

The Oklahoma City Bombing Trial Timeline

Nov. 22, 1994 - Terry Nichols leaves Las Vegas for the Philippines.

Late November 1994 - McVeigh is in Pendleton, N.Y., visiting his father.

Week of Nov. 29, 1994 - Lana Padilla unlocks her office safe and removes the folded brown paper bag that Nichols had given her. She finds a dozen keys and an envelope. The envelope contains a sealed letter to Tim McVeigh's sister, Jennifer; a life-insurance policy; and two lists of handwritten instructions to "Read and Do Immediately."

Dec. 3, 1994 - McVeigh attends a gun show in Kalamazoo, Mich., where he meets Dave Paulsen, an Illinois gun dealer.

Dec. 15, 1994 - McVeigh arrives in Kingman and checks into Mohave Inn. Meets with Michael Fortier.

Dec. 16, 1994 - McVeigh and Fortier drive to Oklahoma City and circle the federal building, according to Fortier's testimony. They continue on to central Kansas, where they stop at one of the storage facilities McVeigh and Nichols had rented. Fortier told authorities he stood guard while McVeigh unloaded stolen weapons. Fortier returned to Kingman with the weapons. McVeigh drove on to Michigan.

Late December 1994 - McVeigh stays in Michigan for two weeks, making frequent calls to Dave Paulsen.

Jan. 15, 1995 - Nichols returns to Las Vegas from the Philippines. He stays at the apartment of his ex-wife, Lana Padilla. He tells her "Tim needs the money" that Nichols had left behind.

Middle January, 1995 - McVeigh leaves Michigan for Kansas and Nichols leaves Las Vegas, also bound for Kansas.

Feb. 13 through Feb. 17 - McVeigh checks into the Hilltop Motel in Kingman. He makes repeated phone calls to various areas in the country. One call is to the Sunset Motel in Junction City, where Nichols stayed from time to time.

Late February 1995 - Nichols buys a home at 109 S. Second Street in Herington, Kan. He has told his ex-wife that he and McVeigh have decided to go their separate ways and that they will not go into business together. McVeigh returns to Kingman and stays with Fortier.

March 5 - McVeigh checks into the Sunset Motel in Junction City, Kan.

March 16, 1995 - McVeigh, now back in Arizona, calls Lana Padilla asking about a TV that Nichols had left in the garage. According to Padilla, he arrives at the apartment the next day and loads the TV into the back of his blue Buick station wagon.

Mid-March 1995 - Nichols settles into a seemingly domestic life in Kansas. But also he makes telephone calls inquiring about an enclosed trailer, fuel meters and fuel oil - all things authorities say could have been used to build the bomb.

Late March 1995 - McVeigh checks into the Imperial Motel in Kingman and frequents old haunts in Arizona. Phone records show no communication between Nichols and McVeigh. James Rosencrans, a neighbor of Fortier, said McVeigh offered him \$400 to drive a vehicle for about 20 hours on the road. The drive from Kingman to Junction City takes about 24 hours, according to the Rand McNally Road Atlas.

April 5, 1995 - Nichols leaves his home in Herington, Kan., with his wife and daughter to travel to Michigan, where he attends a gun show in Grand Rapids. Ryder truck witnesses

Monday, April 10 - 1 p.m. through 4 p.m. or 5 p.m. - James Sargent sees a Ryder truck at Geary State Fishing Lake in Kansas. Nichols is in Iowa, on his way home from a gun show. McVeigh is at his hotel in Arizona. The truck is parked in the turnaround area where the feds say the bomb was built eight days later. About an hour after Sargent arrives, a brown truck comes in and parks near the Ryder. About an hour after that, a white car drives in and also parks near the Ryder. Sargent doesn't notice any people.

Tuesday, April 11 - Sargent goes to Fort Riley in the morning to see his wife and finish processing his discharge papers. He glances over at the lake as he drives by and sees that Ryder truck is still there.

Wednesday, April 12 - Georgia Rucker, a Herington real estate agent, drives past the lake on her way to Junction City. She is taking her son to school. She also sees a Ryder truck parked at the lake.

Thursday, April 13 - Georgia Rucker again sees the truck on her way to drop her son at school in Junction City.

Sunday, April 16, between 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. - Rick Glessner, who lives in Onaga, is on his way to his parents' home in Herington for Easter dinner. He is driving south on Highway 77 and, as he passes the lake, he looks over and sees a Ryder truck parked there. The truck was parked near the lake's dock and jetty.

Sunday, April 16, around 4 p.m. - Lea McGown, owner of the Dreamland Motel, and her family return from Easter dinner. Someone is backing a Ryder truck into a hotel parking spot. It's not in the right spot, so she asks her son, Eric, to go over and ask the driver to move it to another part of the parking lot. Eric McGown walks over to the truck. The driver is Timothy McVeigh. McVeigh, a guest at the hotel, had told McGown that he would have a Ryder truck with him. McGown later sees McVeigh with this truck, faded yellow with rounded corners on cab, and then sees McVeigh later with a newer-looking Ryder that has sharper corners on the cab.

Monday, April 17, between 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. - Elwin Roberts of Dwight, Kan., goes to a quarry south of Geary State Fishing Lake for rock samples. He is driving north on Highway 77 when he looks over at the lake and sees a Ryder truck. He sees the truck pulled in by the picnic area. A twotone brownish pickup is parked 70 or 80 feet away. He doesn't see any people and doesn't know if the pickup is with the Ryder. This is the last time this first, mysterious, Ryder truck is seen.

April 12, 1995 - McVeigh checks out of the Imperial Hotel and begins the 24-hour drive to Kansas. An unidentified man is seen by a neighbor at Nichols' house.

April 14, 1995 - McVeigh arrives in Junction City and calls Nichols from a bus station. Two minutes later a man identifying himself as Bob Kling calls a Ryder rental agency from the same phone at the bus station to inquire about a truck capable of carrying 5,000 pounds. Later that day, McVeigh checks into the Dreamland Motel, paying for four nights. At Nichols' house, a second unknown man who was not McVeigh appeared, according to a neighbor.

April 15, 1995 - A Chinese-food delivery man takes dinner to McVeigh's room at the Dreamland Motel. The man who pays for the dinner doesn't match the description of McVeigh, Nichols or Fortier, he insists.

April 16, 1995 - McVeigh phones Nichols from Tim's Amoco in Herington, a distance of about five blocks from Nichols' home. According to federal authorities, McVeigh and Nichols then drive together to Oklahoma City.

April 17, 1995 - At about 2 a.m., Nichols drops McVeigh at a McDonalds in Junction City. That afternoon, someone identifying himself as Bob Kling goes to Elliott's Body Shop in Junction City and rents the Ryder truck used in the bombing. Federal authorities say Kling was McVeigh. With him was the man who became known as John Doe No. 2, a muscular white man, 5'-7" to 5'-8" tall, who wore a white cap with blue stripes.

April 18, 1995 - Federal authorities allege Nichols and McVeigh constructed a bomb of fertilizer and fuel oil in a Ryder truck at Geary State Fishing Lake.

April 19, 1995, 8:30 a.m. - A yellow mercury and a Ryder truck are seen traveling together in downtown Oklahoma City.

April 19, 1995, 8:55-9:01 a.m. - A Ryder truck is seen parked in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

April 19, 1995, 9:02 a.m. - Bomb shears the face off the federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people in the most deadly act of terrorism in U.S. history.

April 21, 1995 - FBI releases a bulletin identifying McVeigh as a suspect in the bombing. He's sitting in a lockup in Perry, Okla.