

McVeigh quoted as giving warning

Ariz. store manager
says bomb suspect
spoke of retaliation
for raid at Waco

By Josh Friedman
Newsday

KINGMAN, Ariz. — Six months before he was accused of blowing up the Oklahoma City federal building, Timothy McVeigh warned that "something . . . is in the making" to retaliate for the federal raid at Waco, Texas, a local copy shop manager told Newsday.

Last November, George Boerst said, McVeigh came in to make copies. McVeigh struck up a conversation about a poster on the wall advertising tapes and literature attacking the federal government for causing the fiery deaths of more than 80 Branch Dividians in Waco April 19, 1993.

Boerst said he mentioned that an Indiana militia group that had produced the poster was warning of a commando raid on the White House and the arrest and trial of politicians for the Waco incident.

"Tim said, 'That got canceled. But something else is in the making,'" Boerst said.

Boerst, manager of the K-Max copy shop in Kingman, said he didn't ask McVeigh what he meant "because it sounded kind of heavy."

Federal officials have said that Terry Nichols, a Herington, Kan., man being held as a material witness, told them that McVeigh said several days before the bombing that "something big" was going to happen.

When Boerst saw McVeigh on television after his arrest in the bombing, the remark came back to him suddenly, he said.

Boerst, 38, said FBI agents came to his shop 10 days ago and took away copies of the literature McVeigh had been copying — two publications about militias titled "Point Blank" and "The Patriot."

Also, federal sources and another local store owner told Newsday that McVeigh bought ammonium nitrate, the main ingredient of the bomb he is accused of using to blow up the Oklahoma City federal building, more than a year ago.

U.S. law enforcement sources said McVeigh bought about 150 pounds of ammonium nitrate — a material used in the bombing — at the True-Value hardware store in

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Kingman while working there between February and April of last year. Paul Shuffler, the store's manager, said his records show that McVeigh bought two or three 50-pound bags of the fertilizer.

Shuffler said the only use of ammonium nitrate in the Southwest desert is for explosives. It is not used as fertilizer there because the hot climate causes its nitrogen to be released too quickly, burning crops or lawns.

At about the same time McVeigh purchased the chemical in Kingman, a neighbor of McVeigh said a pickup truck with Michigan license plates arrived and two men stayed with McVeigh for three days.

Later that year, McVeigh stayed at the Michigan farm of James Nichols, who is being held on unrelated federal charges that he conspired with McVeigh to make explosives.

Meanwhile, federal agents searching a Kansas lake believed to be the location where the 4,600 pounds of explosives were mixed and put into the Ryder truck that exploded in Oklahoma City have found samples of blue paint on the shore.

FBI agents were seen returning yesterday morning to the blue pickup truck of Terry Nichols, James Nichols' brother who is being held in Kansas as a material witness in the case. Witnesses say they saw a blue pickup truck at the lake before the explosion.

Another possible lead in tracking alleged accomplices surfaced yes-

terday when authorities said that a video camera in the patrol car of the Oklahoma State Police trooper who arrested McVeigh on traffic charges less than two hours after the explosion may have recorded the license plate on a brown pickup that pulled to the shoulder, then sped off, when McVeigh was stopped.

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