

SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

July 25, 1968

SHERIFF WILLIAM N. MORRIS, JR.
CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

RE: JOHN AND GERALD RAY
(In Memphis this date)

Dear Sir:

At 10:00 A.M. this date, I received a call from Chief C. F. Young, Chief of Police, West Memphis, Arkansas. Chief Young advised that at 2:51 A.M. this morning, Captain W. H. Billings made a call to the Bill-Roy Motel. While at this location, he looked through the guest register and found that a Larry Ray, 1900 Cherokee Street, St. Louis, Missouri was registered in Room #26, driving a white 1962 Chrysler automobile, Missouri license number AE-2558.

On returning to the station, Captain Billings sent a radiogram to the Missouri State Police requesting information on this license number to see if this possibly could be some one related to James Earl Ray. A reply was received from the Missouri Highway Patrol, which advised that license number AE-2558 had been issued to John Ray, 1912 California Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

After receiving this information from Chief Young and learning that he had the motel staked out, Captain Cox and myself went to West Memphis, Arkansas and found the Bill-Roy Motel to be located on the southwest corner of Tenth and Broadway Streets.

Captain Cox and myself talked to Inspector Keen and Lieutenant Guy of the West Memphis Police Department and was advised by them that there were two male/whites registered in Room #26 of the Bill-Roy Motel and had arrived with a large amount of luggage in their automobile. Inspector Keen advised they had observed these subjects walk down the street to a restaurant, eat breakfast and return to the motel. Just prior to our arrival, one of the male/whites, described as 30-35 years of age, six feet tall, 190 pounds, with black hair, wearing a black polo shirt and dark trousers, had left the motel, walking west on Broadway and had not returned.

Captain Cox then took the Polaroid camera and got as close to the motel as possible and took a picture. Also photostat copies of the radiograms and motel registration card and the letter of Captain Billings were obtained and will be made a part of this file.

When Captain Cox and myself returned to Headquarters, we were notified at approximately 11:30 A.M. that the West Memphis Police Department had followed this Missouri automobile from the motel to Third and Madison, where they had lost it in the traffic. At this time, I advised the deputy on the front door that if either one of James Earl Ray's brothers showed up, they were to be brought to me.

At 12:15 P.M. this date, the deputy on the front door called and advised me that Gerald Ray, the brother of James Earl Ray, was at the front door requesting to see his brother. Captain Cox and myself then went down to the front office and got Gerald Ray and carried him to witness-room, next to our office, where I inquired of him his business in Memphis and he advised that he and John had driven down from St. Louis to Memphis to visit his brother, James Earl. At this time, I informed Gerald Ray that he would only be allowed to see his brother on regular visitors day, which were Wednesday and Sundays. However, before he would be allowed to see his brother, he would have to be processed with photographs taken and finger prints made as a security measure and on visitors day, he would have to have the Sheriff's approval. I then asked him that while he was in the building, would he like to go ahead and be processed so that when he returned, this much of the procedure would be over with. He stated that he would and at this time, Captain Cox took Gerald Ray to the B. of I. to be processed.

As Captain Cox and Gerald Ray were leaving the office, Agent Boyle of the F.B.I. walked in and I advised him of what was going on and he and I walked around the block in an attempt to locate the white Chrysler described above in this report. We were successful in locating this car, parked on the west side of Third Street, the fifth parking meter, south of Washington.

As Agent Boyle and myself were approaching this car from the direction of Adams Street, we observed Gerald Ray coming from the Criminal Courts Building and as he approached this car, he observed us, then turned and proceeded walking back north on Third Street and when he approached Washington, he met a male/white who fit the description of John Ray, given to us by the West Memphis Police, but neither spoke and Gerald continued on to Poplar, then west on Poplar to Second Street, where he stood on the northeast corner of Poplar and Second. Agent Boyle and myself then returned to the building and observed out of the windows of the Criminal Courts Building and the Shelby County Office Building and we did observe the subject believed to be John Ray join Gerald Ray on the corner of Second and Poplar, where a short conversation was had and then both of them returned by way of Poplar to Third, south on Third Street to the automobile.

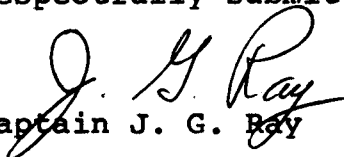
As the automobile was pulling from the curb, a third male/white, dressed almost identical to John, hollered at the car, stopping them and got into the back seat. The car then proceeded north on Third, then west on Poplar to Second Street, where Gerald Ray and the male/white in the back seat got out. The car then proceeded west on Poplar to Main, then south on Main Street until out of sight.

After a brief discussion between Gerald Ray and the unidentified male/white, they walked across Second Street to a 1968 light blue Mercury, Tennessee license AP-9530, which was parked in the first parking space on Poplar, west of Second on the north side of the street. Three other male/whites got out of this automobile and opened the trunk and took out portable T.V. equipment. They then stepped into the vacant lot on Poplar and Second, where they arranged Gerald Ray with his back to the Criminal Courts Building and an interview was held with him, which was taped and by the position they placed Gerald Ray, the Shelby County Jail was in the background.

A registration was obtained on Tennessee license AP-9530 showing this to be a Hertz Corp., 2439 Winchester, rental car. Captain Cox called the Hertz Corp. and found this car had been rented by Larry Johnson, 1644 Dunmuller, Des Peres, Missouri and showed him employed by American Broadcasting Company.

It is believed by me that Gerald Ray was sent into the Shelby County Jail by American Broadcasting Company T.V. for the sole purpose of making news, for the equipment was ready and waiting when he walked out.

Respectfully submitted


Captain J. G. Ray

JGR/prb