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50 CENTS NEWSSTAND

## McVeigh tied to 'cult'



MELISSA MAHAN staff photographer

**Giving their side** Robert Millar, left, founder of Elohim City, and son, John, talk outside chapel at the compound near Muldrow, Okla.

Elohim City in Oklahoma now the focus of bomb probe

By JANICE BULLARD  
STAFF WRITER

MULDROW, Okla. — A reclusive community led by a spiritual adviser for two infamous racists appears to be a focus of the Oklahoma City bombing investigation.

Authorities are exploring connections between an eastern Oklahoma religious community and Timothy McVeigh, the Niagara County native accused in the bombing April 19 of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building.

McVeigh made a phone call to the founder and minister of the compound in eastern Oklahoma minutes after calling Ryder Truck Rentals on April 5, a federal source said.

And the community, called Elohim City, would be of interest to authorities because of its possible links to white supremacist organizations in the Midwest, sources said.

Yesterday, *Newsweek* magazine reported that federal agents are looking at McVeigh's links with Elohim City, led by the Rev. Robert Millar.

Millar, 69, spoke with a reporter and photographer for the *Democrat and Chronicle* at his compound three weeks ago. The conversation focused on convicted murderer Richard Wayne Snell, who was executed in Arkansas 12 hours after the bombing, and it revealed why the FBI might be interested. Millar's group has denied any involvement.

Millar told the *Dallas Morning News* last night that he does not know anything about a phone call from McVeigh to Elohim City.

"I doubt if there is a shred of truth in it, although it's possible that someone we never saw or ever heard of dialed our number," Millar told the *Dallas* newspaper. He denied ever knowing or talking to McVeigh.

"This thing involves husbands and wives as well as children as young as 12," a source said, according to the magazine. Some of the "major players" were talking to investigators to try to get lighter sentences, the magazine said.

Two senior law enforcement sources told today's *Washington*

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# Oklahoma City bombing probe links McVeigh to Oklahoma 'separatist' cult

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Post that McVeigh phoned one of Millar's sons on April 14, "four minutes" after a man calling himself "Bob Kling" made a telephone reservation for a Ryder rental truck at a Junction City, Kansas, outlet. On April 17, McVeigh, using the name "Kling," picked up the truck, which was used to blow up the federal building two days later.

According to the Post, McVeigh was ticketed by an Arkansas state trooper on Oct. 12, 1993, on a state highway a few miles from the Millar compound for driving his car over a double yellow line to pass another vehicle. He was later cited for failing to appear to answer the charge.

While authorities remain uncertain about what, if any, connection McVeigh had with the Millar group, their inquiries reflect an underlying strategy of examining all of McVeigh's associations, especially in the year before the bombing.

The *Newsweek* report said a group of "major players" in the Oklahoma City bombing will be arrested in the next several weeks.

The Elohim City community — called a "cult" by some residents of the nearby town of Muldrow — is across the state border and slightly north of Fort Smith, Ark.

Fort Smith was the central point of investigations into white supremacist violence in the region during the 1980s, and the Millars have come to the attention of law enforcement agencies before.

Millar's interview with the *Democrat and Chronicle* took place on a Sunday afternoon about three weeks ago, after the community had finished a five-hour religious service led by the Rev. Millar, who describes himself as nondenominational and "separatist."

Millar was one of the closest friends of Snell, whose comments moments before his execution assumed an eerie ring after the Oklahoma City bombing.

"Hell has victory. I am at peace," Snell said. "Gov. (Jim Guy) Tucker, look over your shoulder, justice is on the way. I wouldn't trade places with you or any of your political cronies."

Millar, who witnessed the execution, said the quotes were wrong. "He said, 'Hail His victory.'"

And as far as an apparent threat to Tucker, Millar said Snell simply meant that he would not want to be



BRYAN WITTMAN staff artist

in Tucker's shoes on judgment day. Snell is buried at Elohim City.

Millar was a regular visitor at the maximum-security prison at Tucker, Ark., where Snell was held until his execution near Varner, Ark. During a clemency hearing before Snell's execution, the minister pleaded with prison officials to release Snell to Elohim City. He said Snell's prosecution and execution were "political."

Millar and his son, the Rev. John Millar, 43, who was present during part of the interview, April 30, talked of intricate government plots.

### Belief in a conspiracy

The Millars believed Snell's conviction and execution were part of a conspiracy. They said Snell had information indicating former President Bush had been involved in drug deals in Nicaragua.

