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## Ryder Seen at Lake Where Bomb Built

By **SANDY SHORE**  
The Associated Press

DENVER — A Ryder truck and a dark pickup were parked at a Kansas park near Terry Nichols' home the day prosecutors say Nichols and Timothy McVeigh built the bomb that destroyed the Oklahoma City federal building, two witnesses testified Thursday.

Neither witness saw anyone around the two trucks, and neither identified the pickup as Nichols' 1984 dark blue GMC truck.

Richard Wahl and Robert Nelson testified they saw the bright yellow Ryder truck and the pickup tucked in a cul de sac along a gravel road at Geary State Fish-

ing Lake, 16 miles from Nichols' hometown of Herington, Kan., on April 18, 1995 — the day before the bombing.

"I was very apprehensive . . . there should have been somebody there, somebody fishing. It shouldn't have been a Ryder truck," said Wahl, who testified he saw the vehicles about 9 a.m. as he arrived for a day of fishing with his son.

"I slowed down and came to a stop and looked for a place to turn around in case it got ugly," Wahl said.

Nelson noticed the trucks about 1½ hours earlier as he drove to work at the Junction City, Kan., body shop where

McVeigh picked up the rented truck the day before.

Nelson said he was curious and drove a few feet down the road.

But, he said, "I couldn't see nothing because of the trees and the hill. So I just turned around and left."

In all, he said, he saw the trucks for about 10 seconds.

Nelson said he notified FBI agents about the sighting 10 days after the bombing after Ryder officials interviewed Elliott's Body Shop employees about McVeigh's rental.

Wahl called the FBI after seeing a televised broadcast asking for information about a Ryder truck.

Prosecutors have alleged Nichols and McVeigh met at the park and mixed racing fuel, 4,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and blasting caps, packing the mixture into 55-gallon blue-and-white plastic barrels inside the Ryder truck.

Defense attorneys say McVeigh borrowed Nichols' pickup that morning and Nichols was at Fort Riley, Kan., acquiring surplus equipment for his business.

The April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building killed 168 people.

Nichols, 42, could get the death penalty if convicted. McVeigh was found guilty of murder and conspiracy and sentenced to die.



PAT LOPEZ/The Associated Press

**Robert Nelson testified Thursday at Terry Nichols' Oklahoma City bombing trial.**