▼ OKLAHOMA BOMBING

Witness claims he saw others with McVeigh

Grand jury investigating allegations of conspiracy hears from Kingman man

By PAUL QUEARY
The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — A Kansas convenience store clerk who says he saw Timothy McVeigh with another man and a Ryder truck hours before the Oklahoma City bombing testified Thursday before a county grand jury.

Richard Sinnett contends the pair stopped at the Kingman, Kan., store to buy gas six or seven hours before the federal building explosion April 19, 1995, that killed 168 people.

"I saw a Ryder truck pulling a car carrier with a large tank, McVeigh, another person, and two vehicles escorting the truck — a car and a brown truck," Sinnett said.

The grand jury is meeting at the Oklahoma County Jail to investigate allegations of a larger conspiracy related to the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Sinnett has said the man he saw with McVeigh was dark-haired, dark-complected, about 5 feet 8 inches tall and about 185 pounds.

Sinnett is one of several people who claim to have seen John Doe No. 2, a man matching that general description, with McVeigh around the time of the bombing.

After an unsuccessful nationwide search for such a person following the bombing, authorities said the original FBI sketch of John Doe No. 2 actually depicted an innocent Army private.

McVeigh was convicted June 2 and sentenced to die for the bombing. The trial of his former Army buddy, Terry Nichols, of Herington, Kan., is scheduled to start Sept. 29.

Sinnett, who arrived just after lunch, was the first witness before the grand jury Thursday.

Many of the witnesses who have testified this week brought videotapes.

Persistent reports of John Doe No. 2 sightings helped spark a petition drive to empanel the grand jury, despite objections by state officials.

The drive was led by state Rep. Charles Key, R-Oklahoma City, and Glenn Wilburn, an Oklahoma City accountant whose young grandsons were among those killed.

The men contend federal prosecutors are ignoring evidence of a widespread conspiracy.