"That didn't hit the news, but we happen to know that," said John Millar.

The black state trooper Snell killed, Robert Millar said, had escorted then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, and Snell knew that the trooper had helped Clinton set up dates with women.

Robert Millar said he could not elaborate, but insisted that it was true.

The Millars seem to mistrust outsiders. Visitors were greeted outside the compound by a muscular young man with a two-way radio strapped to his leg, wearing a headset with a tiny microphone at his mouth.

The man escorted the visitors to a room where the interview took

## Authorities are exploring connections between a religious community and Timothy McVeigh, one of two men accused of the bombing.

place, and left only when Robert Millar waved him off, saying, "We're OK."

John Millar, who encouraged Robert Millar to end the visit because of another commitment, explained the guard: "We have security, like a mall has its own security."

Robert Millar said about 100 people live in the compound. Children are schooled there and a few residents who have nursing experience take care of routine medical needs, according to the *Southwest Times Record* in Fort Smith, Ark.

Millar founded the 400-acre Elohim City community more than 20 years ago to develop a lifestyle that he believes is closer to God than that offered by traditional society. Its clusters of crude stone, mortar and wood buildings were constructed by the people who live there.

The chapel, where the interview took place, is musty and dark, carpeted in purple. Three flags — one American, one Confederate and a family "coat of arms" hang on one side of the room. The pews consist of seats similar to those in a movie theater.

Elohim City is located at the end of a five-mile dirt road, a few miles from Muldrow, Okla. How Millar picked the site was unclear. Millar has reportedly lived in Maryland, California and Florida.

The *Commercial Appeal* of Memphis, Tenn., reported that Millar moved to the wilderness to escape race riots that he predicted would one day destroy major American cities.

Elohim City — from the Hebrew term for "God" — does not recruit new members, Robert Millar said. "We just let it grow."

Millar has been of help to federal authorities in at least one case involving a white supremacist.

In 1985, when FBI and federal

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents raided a 224-acre compound of the Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord, a group linked to neo-Nazi groups in the West, the leader of the CSA summoned the senior Millar as a spiritual adviser for negotiations in a four-day standoff.

The standoff ended peacefully with the surrender of members of the CSA and of a neo-Nazi group called The Order, an offshoot of the Aryan Nation.

### Survivalist group

The CSA, which is now defunct, was one of two racist, survivalist groups that federal investigators linked to assassinations, raids against armored cars, bank robberies and the bombing of natural gas transmission lines in the Midwest. The Order was blamed for the killing of Denver talk show host Alan Berg in 1984.

James Ellison, the CSA leader who had consulted with Millar, testified against Snell in connection with the robbery and murder in 1983 of William Stump, a Texarkana, Texas, pawn shop owner and former Texarkana police officer.

Jeff Rosenzweig, the lawyer who handled Snell's appeal, said prosecutors argued that the robbery was planned to fund CSA activities, and that Stump was targeted because Snell believed he was Jewish. Ellison has since finished a prison term on federal racketeering and weapons charges.

Snell was targeted as a suspect in the Stump killing after he killed Trooper Louis Bryant when the officer stopped his van in Oklahoma nine months later.

The Millars said the trooper had threatened Snell, and that Snell acted in self-defense. Snell denied involvement in the Stump killing.

In a federal racketeering trial in 1988, Ellison, the CSA leader, said he believed in a white supremacy theology known as Identity, which teaches that Jews are offspring of Satan and that blacks and other minority group members are "mud people" who should be destroyed.

Millar, though also associated with Identity, said he does not adhere to a philosophy of white supremacy. Rather, people of different races have different "proclivities," he said.

"There is evidence that Asjatiks have a higher IQ, and that negroes

have better physical abilities," Millar said. "I don't think it's demeaning to a white person to say that blacks are better in that (athletic) role."

Millar is not a complete stranger to Rochester. He said he gave a speech here in 1993, but did not elaborate. A minister who he said he knew here could not be located.

Millar's community has routinely turned away curious reporters. But in August 1993, four months after the deadly raid April 19 on the Branch Davidian compound at Waco, Texas, local newspaper reporters were permitted to photo-

graph the compound and interview Elohim City residents.

"We didn't know anything about the Branch Davidians before the ATF raid," Robert Millar told the Fort Smith *Times Record*. "But later, it made us wonder how many more of our brothers and sisters are being persecuted by government agencies."

Federal authorities have said McVeigh too was disturbed by the Waco raid. □

Includes reporting by the Dallas Morning News and The Washington Post.

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