

WITNESS TELLS OF SEEING MCVEIGH IN TRUCK

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OKLAHOMA CITY -- A Kansas convenience store clerk who testified before a grand jury Thursday said he saw Timothy McVeigh and another man in a Ryder truck towing a tank full of liquid hours before the Oklahoma City bombing.

Richard Sinnett said the pair stopped at the Kingman, Kan., store to buy gas between 1:30 a.m. and 2:30 a.m. on April 19, 1995. The blast occurred at 9:02 a.m.

"I saw a Ryder truck pulling a trailer that had a large circular tank on it, McVeigh and another John Doe who was putting gas in the truck, about \$20 worth," Sinnett said after testifying before the grand jury that is investigating allegations of a larger conspiracy.

McVeigh was convicted and sentenced to death in June. Co-defendant Terry Nichols goes on trial Sept. 29 in Denver.

Allegations that more people were involved in the bombing plot have fueled conspiracy theories for almost 2 1/2 years. But the government says it doubts a wide conspiracy was involved.

Sinnett is one of more than three dozen witnesses the grand jury is expected to hear. Many say they saw McVeigh with other men in Oklahoma City just before or after the blast.

Sinnett said that after filling up the Ryder truck, the John Doe climbed into the passenger side.

"There was two vehicles when the truck left that came out from behind the store, a white four-door car and a brown truck," Sinnett said. He said he saw only two men

but at least four people must have been in the convoy.

Sinnett has said the man he saw with McVeigh had light brown hair, a light complexion, stood about 5-foot-8 and weighed between 170 and 180 pounds.

He said he realized whom he had seen when he saw the first sketch of mystery suspect John Doe No. 2 a few days after the bombing.

``The eyes were perfect. I recognized him right away," Sinnett said. However, his description differs from other accounts of John Doe No. 2, who is usually described as dark-haired and olive-skinned. After a nationwide manhunt, federal prosecutors said the original FBI sketch of John Doe No. 2 actually depicted an innocent Army private.