

Agents make progress

Federal investigators settle into police work

Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON: A week has gone by. Initial investigative triumphs of federal agents in the deadly Oklahoma City bombing have evolved into more routine police work, but Tuesday brought significant progress:

■ A Michigan corn farmer, James Nichols, held so far as a material witness, was charged with manufacturing explosive devices in concert with his brother and bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh.

■ FBI tests reportedly matched bomb residue with clothing and material in the 1977 Mercury Marquis McVeigh was driving when arrested near Perry, Okla.

■ The FBI issued a new sketch of the "John Doe No. 2" who is thought to have accompanied McVeigh, 27, when he rented the Ryder truck agents think carried the two tons of fertilizer-and-fuel explosives. The new rendering has the man wearing a baseball cap.

■ A motel owner in Junction City, Kan., where the truck was rented, said he recognizes the new composite drawing as the likeness of a man who stayed two nights, spoke broken English and said he was from Colorado.

■ Blast witnesses picked McVeigh from a lineup as the man

Under investigation



Timothy McVeigh

McVeigh, 27, is tied to anti-government paramilitary groups. From Army honor to the Persian Gulf War, he has been assigned guard for Mark Koehnke, a militant talk-radio host, was targeted by the government's 1993 attack on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas.



John Doe No. 2

The bushy-haired man in a baseball cap is being sought in connection with the bombing. Witnesses say McVeigh and John Doe No. 2 rented the Ryder truck that was used in the bombing.



James D. Nichols

Charged with conspiracy and firearms violations, Nichols, 41, allegedly built bombs in Michigan with McVeigh and his brother Terry. Brother of McVeigh's father, Mark, 30.



Terry L. Nichols

The 40-year-old brother of James Nichols, being held as a material witness. Blue plastic barrels, possibly matching shrapnel found at the bomb scene, were found at his Kansas home.

The Associated Press

they saw lurking near the Alfred Murrah Federal Building before it blew up at 9:04 a.m. April 19, the Dallas Morning News reported.

■ FBI artists compiled composite drawings of two men who acted suspiciously in an Omaha, Neb., federal building days before the explosion. Reports conflicted about whether they resembled McVeigh and John Doe No. 2.

McVeigh, once voted most talka-

live member of his high school class, will give only name, rank and serial number. The Bronze Star winner and Desert Storm sergeant complains he is a political prisoner — even when shown pictures of babies killed in the blast.

The Kansas motel manager says the man in the new FBI sketch stayed in Room 107 two days before the bombing and drove a Ryder truck.