

Oklahoma City Case Still Missing A Link

3 Years After Bombing Of Murrah Building, Investigators Continue Hunt For 'Robert Jacks'

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Byline: Kevin Flynn Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

The two men responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing are in prison, federal investigators assure the public. But the case is far from closed.

Behind the scenes, investigators continue scouring the nation for a mystery man in the case.

They know his name, or at least what it sounds like: Robert Jacks - or Jacques, or Jacquez, or Jocques. They may even have his fingerprints.

But they don't know where he is, whether he is still alive, or where he was three years ago today when a bomb at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building killed 168 people.

Are investigators merely trying to tie up loose ends, or is the mystery deepening?

A four-month investigation by the Rocky Mountain News uncovered evidence that the search for "Jacks" is far from over.

Even as Attorney General Janet Reno in January praised the FBI for rounding up the guilty parties - Timothy McVeigh, who awaits execution, and Terry Nichols, who awaits sentencing in Denver - she had agents pursuing yet another long-shot lead on "Jacks."

The search has taken on dramatic new overtones in the aftermath of a tantalizing public statement last month by Denver U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch, who presided over the McVeigh and Nichols trials.

Matsch soon will sentence Nichols to what is expected to be a long term - possibly life - in federal prison. At a hearing in open court on sentencing guidelines, Matsch suggested that he might reduce the sentence if Nichols provides information about the bombing plot.

The judge made it clear he believes that questions about the bombing remain unanswered.

``If the defendant in this case, Mr. Nichols, comes forward with answers or information leading to answers to some of these questions, it would be something that the court can consider in imposing final sentence," Matsch said.

``It would be disappointing to me if the law enforcement agencies of the United States government have quit looking for answers in this Oklahoma bombing tragedy," the judge continued.

Chief prosecutor Larry Mackey assured Matsch the government hasn't.

``We continue to work," Mackey said.

``Robert Jacks" is far and away the man most intensively sought by the FBI in connection with the bombing since McVeigh and Nichols were arrested. He is the only named man seen with McVeigh and Nichols and not yet apprehended.

Yet ``Robert Jacks" was never mentioned during the six months of proceedings in the Denver trials of McVeigh and Nichols last year.

During those trials, prosecutors presented evidence of a conspiracy in which McVeigh and Nichols acted on their own. But even as late as the Nichols trial, the FBI was still pursuing ``Jacks."

The Rocky Mountain News learned in December that a Robert Jacquez in Odessa, Texas, had shared a post office box after the bombing with an acquaintance of McVeigh's, Jim Rosencrans of Kingman, Ariz.

After the News questioned several people in Odessa about Jacquez, the FBI sent agents there to interview many of the same people.

In keeping with long-standing policy, neither the FBI nor prosecutors in the Oklahoma bombing case would comment on the search for ``Jacks."

The News uncovered reams of evidence on the FBI's extensive hunt for ``Jacks." No other name investigated in the bombing consumed nearly the time and effort the FBI spent turning the nation upside down to find him.

In three years of probing, the FBI has checked hundreds of people's backgrounds simply because their last names are Jacks, Jacques, Jacquez or Jocques.

The News found evidence of broad FBI searches on the name in at least 39 states, from Hawaii to Maine, from Washington to Florida, from Minnesota to Texas and Colorado.

While a few of the searches were targeted at specific individuals, they were mostly wholesale dragnets aimed at scooping up anyone named ``Jacks."

The FBI analyzed statewide computer downloads of driver's records, license photos, motor vehicle registrations and criminal rap sheets.

At one point, investigators thought the mystery man might be a private pilot and searched Federal Aviation Administration licenses for the surname.

Nationally, they combed through motel registration cards, military service rosters, immigration records and other data bases - all for anyone named "Jacks" or its other spellings.

For example:

* Newsweek magazine was subpoenaed on June 26, 1995, for its subscription records on anyone named Robert Jacks, Jacques or Jocques. The subpoena also asked about a subscription delivered to a certain lakefront apartment in Toronto where Newsweek had a subscriber by that name.

* The FBI examined records of 1,112 personal calls made from the home phone of Linda Jacquez of Percy, Ill., between May 20 and Dec. 27, 1994. She has since moved and the News could not locate her.

* Six weeks after the bombing, FBI agents questioned a man named Robert Jacks while he worked out in a health club in Kettering, Ohio. Agents asked about his activities in November 1994 and April 1995. The sole reason for tracking him down: He served in the U.S. Army from 1988 to 1990. He was never in the same unit or location as Persian Gulf War veteran McVeigh.

* People named Jacks or its variations, but with first names other than Robert, were questioned by the FBI about their activities and whether they had a relative named Robert.

