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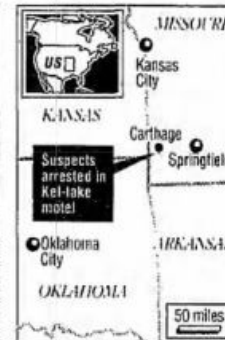
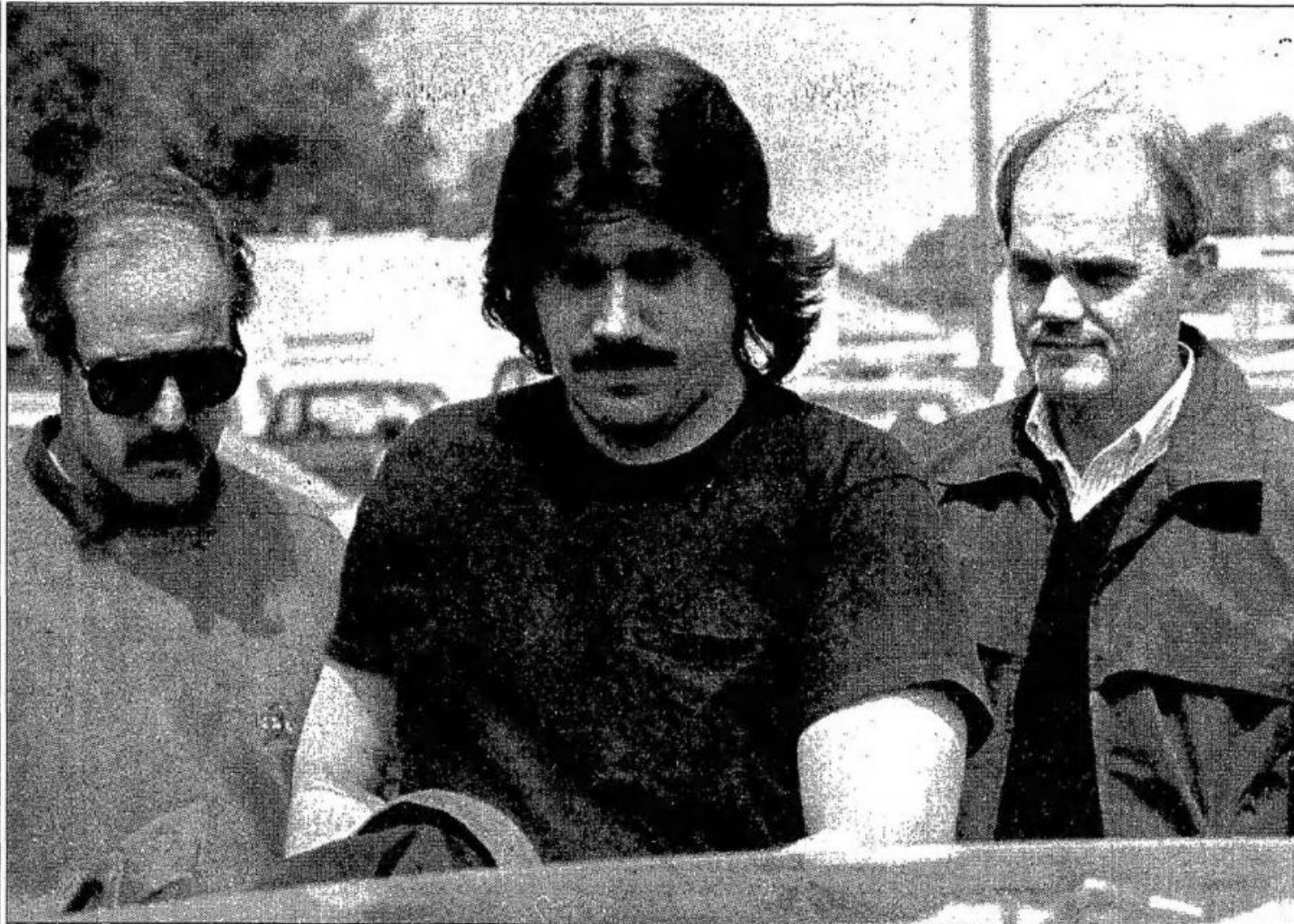
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NEWS 3



**Alleged
associates of
Timothy
McVeigh are
arrested in a
Missouri motel
as the search
widens for
John Doe Two,
the missing
Oklahoma City
bombing
suspect**

Martin Walker reports
from Washington

Material witness . . . Gary Allan Land, who was arrested in a Missouri motel with Robert Jacks, is escorted by FBI agents on his way to a court hearing in Springfield PHOTOGRAPH: ORLIN WAGNER

FBI bomber hunt nets two in dawn raid

THE FBI, hoping it had finally tracked down the missing Oklahoma City bombing suspect John Doe Two, swooped on a Missouri motel at dawn yesterday and arrested two men whom they described as "material witnesses" in the case.

