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79359

AIR MAIL



To the Sheriff
Shelby County Jail
Memphis,
Tenn.

Seagraves, Texas.

Sept 19, 1968.

79359.

To the Sheriff.

Dear Sir,

I have been sending a magazine now and then to James Earl Ray after I read it. As a present to the bird in a gilded cage. I wouldn't want to trade places with him.

I also mark the package in care of you, the Sheriff. So if you can head it the mag and then deliver it to Earl Ray if it meets with your approval.

But! always in every jail there's always some smart con who wants to upset every thing that isn't in his favor etc.

Now I happen to be a retired disabled U.S. Merchant Mariner just recently I received a service Button from the National Maritime Union which is called for a nickname the colored union and was I surprised and it does bring a little happiness.

2/
Lakes Deep Sea, Inland Waters. And its
marked 20 yrs from N.M.U.

And I'm proud to wear it. And I'm only
glad that I can send a magazine now
and then to James Earl Ray in your
care. Time always drags regardless
of where ever you are. Also I'll just
say this about the fellow who
is kicking about cold food. Then
World War II also Korea & I couldn't
make vietnam. But as a seaman
I stood many an hour and hungry
on ships at the bow on watch.

"Food cold" now it sure gives me a
thrill to know that Lindquist
who was jailed on charges of carrying
a pistol and robbery with a deadly
weapon. As the newspaper says
it's half as good as Ray who is
getting cooked. As far as the Red
light is concerned I happen to be
an electrician. A sea going electrician
but now I'm a disabled man. And
honest Sheriff I admire you. I've
been in Memphis years ago. Now

3/9 am 70 years old. And a hungry man
doesn't care whether his food is cold.
Well I'm glad the guards in your jail
take good care of Ray. You know
seamen are brothers and they aren't
afraid to be involved. And when a
seaman goes bad it hurts all of us
who have been honest loyal and
true. But we kept the ships sailing
thru every walk of life. Thru
every step of the way. Thru every
war merchant ships today which
are unarmed. I'm not a preacher
Arthur Hanes of Birmingham is wrong
because I'd enjoy Detention alone
and it isn't what I'd call "cruel
and inhuman treatment" You could
tell Mr. Hanes that the sweat
boxes of his states and I mean
Alabama. Out at Trussville not so
far from Birmingham away. They
work the men with stripes on
their backs and have sweat boxes
where a man is held up by his
thumbs and stretched for hours at a
time standing on his toes. Yes Mr.
Hanes I think you are wrong. Ray
is being well treated. At least

4/ He didn't rob anyone in Memphis.
A river town a good town and
and as far as this Lindquist is concerned
of you don't mind I'll keep sending in
detective magazines in your care
and for James Earl Ray.

You know I'm not a Texan. I'm
staying here for my broken body.
And I got in an argument last night
about sending Ray the mags. Well
I also had a call here from a F.B.I.
agent and I wouldn't speak in
front of this man. And he just ain't
got a leg it yet. And he wants to
know too much. Of course I'm not
a wanted man. I'm a white man
but honest sheriff. Ain't we all
brothers? Well keep up the good
works. And disregard the rat that
doesn't like to eat "cold food."

Best of wishes and I'll
always send a magazine in your
care for James Earl Ray. Keep that
Lindquist in tight security he's a
trouble maker. I don't know him
but you can say "Hello to Ray for
me if you want too."

Thank you. Richard G. Shotwell