

Witness Denies Seeking Fame in Bombing Inquiry Surprise Return Made to Grand Jury

Judy Kuhlman, Diana Baldwin • *Published: July 18, 1997*

BIOG: NAME: UPD: 19970718 -TEXT-

An Oklahoma City housewife told The Oklahoman on Thursday that she is seeking neither fame nor fortune for her drawing of a man her brother says he saw with convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh on April 19, 1995.

Kay Clarke, half-sister of David Snider, another witness who has testified before the Oklahoma County Grand Jury, made a surprise return Thursday at the Oklahoma County Detention Center where the grand jury investigating the bombing has been meeting.

She made two appearances Wednesday.

"I didn't do this for money. I just want to do what I can to help. If other folks are involved, they need to get them all," Clarke said. "I need some more publicity like I need another hole in my head."

Snider took Clarke's drawing to grand jurors Monday.

Clarke's visit was a surprise because prosecutors said Wednesday no more witnesses were scheduled to appear Thursday.

Clarke, 46, would not say if she was asked to return or if she asked to appear.

"This is up to them, now. I better wait till this is over. I don't want to jeopardize anything," she said after her 30-minute appearance Thursday.

In a later telephone interview, Clarke said she was intimidated by the reporters and television cameras Wednesday and fears for her life.

"If someone could blow up a building and kill 168 people, they sure wouldn't mind coming after and getting me," Clarke said.

Shortly after Clarke testified, the jury recessed until Aug. 11, said First Assistant District Attorney Pat Morgan. The jury also will meet on Aug. 13, 15, 18 and 21.

Morgan said the jury asked prosecutors to subpoena more witnesses. The grand jury heard 10 witnesses this week.

The jury convened June 30 after state Rep. Charles Key, R-Oklahoma City, and the late Glenn Wilburn, who lost two grandsons in the bombing, were successful in petitioning for another investigation. Jurors are investigating their allegations of a larger conspiracy in the bombing.

McVeigh, 29, was found guilty in federal court June 2 of blowing up the building using a fertilizer bomb in a Ryder truck. The bombing resulted in 168 deaths. McVeigh was sentenced to death.

Snider, 37, told The Oklahoman he saw McVeigh and another man in a Ryder truck in Bricktown 30 minutes before the bombing.

Another grand jury witness this week claims he saw McVeigh in a car.

But, Snider's estranged wife, Melisa, 35, questions his intentions about testifying before the grand jury.

"He is playing the grand jury," Melisa Snider said in a telephone interview Thursday. "This is his glory. He is looking for his 15 minutes of fame."

Melisa Snider said her husband saved newspaper and magazine articles on the bombing. She believes he saw the Ryder truck, but said he told her the man he saw driving the truck had a dark complexion.

"It is eating up his life," Melisa Snider said. "I think he is obsessed by the bombing."

Snider, a Bricktown warehouse worker, identified the man driving the Ryder truck as Dennis Mahon, 46, a White Aryan Resistance leader from Tulsa.

Mahon, who testified Wednesday, denies any involvement in the bombing.

The Sniders were married five years before filing for divorce Oct. 3, 1996. The couple also have a pending bankruptcy case.

David Snider called his wife a liar when asked about her comments.

"Why would I want 15 minutes of fame and put my life in danger?" David Snider said. "That is her opinion, and she is lying."

Clarke said, "I know my brother's not lying. I know someone else was involved. Too many people have reported seeing someone else."

Clarke said she likes to draw but does not consider herself an expert.

"Faces are my forte so to speak. When my brother asked me to draw what he saw, I told him he should probably get professional help. But he said he thought he could explain it to me easier. So I tried," Clarke said.

Clarke would not say when she drew the sketch.

This week was not the first time Clarke has been in the media spotlight.

A television movie, "My Sister, Carolyn," based on the death of Clarke's sister, aired Jan. 16, 1996. The movie starred Delta Burke as Clarke's other sister, Deborah Callerman.

Colleen Parker McMorris, Clarke's stepmother, was arrested in 1991, nearly four decades after Clarke's sister's death. She was convicted in 1992 and given a five-year suspended sentence.

Carolyn McMorris's death in 1955 was ruled accidental. Her parents said she fell from her crib.

Clarke and Callerman testified in a Lubbock, Texas, courtroom that they saw McMorris pick up their sister by the legs and slam her against the floor.

The case was touted as one of the oldest cases in history.

Burke came to visit Clarke in her Oklahoma City home just after the bombing, Clarke said. She said her brother took Burke to the bomb site.

Staff writer Ed Godfrey contributed to this report.

Archive ID: 690747