

# Ex-Informant Lying, Attorney Claims Grand Jury Hears from ATF Agent

Diana Baldwin • *Published: March 14, 1998*

Stories told by former federal informant Carol Howe were called "damnable lies" Friday by a Tulsa attorney representing Howe's supervisor when she worked undercover for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Attorney Richard O'Carroll said Howe's claims she warned the federal government about talk of blowing up federal buildings prior to the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building explosion "is a figment of her imagination and just an opportunity for her to stay in the limelight."

O'Carroll, the personal attorney of ATF Agent Angela Graham, Howe's former supervisor, made the statements Friday after his client spent more than three hours testifying before the Oklahoma County grand jury investigating possible larger conspiracies in the Oklahoma City bombing.

Graham was hidden from reporters when she arrived and left the Oklahoma County jail where the grand jury has been meeting since June 30.

Howe, a former Tulsa debutante, worked as an ATF undercover informant from August 1994 through March 1995. She was deactivated because of mental instability, agency officials have said.

"It is documented that she had a psychotic break," O'Carroll said. "She fantasizes and she is a very troubled woman. It is unfortunate she has been given the forum to parade her psychosis."

When Howe went to work for the ATF, she was targeting Dennis Mahon, the Oklahoma White Aryan Resistance leader. Her work took her to Elohim City, a white separatist community in eastern Oklahoma.

The day after the April 19, 1995, Murrah Building bombing, Howe contacted Graham, saying she could identify the men pictured in the government's John Doe sketches of the suspected bombers.

In her FBI statement taken the next day, she identified the men as brothers, Pete and Tony Ward, men she had seen at Elohim City.

Howe also said Andreas Strassmeir, a German national who once stayed at Elohim City, and Mahon, who associated with people living there, made trips to Oklahoma City in November 1994, December 1994 and February 1995. She said she joined them on the December trip.

After her statement, Howe was signed up again as an informant to obtain additional information from Elohim City. However, Howe said in a Feb 28, 1995, ATF report and in testimony at her July 1997 trial that she went to Oklahoma City with the Rev. Robert Millar, the leader of Elohim City, and others from the community. She did not mention a trip with Strassmeir or Mahon.

Graham has said she and Howe went to Oklahoma City on Feb. 8, 1995, to retrace Howe's trip. The Murrah Building was not one of three places Howe took Graham.

The government has said agents could not act on Howe's information because it was not specific enough.

Under oath at her trial, Howe admitted she was not specific and never wrote down information about the warnings.

Millar, Strassmeir and Mahon have denied any involvement in the bombing.

Convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh did make a phone call to Elohim City asking for Strassmeir two weeks before the bombing, records show.

Strassmeir, who has left the United States, has said he suspects McVeigh asked for him because they once met at a Tulsa gun show.

Howe's claims quickly became popular on radio talk shows and in conspiracy-oriented publications.

Howe was subpoenaed to testify in McVeigh's trial.

U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch ruled her testimony was irrelevant and refused to let her testify.

McVeigh, 29, was sentenced in June to die.

Howe did testify in the trial of co-conspirator Terry Nichols.

Nichols, 42, was convicted of helping build the bomb. He is awaiting sentencing.

The grand jury has recessed until March 23. BIOG: NAME: UPD:

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