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A Mystery About Ray Is Cleared Up—

Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, Oct. 24—Information supplied for a magazine article by James Earl Ray, who is accused of murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has apparently helped the Federal Bureau of Investigation to trace Ray's whereabouts during two months of last year.

Ten days after he escaped from the Missouri State Prison in April, 1967, Ray went to work for a restaurant in Winnetka, in suburban Chicago, and stayed there for two months.

Early last August, Ray supplied this information to William Bradford Huie, the Hartsell, Ala., author who has a contract to write Ray's life story.

Until Mr. Huie went to Winnetka to interview the owners of the Indian Trail restaurant, where Ray had worked in May and June of 1967, the F.B.I. had apparently been unable to trace the murder suspect's movements although the F.B.I. had said it had 3,014 agents working on the case.

Mrs. Harvey Clingeman, who with her husband owns the family-style restaurant in Winnetka, said that Mr. Huie had talked to her and her husband in early August of this year.

Until that time, she said, they had no idea that the dishwasher and vegetable peeler they knew as John L. Ryan, was James Earl Ray.

After talking to Mr. Huie, Mrs. Clingeman said that she and her husband agreed to keep the discussion with Mr. Huie confidential. "Mr. Huie was spending so much money on it," she said.

Mr. Huie has said that he made a down payment of \$25,000 to Ray for his life story. The money is being used as a defense fund.

Although the restaurant owners agreed to keep the discussion confidential, Mrs. Clingeman said that she and her husband felt that they should "tell our local police about it."

Sometime later, F.B.I. agents came to talk to them, she said, and they took with them the canceled paychecks for the eight weeks that Ray had worked at the restaurant. The F.B.I. agents came to see her and her husband in late August, Mrs. Clingeman said.

Mrs. Clingeman said that Ray was highly regarded as an employe, that he was neat, sociable and was a good worker. She said it became obvious after a few days that he could handle a better job than dishwashing and that she made him

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He Was a Dishwasher in Illinois in '67

a "food server," and raised his pay from \$103 a week to \$117.50 a week.

As a food server, his duties included peeling vegetables and helping fill orders from a steam table.

The Indian Trail restaurant, operated by the Clingemans for 35 years, specializes in "plain home-cooked food" and does a volume business.

No Racial Friction

Working with Ray in the kitchen of the restaurant were 27 Negroes and four Filipinos, said Mrs. Clingeman, and there was never any friction between Ray and them.

Mrs. Clingeman said that Ray had several telephone calls during June, 1967, while he worked in the restaurant and that a man came to the restaurant to see him in late June.

He quit on June 24 and in a telephone call later told Mrs. Clingeman that he had been offered a job on a boat.

Months later, while he was using the alias Eric Starvo Galt, Ray told several landlords that he had worked as a ship hand.

Mrs. Clingeman said that Ray had a Social Security number and that it apparently was a valid one since there was no communication from the Social Security Administration about

the Social Security payments the restaurant made.

When Ray was growing up in southern Illinois and eastern Missouri in the 1930's, his family sometimes used the name Rayns and Ray had been enrolled in school at least once under that name.

Mrs. Clingeman said that Ray applied for a job at the Indian Trail restaurant on May 3, 1967. He escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City about April 23, 1967, while he was serving 20 years for robbery.

It is about 400 miles by highway from Jefferson City to Chicago. Mrs. Clingeman said that Ray had an injured foot when he started work at the restaurant.

Henry Johnson, a cook's helper at the restaurant, said he had often driven Ray to a bus stop near the restaurant after they finished their day's work.

He said that Ray traveled by bus and elevated train to his apartment on Chicago's near Northwest side.

Mr. Johnson, 61 years old, said he had asked Ray several times about his family and that Ray had mentioned he had a sister. Otherwise, Mr. Johnson said, Ray was vague or began talking about other matters.

He recalled, "It seemed to me that Ray always was reading a newspaper, and he always kept one in his locker."

George Arco, a cook at the restaurant, said Ray worked with him much of the time. He described Ray as a good worker, who quickly obeyed instructions and said Ray always was "very neat."

Magazine Article Due

A detailed account of Ray's stay in Chicago and his work at the restaurant in Winnetka and his life in several other cities during the months preceding the civil rights leader's assassination last April 3 in Memphis, is scheduled to appear in Look magazine in the issue to be published Tuesday. The article was written by Mr. Huie.

An agreement between Ray and Mr. Huie for the Alabama author to write Ray's life story

was made last July after Ray was flown to Memphis from London, where he was arrested on June 10.

Ray was reported to have sent Mr. Huie a handwritten 10,000-word manuscript in early August.

Mr. Huie and Ray's attorney, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., have been cooperating in the publishing venture. Mr. Huie could not be reached for comment today.

Mr. Hanes said in a telephone interview that he could not comment on the article. The attorney was held in contempt of court last Sept. 30 by Judge W. Preston Battle in Memphis for discussing the Ray case with two Memphis newspaper reporters.

Judge Battle, a Tennessee Criminal Court judge, is to preside at Ray's trial, which is scheduled to begin in Memphis on Nov. 12.