ramshackle home outside Ewing.

The boyhood home of Ray, now 40, and one of the FBI's "10 most wanted fugitives," was torn down after the family moved to Quincy, Ill., in 1943.

Ewing residents said the family was destitute, and most of the interior of the house had been stripped for fuel by the time the family moved out.

In 1959, Ray was sentenced to 20 years in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City under the state's habitual criminal act. He escaped in a bread truck April 23, 1967.

## Magazine Tells Overheard King Killing Order

NEW YORK — (AP) — Time magazine said today that a Memphis man has told the FBI that he overheard a Memphis businessman giving another man orders to shoot Dr. Martin Luther King on the motel balcony where the civil rights leader was slain April 4.

Without identifying the tipster, Time said in its current issue:

"A Memphian . . . told Time and later the FBI that he had overheard a local businessman giving an unknown triggerman urgent orders to kill King on the balcony of his motel, and even specifying the price for the job (\$5000) and the pickup point for his fee (New Orleans)".

The FBI in Washington said it had no comment on the report.