

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1971

# James Earl Ray Captured in an Abortive Jail Break

PETROS, Tenn., May 3 (UPI) James Earl Ray, who was convicted of slaying the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., broke out of his cell today but was captured before he could get out of the Brushy Mountain State Prison.

Warden Robert Moore said Ray, serving 99 years for Dr. King's murder, had apparently used tools provided by another inmate to remove one concrete block and part of another and make his way from his cell into an air chamber.

Ray then removed a bar on a ventilation fan and entered the prison yard behind his cell block. Then, using a crowbar, he removed the cover on a manhole on a steam tunnel that went under the prison wall to a steam plant outside the prison.

The warden said that Ray en-

tered the tunnel, obviously hoping to make his way to the unguarded steam plant outside the prison, but "apparently he found it too hot in there for comfort — that steam tunnel is about 400 degrees Fahrenheit."

The warden said that Ray then climbed out of the tunnel and retreated to the prison yard.

Guards noticed the broken bars on the fan and the cover off the manhole and started a prisoner count. They found a dummy in Ray's bunk and started looking for him.

He was found hiding in the shadows of a building in the prison yard at about 3:15 A.M., which Mr. Moore said was probably about 15 or 20 minutes after he left his cell. He

made no attempt to resist. The warden said that Ray had a crowbar and two chisels with him.

Mr. Moore said that Roy Morelock, a prisoner who works in the prison as a plumber, had provided Ray with the tools but had not tried to escape with him.

"I believe Ray had been working on this escape plan for several months," Mr. Moore said. "He's a pro at this escape

business. He recently lost an appeal for a new trial, and that probably set him off."

State Correction Commissioner Mark Luttrell said Ray would be kept under "closer surveillance" from now on. He said he did not know how he would be punished for the escape attempt. "There is not much point in taking good time from him," he said.

Ray was convicted in 1969 of the 1968 slaying of Dr. King.

San Francisco Chronicle

## SF Chronicle King Killer Escape Try

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# Ray Breaks Out of Cell

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### TUNNEL

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### TOOLS

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United Press