

Nichols' team spurs story of third man

BY TIM DORAN
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DENVER — John Jeffrey Davis delivered Chinese food to Timothy McVeigh's motel room four days before the Oklahoma City bombing. But he testified Wednesday that the man who took the food from him didn't look like McVeigh.

Davis then described a customer who did not resemble Terry Nichols, either, as Nichols' defense lawyers continued to suggest that convicted Oklahoma City bomber McVeigh had an accomplice other than Nichols. However, Davis also said that he told FBI agents who questioned him immediately after the bombing that he could recall no details of the man who accepted the order at the Dreamland Motel in Junction City, Kan.

McVeigh stayed there in the days

before the April 19, 1995, bombing that destroyed the federal office building in Oklahoma City, killed 168 people and injured more than 500. Nichols, a Lapeer, Mich., native who met

McVeigh in the Army, has been on trial since September in U.S. District Court in Denver on murder and conspiracy charges for allegedly helping McVeigh carry out his plot.

With its opening witnesses, the Nichols defense team has tried to raise the specter of John Doe 2, a man some people say they saw with McVeigh before the bombing. The FBI initially circulated a sketch of a man who did not resemble Nichols, but later said no such man was being sought.

A waitress and a nurse testified Wednesday they saw McVeigh with one or more men around central Kansas just before the bombing. The nurse said she saw McVeigh with a man in a yellow truck in Junction City. Another woman said she saw two men in a Ryder truck near McPherson, following a beige Mercury driven by a man who looked like John Doe 2. McVeigh drove the bomb to Oklahoma City in a rented Ryder truck, and was arrested in a yellow Mercury.

But, like Davis, some of those who said they saw McVeigh with others admitted their recollections had changed some with the passage of time. The nurse said the man she saw with McVeigh was so short he could stand in the Ryder truck's cab.

On cross-examination, Davis admitted his initial description vaguely matched McVeigh. He said he made 15 more deliveries that night. Davis said he began changing his story after being contacted by news reporters, and helped an artist draw a composite from his memory a year after the bombing.

The defense also tried to suggest the FBI has grilled those whose stories differ from the government line. Both Davis and Nancy Kindie, the waitress who saw McVeigh with two other men in a Junction City restaurant, said they were harassed.

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