

Records hint at link with Elohim City

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April 13 - In the days before he was executed in Arkansas, CSA member Richard Wayne Snell was repeatedly visited by Robert G. Millar, the founder of a right-wing commune in northeast Oklahoma known as Elohim City.

In recent months, the significance of Elohim City in the broad Oklahoma City bombing picture has grown because of reports linking suspect Timothy McVeigh to the compound.

According to Alan Ables, who was legislative assistant to the director of the Arkansas Department of Corrections around the time of Snell's execution, Millar was Snell's "spiritual adviser" who "was there with him every day, many hours a day for his last days on this planet."

Following Snell's execution, Millar took Snell's body back to Elohim City, where it is buried.

Phone records show that about two weeks before the bombing, McVeigh - or somebody using his phone card - called Elohim City. And two weeks ago in Denver, Morris Dees, chief counsel for the Southern Poverty Law Center, who tracks right-wing extremists, said McVeigh had visited the commune several times.

Living at Elohim City for a period of four years was German national Andreas "Andy" Strassmeir, whose grandfather helped found the German Nazi Party, according to Dave Hollaway, a director of the CAUSE Foundation. Hollaway and Kirk Lyons, also of CAUSE, became close friends of Strassmeir's while he was in the United States.

Over the years, the legal foundation has represented members of the Ku Klux Klan and others with similar views.

There has been speculation that McVeigh may have been attempting to reach Strassmeir when he called Elohim City on April 5, 1995.

Strassmeir, who now lives in Germany, has admitted in a court affidavit that he met McVeigh at a Tulsa gun show shortly after the April 19, 1993, fire at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas. Strassmeir said McVeigh was selling fatigues and military clothing.

"I sold him a U.S. Navy combat knife with a sheath," Strassmeir said in the affidavit. "Later I returned ... and bought a shirt, pair of trousers and a pair of leather gloves from him. During this transaction, we discussed the events that transpired at Waco. ..."

"This man (McVeigh), who I remember as a clean-cut white male in his early twenties, seemed to be a nice person and a moderate. By moderate I mean that he made no radical statements to me concerning Waco or the United States government in general.

"We both agreed that it wasn't right for the government to use such force against a religious group or to kill them for what they believed in. Moreover, we both agreed that (Branch Davidian leader) David Koresh had probably done some things which were not right but such did not excuse the government from using tanks to run over women and children."

