

## **McVeigh Placed at Kansas Store John Doe No. 2, Ryder Truck Also Seen, Witness Tells Jurors**

By Brian Ford | Tulsa World | Sep 12, 1997

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Richard Sinnett says he saw Timothy McVeigh with at least one other man at a convenience store several hours before the Oklahoma City bombing. He also says he saw John Doe No. 2.

The jury that convicted McVeigh in the Oklahoma City bombing never got to hear Sinnett, but Thursday the Kingman, Kan., man got his chance in front of a state grand jury investigating the case.

Sinnett, 42, was one of three witnesses who testified Thursday before the Oklahoma County grand jury that is investigating the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Murrah Building. The jury is examining whether McVeigh was helped by one or more unidentified men and whether federal law enforcers received warnings of the bomb plans but failed to warn others.

The grand jury, which has heard from 22 witnesses since it was impaneled in June, is expected to hear from at least one witness Friday. Sinnett is an assistant manager of the Save A Trip convenience store in Kingman. The store is about 175 miles north of Oklahoma City. After testifying for three hours Thursday, Sinnett told reporters that he saw McVeigh and a man he identified as John Doe No. 2 arrived at the store between 1:30 a.m. and 2:30 a.m. on April 19, only a few hours before the bombing, which killed 168 people.

Sinnett said a Ryder rental truck that was hauling a trailer with a large circular tank on it arrived at the convenience store. He said a man pumped about \$20 worth of fuel into the truck, bought a sandwich at the store and was seen entering the passenger side of the truck.

He said McVeigh also entered the store. The truck was accompanied by a light colored car and a brown pickup truck as it left traveling west, Sinnett said. He said he had never before seen a rental truck hauling a large tank mounted on a trailer before. He said the tank was plastic and semi-transparent. The tank was nearly full with an unidentified liquid. Sinnett described John Doe No. 2 as having a muscular build, weighing 170 to 180 pounds, with short light brown hair and a light complexion.

Other people have described the man they say was with McVeigh as having dark hair and a dark complexion. Sinnett said he recognized the man from a drawing released by federal authorities shortly after the bombing.

Sinnett said he did not see who was in the other two vehicles. Sinnett said he wrote the FBI twice about his sighting, once shortly after the bombing and once shortly before McVeigh's trial began. Sinnett said he was never contacted by federal authorities but was

subpoenaed by McVeigh's defense attorneys. Sinnett did not testify at McVeigh's trial.

Also Thursday, witness Rodney Johnson, who testified Wednesday before the grand jury, met with Attorney General Drew Edmondson to discuss Edmondson's comments concerning the credibility of the testimony of the people who claim to have seen McVeigh with a John Doe. No. 2.

Edmondson was asked June 13 during a television news interview why those people who claim to have seen McVeigh with a John Doe No. 2 were not called to testify during McVeigh's trial. Edmondson said prosecutors usually do not present witnesses whose testimony is not credible or conflicts with testimony of other witnesses.

Johnson, of Grand Prairie, Texas, said Edmondson's statement was ""misguided." ""I took those comments to be rather personal," said Johnson, who says he testified Wednesday that he saw McVeigh with another man in front of the Murrah Building moments before it exploded.

Gerald Adams, a spokesman for Edmondson, said the attorney general said he was sorry "if what he said was taken personally" but did not say Edmondson backed off his statement concerning the credibility of the testimony of those who maintain they saw McVeigh with at least one other person before or shortly after the bombing.

Two other witnesses appeared before the grand jury Thursday, including one woman who was accompanied by Oklahoma City attorney Doug Friesen. On Wednesday, Friesen accompanied Vance DeWoody and Pat Houser of Opal's Answering Service in Oklahoma City to the grand jury.

Proponents of the grand jury investigation maintain the answering service received a phone call warning that a federal office was going to be bombed.