

Kehoe may have known McVeigh

BY LISA DONOVAN

The Cincinnati Enquirer and The Associated Press

One of the brothers charged in a gun battle with police in Wilmington, Ohio, is the subject of a federal investigation into whether he has ties to Timothy McVeigh, convicted and sentenced to death for bombing the federal building in Oklahoma City.

Federal authorities say they are interviewing an anonymous source quoted in a Spokane, Wash., newspaper report about comments Chevie Kehoe alleg-



Tim McVeigh



Chevie Kehoe

edly made shortly before the 1995 bombing in Oklahoma City.

Days before the deadly blast at the Murrah Federal building in Oklahoma City, Mr. Kehoe talked cryptically about something happening "to wake people up," the source said, according to Friday's edition of the *Spokesman-Review*.

Mr. Kehoe, 24, faces char-

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ges in Ohio for his alleged role in a videotaped shootout with police. He is also charged with murder and racketeering in connection with a triple homicide in Arkansas.

Mr. Kehoe showed up at a Spokane motel about 45 minutes before the April 19, 1995, bomb exploded in Oklahoma and wanted to watch CNN, the former manager of The Shadows Motel & RV Park told the newspaper, speaking on condition of anonymity.

When a news bulletin reported the explosion, Mr. Kehoe was ecstatic and said "it was about time," the manager said.

The man also said that Timothy McVeigh stayed at the motel with Mr. Kehoe a few months before the bombing.

Sometime in late 1994 or early 1995, the man said, Mr. Kehoe approached him and asked if he could give a free room to a friend.

There were vacancies that night, he said, so he provided the room and didn't ask the man to sign the motel registry.

"I was introduced to a gentleman named Tim, and I now believe he was Timothy McVeigh," the former manager told the newspaper, describing him as tall and slender with a military-style haircut.

FBI agents are interviewing the former motel manager, said Ray Lauer, a spokesman for the FBI's Seattle office.

He said it's unclear whether the man, whom he declined to identify, is a credible witness.

"This is the first time that we've heard McVeigh may have been in the Northwest," Mr. Lauer said. "This is the first piece of information we've gotten that connects the two.

"We're trying to determine whether McVeigh and Kehoe were together. And if they were together, did Kehoe know about the bombing? Would he fit in the definition of being a co-conspirator?"

Mr. Kehoe's brother, Cheyne, 21, was convicted this week of attempted murder, assault and carrying a concealed weapon in the shootout with a Clinton County Sheriff's deputy and Ohio Highway Patrol trooper. He will be sentenced Tuesday.

Chevie Kehoe, who has been linked to white-separatist groups, goes on trial Feb. 23 in Clinton County.