

# Arizona Mailbox Yields Clues To Bombing

## Timothy McVeigh Used The Mailbox In Kingman For Selling "survival" Military Equipment

April 28, 1995 | By Jim Leusner of The Sentinel Staff

A suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing rented a mailbox in Arizona that was used to advertise military equipment, including a rocket launcher, in a right-wing national newspaper in 1993.

The manager of the Kingman, Ariz., mailbox rental service said Thursday that Timothy McVeigh was a frequent customer who sometimes wore camouflage fatigues and black boots. She said she also told the FBI that a man who once picked up mail for McVeigh resembled the bombing suspect dubbed by federal agents as "John Doe No. 2."

McVeigh, charged in the bombing that has killed more than 100 people, used The Spotlight newspaper in Washington, D.C., to advertise his military equipment, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said Thursday. The league said he placed three ads in The Spotlight, starting in August 1993 under the name T. Tuttle.

The address listed in the ad is a mailbox rental company called The Mail Room in Kingman, where residents say McVeigh previously lived and worked.

The Spotlight has been a strong voice for right-wing militia and so-called "patriot" groups nationwide. The newspaper has accused the government of building detention camps to house dissidents and the United Nations of plotting a takeover of the United States to form one world government.

McVeigh also has been linked to the patriot movement and by the FBI to former members of the Michigan militia.

Lynda Willoughby, manager of the mailbox-rental business, told The Orlando Sentinel that FBI agents visited her last week and confiscated "a good handful" of McVeigh's mail. She said McVeigh rented the box in his name in May 1993 but told her that he used the alias Tim Tuttle for business purposes. She said the box is still open and that she last saw McVeigh in early April.

FBI officials in Arizona and Washington, D.C., declined to comment, but the FBI has stated in court records that McVeigh also used the Tuttle alias.

Anti-Defamation League officials said Thursday it found the weapons ads in Spotlight, a newspaper it considers extremist and anti-Semitic.

A woman answering the phone at the newspaper Thursday afternoon said she was too busy to discuss the matter. In an interview earlier this week, Spotlight editor Paul Croke said Anti-Defamation League was its sworn enemy that has tried to put his publication out of business.

Listed in the classified ads under "survival," the ad read: "LAW LAUNCHER REPLICAs fires 37mm flares, 2 flares incl. \$125 ea., Add flares \$12 ea., Pepper Spray keychain \$10 ea. Money orders only. T. Tuttle, 1711 Stockton Hill, No. 206, Kingman, Az. 86401"

The league said the ad offered a light anti-tank weapon, commonly referred to as a LAWs rocket, for sale. Such a weapon, much like a bazooka, fires explosive shells that can destroy tanks. The ad was selling the weapon as a flare launcher.

The league says the 37mm flares mentioned in the ad can be used as explosives as well. The group also said McVeigh, an Army veteran, operated a booth offering weapons at a September 1993 gun show in Phoenix.

Willoughby said McVeigh was quiet and always would say hello when retrieving his mail. She said he always wore black combat boots and sometimes wore camouflage pants and a matching jacket, and drove a small, dark car.

"My impression of him was that he was a very nice, well-mannered person," Willoughby said.

Willoughby, who has managed the mail business for 18 months, also said she told the FBI that a man who once retrieved mail for McVeigh resembled the composite of another bombing suspect dubbed "John Doe No. 2." She said she saw the man only once.

Willoughby also said agents asked her about Jack Oliphant, another mail box customer described by the FBI as a leader of the Arizona Patriots, according to The Phoenix Gazette. She said Oliphant was an acquaintance of McVeigh's.

Oliphant was convicted in 1986 with three other Arizona Patriots after conspiring to bomb and rob an armored car hauling casino receipts, the Gazette reported. Two other men were convicted on weapons charges, the newspaper said.