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▼ OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

FBI seeks suspects' companion

Herington woman: Sketch resembles man who was with McVeigh and Nichols

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The FBI is looking for a man it believes sought a remote hideout in the Ozark mountains of Missouri with Oklahoma City bombing suspects Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, CNN and Time magazine reported Sunday.

The FBI wants to question Robert Jacques to help agents reconstruct

McVeigh's and Nichols' activities leading up to the April 15, 1995, bombing.

The network released a sketch of a man believed to be Jacques.

The FBI has yet to show the Jacques sketch to the witnesses in Kansas at the Ryder truck rental in Junction City, where the truck used in the bombing was rented, or to people around Nichols' home in nearby Herington, CNN reported.

Barbara Whittenberg, who runs the Santa Fe Trail Diner in Herington, recalls three men pulling up in a Ryder truck a day or so before the bombing. Two were Nichols and McVeigh, she said. The third

was muscular and dark-skinned.

Shown CNN's reproduction of the FBI sketch of Jacques, Whittenberg said, "It looks closer to him than any of them. This is the closest picture I've seen yet."

William Maloney, a Cassville, Mo., real estate broker told CNN that in the fall of 1994, Jacques came to his office with Nichols and a man who identified himself as Tim.

Jacques did most of the talking and did not say why they were interested in buying land Maloney advertised as "In the middle of nowhere, at the end of a rough road, at the bottom of a hollow ... there

may be a cave."

"I asked the question, 'Were they looking for a place to hide?' and he didn't respond to that," Maloney said.

The three men left the same day and didn't return, Maloney said. Several months earlier, Maloney said he got a phone inquiry about the land and asked the caller's name.

"He says 'McVeigh,' and I said, 'M-C-V-E-Y' and he said, 'That's close enough,'" Maloney said.

McVeigh's trial on federal murder and conspiracy charges is set for March 31 in Denver. Nichols later will be tried separately.



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This is an FBI sketch of a man who may have traveled with the bombing suspects.