For example, two brothers named Jacques went to the same Lockport, N.Y., high school as McVeigh. The FBI interviewed them on March 14, 1997 - two weeks before McVeigh's trial began. They said they didn't know McVeigh.

But, they said, they had a long-lost cousin named Robert. The FBI eventually tracked him to Grand Junction. Agents determined that he had nothing to do with the bombing.

A Colorado Springs man named Jacques was interviewed by the FBI four months after the bombing simply because agents found his name on a registration card at a Days Inn in Rogers, Ark., from Labor Day weekend 1994.

This Jacques, who no longer lives in Colorado Springs, wasn't plotting a bombing - he was in Rogers because he was romantically involved with a woman there.

No event in the bombing conspiracy took place in Rogers, nor was that Labor Day weekend a significant time during the plot.

But Rogers is 35 miles from Cassville, Mo., where the only known sighting of ``Jacks'' took place two months later - a time when McVeigh and Nichols were acquiring bomb components.

Three witnesses said a man identifying himself as Robert Jacks came to a real estate office in Cassville with McVeigh and Nichols on Nov. 2, 1994, to inquire about a remote property for sale nearby.

The FBI also looked for possible links between ``Jacks'' and a now-deceased member of a Midwest bank robbery gang that called itself the Aryan Republican Army. Some of its members were linked circumstantially to McVeigh through an eastern Oklahoma racist camp called Elohim City.

Andreas Strassmeir, a resident at the camp, met McVeigh at a gun show. Strassmeir's roommate at the camp, Mike Brescia, pleaded guilty to being one of the Aryan bank robbers.

The FBI noted a resemblance between the composite sketch of ``Robert Jacks'' seen in the real estate office and a sketch of another ARA member, Richard Guthrie, given by a witness to a Wisconsin robbery.

Guthrie later cooperated with the FBI but hanged himself in a jail cell in Covington, Ky., on July 12, 1996.

McVeigh once showed his sister Jennifer a wad of \$100 bills and claimed he'd gotten the money from a bank robbery committed by others, according to a statement Jennifer McVeigh gave the FBI.

OTHERS UNKNOWN?

It is exactly three years today since a huge bomb hidden inside a Ryder truck destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on a pleasant spring morning.

Despite the convictions of McVeigh and Nichols, one question about the worst terrorist act ever unleashed in the United States won't go away:

Did anyone else collaborate with McVeigh and Nichols?

Neither McVeigh nor Nichols testified at their respective trials in Denver last year.

But the prosecution's case that McVeigh and Nichols acted alone came under severe attack during the Nichols trial.

Defense witnesses said they saw unidentified men with McVeigh before the bombing. One witness said he saw several men, none of them Nichols, with a Ryder truck around the place and time the government says the bomb was being assembled in such a truck.

Nichols' lawyers used the testimony to suggest that Nichols wasn't McVeigh's prime accomplice.

Nichols was convicted of conspiring with McVeigh in the bombing plot and of involuntary manslaughter. But largely because of the defense testimony, he was acquitted of actually committing the bombing and of first-degree murder.

Jurors couldn't agree on a sentence, sparing Nichols the death penalty and leaving the length of his prison term to Matsch.

SIGHTING IN MISSOURI

Weldon Kennedy, the FBI special agent who led the bombing investigation, said the hunt for ``Robert Jacks'' stems from a brief business meeting in a southwest Missouri real estate office on Nov. 2, 1994, five and a half months before the bombing.

Three witnesses in Cassville said they met with McVeigh, Nichols and a short, dark muscular man who introduced himself as ``Robert Jacks.''

The FBI first interviewed these witnesses on May 10, 1995, three weeks after the bombing. They came forward after the FBI arrested, questioned and released two drifters in Carthage, Mo.

One of the drifters was named Robert Earl Jacks.

Jacks and his traveling companion, Gary Land, lived in the El Trovatore Motel in Kingman, Ariz., from around Christmas 1994 until early April 1995. That last week, McVeigh moved into the Imperial Motel five blocks away.

Jacks and Land traveled to Oklahoma several weeks before the bombing and were registered in a motel in Perry, Okla., on the day of the blast.

McVeigh was arrested on a traffic charge in Perry 80 minutes after the bombing and taken to the county jail.

When agents discovered the coincidence, they tracked down Jacks and Land and arrested them on May 2, 1995. Supposedly, they were suspects for no other reason than that they had been in Kingman and then in Perry, when McVeigh was there.

But when Cassville Realtor William Maloney saw Jacks escorted by agents on television news, he knew it wasn't the ``Jacks" he had met with McVeigh and Nichols. The man Maloney had met pronounced his name ``Jacks" but said it was spelled differently. Maloney said he thought it was ``Jacques."

