

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

MATERIAL WITNESSES

Land and Jacks: Drifters with no jobs, lots of beer

The two have journeyed through Indiana, Arizona and Oklahoma over the past three years.

By Robert Dvorchak
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KINGMAN, Ariz.

Gary Land liked to lift weights, listen to country music and drink beer, lots of beer. He'd been arrested a few times for petty crimes.

He also has an intriguing trait: He keeps showing up in the same spots as Timothy McVeigh, the only man charged so far in the Oklahoma City bombing.

During the time that McVeigh stayed at two budget motels in the dusty desert town of Kingman, Land was holed up in a motel-apartment unit just 200 yards west and across the road.

Land left on a 1,000-mile drive to Oklahoma on April 3, only nine days before authorities say McVeigh traveled the same route.

And on the day of the bombing, Land checked in briefly at a motel in Perry, Okla., where McVeigh had just been arrested for driving without a license plate and carrying a gun.

Authorities would not say if Land, a 35-year-old drifter, was the elusive "John Doe No. 2," the well-muscled, tan and tattooed subject of an intensive manhunt. Nor would they outline his connection, if any, to McVeigh.

But Land and an older companion, Robert Jacks, were being held Tuesday as material witnesses after being arrested by the FBI at a small motel in Carthage, Mo.

The Kel Lake Motel was the



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last stop on the two men's ragtag journey across Indiana, Arizona and Oklahoma over the past three years.

At each temporary location, their lifestyle was the same — they interrupted sitting around only to buy beer, often by the case.

As far as anyone could tell, Land did not hold a job, and Jacks was collecting either a pension or a Social Security check.

"They're oddballs, let me tell you," said Mickey Linkous, who rented them a house in Richmond, Ind., for six months in 1992. The two broke their lease and threatened her when she refused to refund a deposit, she told the *Palladium-Record* of Richmond.

Beginning in April 1993, Land and Jacks stayed for nine months in a peeling, grayish-white mobile home at Copper State Motel and Trailer Park, off a busy main street in the Phoenix suburb of Mesa.

Land pumped iron on an outdoor bench when he wasn't making beer runs. A neighbor recalls the men often carried a gun with them.

The two next headed to Arizona's eastern edge.

On Nov. 3, 1994, they began a five-month stay at El Travatore

Motel in Kingman, shifting to three different rooms all now under FBI seal. The place is just down the road from the two motels where McVeigh stayed in February and early April. But no one recalls seeing McVeigh with Land or Jacks.

"They were loners. They were by themselves all the time. They drank a lot of beer. I'd see them bringing 24-packs from the store," said motel owner Bill Terranova.

The men never had a phone installed and received only one piece of mail in five months — Land's Arizona driver's license. They left April 3.

"The older one said they were going to Oklahoma to visit his two sons," Terranova said.

On the day of the bombing, April 19, two men believed to be Land and Jacks checked into a motel in Vinita, Okla. — 180 miles northeast of Oklahoma City.

That same day, two men checked into the Dan D motel in Perry, 60 miles north of Oklahoma City. McVeigh had been arrested the day before and jailed in Perry on weapons and traffic violations.

Manager Mike Umstead, who swears the two were Land and Jacks, said they checked in between 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. April 19.

They checked back in to Deward and Pauline's motel in Vinita later on April 20, and stayed at least until April 24, said Juanita Crafton, one of the managers.

They arrived at the motel in Carthage, Mo. — 200 miles up Interstate 44 from Oklahoma City — late Monday afternoon. They were under FBI surveillance Monday night and arrested Tuesday morning.