OKLAHOMA CITY - The boys' room is still how they left it. A row of folded little blue jeans hangs in the closet. Stuffed animals sit on the beds.

But there are some additions - in particular, a zip-locked plastic bag with the cotton shirts they wore the day before they died.

"When we open it we can still smell them," said Kathy Graham-Wilburn, whose grandsons Chase and Colton Smith were killed in the bombing April 19 - the day life in this house changed.

The room serves as a reminder of why Mrs. Wilburn and her husband, Glenn - discontent with the government's explanations - have conducted their own investigation into the blast.

"That's why we're doing what we're doing," Mr. Wilburn said. "We keep sight of that."

Almost every day for the last four months, they've searched for answers to explain the attack at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that killed 168 people, including children in its day-care center.

Mr. Wilburn, an accountant, particularly has treated it as a job - working Monday through Friday on the case - until it's become an obsession.

"He hasn't worked since this happened; he's only investigated," Mrs. Wilburn said. "I really just started helping him in the last month or so."

Their phone starts ringing at 7:30 in the morning and keeps busy all day. "Sometimes it goes until midnight," Mr. Wilburn said.

They've been in touch with lawyers, legislators, investigative reporters and private eyes.

Defense attorneys have complained that some witnesses won't talk to them, but the Wilburns have tracked them down and gotten them to tell them what they know.

"Sometimes we have to guilt them into it," he said. "We say, `Our grandbabies were killed in that bombing - we deserve to know.'"
A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office said the Wilburns' investigation is not helpful to the government, but "they have a right to satisfy themselves." Questioning the government, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Steve Mullins, is "part of the fundamental fabric of our system."

He said that if the Wilburns come up with anything conclusive that would help the prosecution, he hopes they will share it with them.

Boys' lives

Right after the bombing, the world got to know Chase, 3, and Colton, 2, as TV played videotape of them chasing each other and unwrapping Christmas presents. Viewers wept for their red-haired mother, Edye Smith, as she buried her boys in a single casket.

A month later, they saw a different Edye Smith. At the building's implosion, Ms. Smith - who is divorced from the boys' father - and the Wilburns went on national television and questioned whether government agents had prior warning.

A few days afterward, Mr. Wilburn said, officials from the U.S. attorney's office, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the FBI paid them a visit.

They wanted to assure Ms. Smith and the Wilburns that there was no prior knowledge of the attack.

But the meeting, which lasted only about 10 minutes, Mr. Wilburn said, did little to answer their questions.

Because April 19 marked the second anniversary of the government's assault on the Branch Davidians in Waco, Mr. Wilburn said he asked officials whether they were prepared for anything strange to happen that day.

"They said the thought never crossed their minds," Mr. Wilburn said. "Later, I was watching CNN and a reporter asked the head of the ATF the same question, and he said they were aware of the significance and had taken precautions at all their offices. That was a turning point for me. Someone lied to me."

On TV, Mr. Wilburn recalled, the ATF official said he meant they were prepared for demonstrations. But that answer did not fly for the Wilburns, who noted that the Oklahoma bombing suspects apparently shared a hatred of government agents because of the Waco siege.
Les Martz, a Dallas-based ATF regional manager who oversees the Oklahoma office, previously has said five of its 13 employees were in the federal building when the bomb exploded and all survived. He and several ATF agents in Oklahoma said they had no warning of the blast.

"They have to be angry at somebody," said Rick Buchanan, Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating's press secretary.

Primarily, the Wilburns have been checking out what ATF knew; whether it illegally had stored explosives in the building that caused a second blast; and whether suspects Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols have Middle East connections.

"We don't think the government was involved in the bombing, but we understand conspiracy theories when (the government) won't talk or tell the truth," Mr. Wilburn said.

More questions

As their personal inquiry grows, so do their questions.

They've talked to witnesses who say they saw Mr. McVeigh with another man just before the bombing. They've talked with witnesses who say they saw Mr. McVeigh with somebody racing away from the building. And they said they've talked to a witness who says an ATF agent told him the agency had a bomb threat the day before.

Some of those witnesses say they were never called to the grand jury that indicted Mr. McVeigh and Mr. Nichols for carrying out the bombing. The two men have denied the charges.

The Wilburns are convinced that more people are involved in the explosion and the government is covering something up.

"What infuriates us is if even one person avoided that day because they thought there was danger, we should have known," he said. "No one told us there was danger that day or we would have never taken Chase and Colton there."

They've been seen by other families and officials as people who are over the edge with grief and who are not handling it well.

"Their premise doesn't make sense," said Mr. Buchanan, the governor's press secretary. "People aren't that way that they would know of a problem like (a possible bombing) and not tell anyone."

The Wilburns say they don't care what people think about them.
"I feel I have to vindicate Edye," said Mrs. Wilburn. "She's been criticized for asking reasonable questions."

And Mr. Wilburn said: "We buried two little boys. Even if we do look like nuts, we have that right.

"People say let the government do their job. Well, I wish I could do that. But when they don't call witnesses with information about John Doe 2 to the grand jury, I'm going to question them."

Although he would not talk about this case, Mr. Mullins of the U.S. attorney's office said he believes that, in general, people don't realize how grand juries work.

"Not every witness comes before the grand jury. Sometimes an investigator outlines what 10 witnesses told him. We can get people's facts without them there," he said. "The goal of a grand jury is different from the goal of a trial."

Recently, the Wilburns' spirits have been buoyed because Mr. McVeigh's lead attorney, Stephen Jones, has made some of the same allegations.

After the indictment of Mr. McVeigh and Mr. Nichols, Mr. Jones said prosecutors failed to explore other suspects and scenarios.

"It's a strange parallel we have with Stephen Jones," Mr. Wilburn said. "But, really, it's not that odd. We're after the truth, and I would hope that's what Stephen Jones is after as well."

Although the Wilburns say they are not interested in talking with or collaborating with Mr. Jones, they appreciate that he and state Rep. Charles Key, R-Oklahoma City, are talking about these issues.

"There was a while there that we were hanging out there by ourselves on this," Mr. Wilburn said.

Mr. Key has called for state House hearings into the blast, at the urging of Mr. Wilburn and parents who signed a petition calling for them. Legislative leaders have said such hearings are not needed at this time.

The Wilburns say they realize this ordeal will not be over soon and they are in it for the long haul.

"I'll keep digging so I'll know when it's time to believe they're doing the right thing," Mr. Wilburn said. "If it takes one year or five years, I'll be here."

The Wilburns hope that time will come soon. But even when it does, life will never be the same.
"I'd love to have our old life back," Mrs. Wilburn said. "Where we just came home and played with the kids."

Caption: PHOTO(S): (The Dallas Morning News: Laura Griffin) Kathy Graham-Wilburn and husband Glenn Wilburn have kept their grandsons' room as it was on April 19, when the boys were killed in the Oklahoma City bombing. (State-1A)