

## **Collector Says McVeigh Not Robber - But He Told FBI That Bomb Suspect Knew About Gun Cache in Arkansas**

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ROYAL, Ark. - Gun collector Roger Moore says he knows that Timothy McVeigh was not the man who robbed him of \$60,000 worth of guns, gold, gems and cash, although the Oklahoma City bombing suspect was among only a few people who knew about the cache.

Mr. Moore, in a half-hour interview Monday at the locked gate of his driveway off U.S. Highway 270, said he didn't recognize the camouflaged man with the pistol-grip shotgun in the Nov. 5 robbery.

"I just asked questions, and he wouldn't answer," Mr. Moore said. "He told me what to do, like crawl in the house, and asked questions like, 'Is there anybody in the house?'"

Mr. Moore, who was alone during the robbery, said he saw and heard only one man as he was bound with duct tape and plastic restraints.

He has since come to believe that a second person may have been involved, Mr. Moore said, because he had been advised that "if the guy was a good professional, he wouldn't come alone."

After the April 19 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, guns matching some of those taken in the robbery were among the 33 found in a search of Terry Nichols' home in Herington, Kan. A safe-deposit box key taken in the robbery was also found at Mr. Nichols' home.

The FBI has interviewed Mr. Moore about the robbery and Mr. McVeigh, Mr. Moore said, because Mr. Moore told authorities that Mr. McVeigh was the only person who had visited his home and knew about his guns and valuables, except for a few close friends.

Mr. McVeigh, 27, and Mr. Nichols, 40, are the only ones charged in the bombing, which killed 168 people. Federal authorities are investigating the robbery as a possible source of funds to finance the bombing.

Mr. Moore met Mr. McVeigh at a Florida gun show in January 1993 and saw him again a few weeks later at another show, he said. Mr. Moore said he eventually invited Mr. McVeigh to do some odd jobs around his house.

"McVeigh was pleading poor--mouth, that he was low on money," Mr. Moore said. "There's always work to do."

He last had contact with Mr. McVeigh more than a year before the robbery, Mr. Moore said.

His weapons collection, Mr. Moore said, was the result of a hobby, not a business.

"Of all the guns that had been stolen, I think one of them had been fired in the last five years," he said.

In other developments, an attorney for a friend of Mr. McVeigh's has reopened negotiations with prosecutors about a possible deal, a federal law enforcement source says.

Federal officials have said Michael Fortier told agents last month that he traveled to Oklahoma City with Mr. McVeigh before the bombing to case the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building as a target. Mr. Fortier also said Mr. McVeigh told him during the December trip that he planned to blow up the building, the officials said.

Oklahoma City spokesmen for the U.S. attorney and the FBI would not comment on Mr. Fortier's whereabouts or the status of any deals.