

RACIST ISN'T ASKED WHETHER MCVEIGH ATTENDED MEETING

Rocky Mountain News

Rocky Mountain News (Denver, CO)

December 10, 1997 | Flynn, Kevin

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A white supremacist who testified on behalf of Terry Nichols Tuesday wasn't asked about allegations that Timothy McVeigh attended a meeting of his racist group two months before the Oklahoma City bombing.

Rick Coffman, a former Arizona unit commander of the neo-Nazi National Alliance, testified briefly about several phone messages McVeigh left on his answering machine in Mohave Valley, Ariz.

But information uncovered by some investigators that McVeigh may have attended the group's February 1995 meeting at Harrah's Hotel and Casino in nearby Laughlin, Nev., went unexplored.

Coffman testified that he never met McVeigh.

Racist militia leader Johnny Bangerter of Utah, a friend of Coffman's, told the Rocky Mountain News recently that a man who attended the National Alliance meeting later recognized McVeigh as having also attended.

Bangerter identified the man as Richard Isaacson, who in an Internet posting once said the FBI briefly suspected him of being John Doe 2, the alleged McVeigh accomplice.

In the posting, Isaacson said the FBI believed McVeigh also attended an earlier National Alliance meeting at Harrah's in June 1993.

Phone records support that version. McVeigh, who at the time lived in Golden Valley, Ariz., between Laughlin and Kingman, Ariz., called National Alliance's West Virginia headquarters on May 24, 1993.

Then, about the time of the meeting, eight calls were placed from the home phone of star bombing-case witness Michael Fortier in Kingman to a succession of casinos in Laughlin, ending with Harrah's. That suggests someone looking for the meeting location.