Maloney, salesman Joe Lee Davidson and a woman who asked that her identity be protected told the FBI that the men asked about an isolated property the agency advertised for sale.

Kennedy, now retired, told the News that investigators placed credibility in the Cassville sighting because Maloney recalled a detail about McVeigh that, until then, even the FBI had missed.

Maloney told agents that the man introduced to him as Tim McVeigh from Arizona had a discoloration from a filling on a right-side tooth. Maloney said he saw it when the man smiled.

Agents went to a prison in El Reno, Okla., where McVeigh was being held and checked his teeth. They found a discolored tooth right where Maloney had remembered it.

``He was so particular about describing McVeigh," Kennedy said of Maloney. ``There are some major coincidences. For the life of us, we were never able to pin (the Jacques sighting) down."

At the real estate office in Missouri, Jacques handled a topographic map of the area that Davidson gave to him. The map was turned over to the FBI. The government won't say whether that is one of the 1,035 fingerprints recovered in the case, most of which remain unidentified.

The FBI did not compare any of those 1,035 fingerprints to anyone beyond about 20 initial suspects - most of whom were quickly dropped from the case.

As of December, when Nichols' attorney Michael Tigar elicited this admission from an FBI fingerprint expert, the FBI hadn't even studied the unidentified prints to see whether any matched each other.

If the same unidentified fingerprint were found in several locations, it could indicate the presence of others traveling with McVeigh or Nichols.

There are a few trouble spots in Maloney's account of the visit by McVeigh, Nichols and ``Jacques."

He says the men arrived in a yellow Mercury Marquis. While that matches the car in which McVeigh was arrested, he didn't own it at the time. McVeigh drove a blue Chevrolet Spectrum in November 1994. He bought the Mercury five days before the bombing.

In addition, Maloney said Nichols introduced himself as "Terry Nichols from Herington, Kan."

But Nichols didn't move to Herington until two months before the bombing, when he bought a house there. In November 1994, Nichols had just moved out of a rented farmhouse in Marion, Kan., and was preparing to visit his wife in the Philippines.

The sketch of "Jacks" provided by the Missouri witnesses generally resembles the sketch of John Doe 2, an unidentified man four witnesses said they saw with McVeigh in the Kansas Ryder agency where the bomb truck was rented. The FBI later said the man wasn't with McVeigh and actually visited the truck agency the day after McVeigh.

There is no other publicly known connection between "Jacks" and John Doe 2.

However, Maloney's account places "Jacks" with the two convicted conspirators in the middle of the bomb plot's busiest period.

In fall 1994, McVeigh and Nichols obtained nearly every ingredient used in the 5,600-pound truck bomb. It was all stored in rented lockers in Kansas and Arizona to bide time until the targeted date - the two-year anniversary of the deaths of 80 sect members during a 1993 federal raid near Waco, Texas.

By Nov. 2, 1994, McVeigh and Nichols had purchased and stored two tons of ammonium nitrate chemical fertilizer. They had burglarized a quarry shed for more than 350 pounds of the high explosive Tovex and numerous blasting caps. They had bought three 55-gallon drums of a chemical racing fuel, nitromethane, to boost the main charge.

And three days after the Cassville meeting, Nichols allegedly robbed a Royal, Ark., gun dealer who was an acquaintance of McVeigh's. Roger Moore lost about \$60,000 worth of weapons, precious metals and other goods. Investigators say the loot was used to finance the bombing.

Cassville is about halfway between Junction City, Kan., where Nichols had been staying, and Moore's house in Royal.

Maloney provided sufficient detail for a sketch of "Jacks." The female witness underwent hypnosis and provided her recollection of their car: a cream-colored 1977 Chevrolet Monte Carlo, with a partial Arizona license plate containing A, 1, 0 and 3.

Maloney remembered that Jacques said he was from Williams, Ariz.

For two years, the FBI looked for this car in Arizona without success.

On April 7, 1997, while jury selection in the McVeigh trial was under way in Denver, the FBI stopped a teen-ager in Flagstaff, Ariz., simply because was driving a Monte Carlo.

He was asked to explain his whereabouts in November 1994 and was shown the sketch of Jacques, which he didn't recognize. His license plate contained no A, 1, 0 or 3.

NAMES IN A NOTEBOOK

How did the name "Jacks" first enter the case?

The answer may be as simple as a name in an address book.

Terry Nichols' wife, Marife, had a personal notebook in which she kept phone numbers of friends and associates.

On an otherwise empty sixth page, the word jacks is scribbled four times at the top.

It is spelled several different ways, as if the writer were trying to figure out the spelling. One version begins with "y." Another appears to end with "es."