"They have been arrested on probable cause that they possess information related to the bombing," Janet Reno, the attorney-general, said yesterday, refusing to confirm whether John Doe Two was finally in custody.

The two men registered at the motel under the names of Gary Alan Land and Robert Jacks. Their names had been widely publicised by the FBI on television news bulletins the previous evening as alleged asso-

ciates of Timothy McVeigh, the only man charged in connection with the bombing.

"They were arrested without incident. Jacks and Land are co-operating with the FBI in the investigation and have agreed to be interviewed, and have provided consents to search of their property," Ms Reno said.

But a law enforcement source in Washington later said investigators were considering releasing them because the authorities were having trouble finding a basis to hold them.

The FBI was alerted by a Missouri state trooper who spotted their white Ford El Dorado. It was also tipped off by the owners of the Kel Lake motel at Carthage, Missouri, that the men had just checked in and one resembled the FBI sketch of the second bombing suspect.

The FBI said the two men were associates of Mr McVeigh who stayed near his trailer home at Kingman, Arizona, where police this week searched the home of Michael Fortier, another former army friend of Mr McVeigh.

The FBI investigation has trawled through Mr McVeigh's army comrades at Fort Riley and the shadowy militia and paramilitary groups, particularly those around Kingman, Arizona, and in Michigan, where Mr McVeigh had stayed with his army friend, James Nichols.

Mr McVeigh, who had wanted to join the elite Special Forces after his Gulf war service as a gunner on an armoured vehicle, dropped out voluntarily of the gruelling probationary training programme

after two days and left the army shortly after.

The arrest of the two men in Missouri was a huge relief to the FBI which was increasingly frustrated at the loss of momentum in the search for John Doe Two, 13 days after the bombing.

The two men appeared before a local judge, James England, and were held on a material witness warrant, which is far short of any criminal charge. Lawyers for the two brothers who were associates of Mr McVeigh, James and Terry Nichols, who are held on similar material witness charges, applied for release on bail yesterday.

The evidence presented by the FBI so far has been circumstantial. Although eight witnesses have placed Mr McVeigh at the bombing site on

the day of the bombing and the previous day, the only one who was able to pick him out at an identity parade said he had been seen at a time when the FBI believes he was in Junction City, 200 miles north of Oklahoma City.

There are three crucial items of potential forensic evidence. Traces of detonating cord were found on Mr McVeigh's clothing, which the FBI is trying to match with debris from the bomb crater.

Traces of blue plastic from the barrels which held the explosives are being compared with similar blue barrels picked up at the Kansas home of Terry Nichols.

In the Kansas home the FBI has also found Mr McVeigh's fingerprints on a receipt for 1,000lbs of ammonium nitrate,

the kind of fertiliser used in the bomb.

Yesterday, the FBI pulled its forensic teams out of the small state park and lake at Geary, near Junction City, where Mr McVeigh and an unidentified associate rented the truck used in the bombing. The park and lake were searched after traces of fuel oil and fertiliser were found at a camping site, indicating that it may have been the place where 20 55-gallon blue plastic barrels were loaded with the 4,800lbs of explosive.

As the FBI investigations widened, President Clinton's denunciations of "the roots of violence" began to take effect.

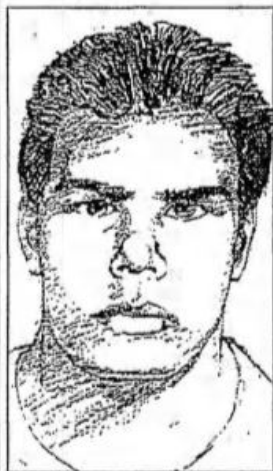
The Republican Party cancelled plans to honour the incendiary radio talk-show host, G. Gordon Liddy, who boasts on air of using pictures of Mr and

Mrs Clinton for target practice. The Oklahoma senate, speaking in the name of a state which has lost at least 139 of its citizens in the bombing, also appealed to broadcasters to take Mr Liddy's programme off the air "for encouraging hate and violence".

Alfonse D'Amato, the Republican senator who was to have welcomed Mr Liddy at an Honour Talk-Radio fundraising event in Washington yesterday, said Mr Liddy's views were "outrageous and deplorable".

● Two men and a woman were arrested yesterday and charged with stealing jars filled with money donated to Oklahoma City's bombing victims from local stores.

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'They have been arrested on probable cause that they possess information related to the bombing'

An artist's impression of Land the day after the bombing and, right, Timothy McVeigh



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