

INMATE'S BOMB STORY LABELED HOAX

INVESTIGATORS DISMISSED PRISONER'S CLAIMS LONG AGO

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A Texas prison inmate who says he knew about the Oklahoma City bombing before it happened was interviewed and his claim dismissed as ludicrous more than a year ago by the FBI and Timothy McVeigh's defense team.

The claims of Bobby Joe Farrington that he met McVeigh and others involved in the plot, and that McVeigh blew up the wrong building, quickly fell apart when investigators tried to check his story.

Farrington's claims, first made to the FBI within days of the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, are considered by both sides in the case to be the ramblings of a lonely prisoner who wanted company.

He claimed to have learned his information in letters to his prison cell from a Montana radical he claims was in the Ryder truck at the bombing.

However, he told the FBI 10 days after the bombing that he destroyed the letters.

Farrington's story resurfaced Saturday in another publication.

The Rocky Mountain News had already checked out his claims and found them unsubstantiated.

Farrington's claims fell apart on their central point: That he had been introduced to McVeigh as "Sergeant Mac" in February or March 1992.

He has told four versions of where the introduction took place: Aryan Nations in Idaho, near the headquarters of the Militia of Montana in Noxon, Mont., in a diner in

Eureka, Mont., and in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The problem with this claim is that McVeigh's whereabouts in early 1992 has been firmly established: western New York state, where he worked as a guard for Burns International Security in Buffalo shortly after leaving the Army in December 1991.

Militia of Montana leader John Trochmann told the News that Farrington is on his mailing list, but that he has never met him, let alone introduced him to McVeigh.

Farrington has changed his story again.

In earlier statements to the FBI and McVeigh defenders, he claimed the citizen militia movement was behind the bombing.

However, according to the most recent account, Farrington now is claiming that Tulsa, Okla., racist Dennis Mahon, recently in the news because of allegations he may be linked to the case, was one of the masterminds.

Mahon has denied involvement. Farrington never mentioned Mahon's name in his earlier FBI or defense interviews.