It is unclear whether the writing is Marife Nichols' or someone else's.

There are several ways to pronounce Jacques or Jacquez. People interviewed by the News pronounced it "Jocks," "YAH-kess," "haw-KAYZ," and several other ways.

The government downplays the significance of Marife Nichols' notebook. Retired agent Kennedy said he was not familiar with the scribbblings.

Maureen Cain, Marife Nichols' attorney, said she doesn't recall her client's ever being asked about it.

Several spellings

But the mystery man's name kept popping up in the days and weeks after the bombing.

Three days after the blast, a bar owner in Decker, Mich., Nichols' hometown, was interviewed about conversations he had with Nichols' brother James about the use of explosives. The tavern owner's name is Harold Jacques. He told the News he doesn't recall being asked about Robert Jacques.

On April 30, 1995, two days before drifter Robert Jacks' arrest and release, the FBI questioned another man named Robert Jacks. This man, Robert E. Jacks of Mesa, Ariz., was asked whether he knew the drifter's companion, Gary Land.

Jacks of Mesa told the FBI he didn't know Land. The FBI also asked where he was the evening of April 19. The man said he was at home in Arizona watching news about the bombing - not in a Perry, Okla., motel.

FBI agents also questioned several witnesses regarding another possible sighting of ``Jacks."

On June 28, 1995, the FBI interviewed convicted Kingman drug dealer Jason Hart. He knew McVeigh and two of McVeigh's Kingman friends, Michael Fortier and Jim Rosencrans.

Fortier became the star prosecution witness in the McVeigh and Nichols bombing trials. Rosencrans, Fortier's next-door neighbor, sometimes went shooting with McVeigh and Fortier in the desert.

Hart told the FBI that in autumn 1994, a man whose name he recalled as ``Bob" visited for about three days with McVeigh and Fortier.

His description of the man is consistent with Maloney's description of Jacques. Hart said he met the man in Fortier's house. He told the FBI ``it was apparent that Bob was a mutual friend of Fortier and McVeigh."

According to the FBI report, Hart said that Rosencrans had a confrontation with ``Bob" over a pass ``Bob" supposedly made at his girlfriend, Patty Edwards.

FBI agents have questioned Kingman-area witnesses, including Fortier, about ``Bob." Fortier denied any knowledge of the visitor or ever hearing of a ``Robert Jacks."

Hart was subpoenaed as a defense witness for Nichols but refused to testify, invoking his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. In a letter to the News from the Arizona state prison in Winslow where he is serving time on drug charges, Hart also declined to talk about his FBI statement.

He added that FBI agents ``are fabricators and falsifiers of the truth."

``Don't believe everything the FBI says," he wrote, and ended his letter: ``I know nothing and don't want to know anything!!!"

Rosencrans denied Hart's claim that he almost got into a fight with ``Bob" over a pass at his girlfriend. Rosencrans said he doesn't recall any such person visiting Kingman.

``I don't know anything about that," a belligerent Rosencrans told the News. ``I don't know what (Hart) was talking about. That's what the FBI agents told him. They said they wanted to know where's this Robert Jacks."

Rosencrans said he'd remember if someone made a pass at his girlfriend because ``I'd have kicked the living (expletive) out of him and slit his throat."

A TRAIL IN TEXAS

One of the most intriguing chapters in the search for ``Robert Jacks" involves a down-on-his-luck roustabout in Odessa, Texas.

He spelled his name Jacquez.

He had somehow escaped notice in the FBI's coast-to-coast canvassing. ``Jacquez," a Hispanic spelling, was one of four spellings the FBI used in its nationwide hunt - but, for unexplained reasons, not in Texas, which has a large Hispanic population.

Jacquez's whereabouts during the brief time that ``Jacks" is reported traveling with McVeigh and Nichols can't be firmly established. He quit his oil field job in Odessa in September 1994 and returned the following July, three months after the bombing.

He told many friends in Odessa - at work, at his favorite bar and in his personal life - that he had been in El Paso, Texas. That is true from Christmas through July. But his whereabouts on Nov. 2, 1994, the date of the Maloney real estate meeting in Missouri, are uncertain.

When he returned to Odessa, he bragged to his friends that he had been working as an undercover drug informant for law enforcement.

Bartender Eddie Moss said Jacquez flashed a badge and said he had worked with the El Paso police narcotics unit. His best friend, Johnny Alday, said he saw the badge and heard the story, too.

A former girlfriend, Teresa Anderson, said she thinks he said he worked with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Jacquez told his ex-wife he once flew over his trailer home at dawn in a police helicopter as part of an undercover operation.

From June 1993 on, while he frequently moved from place to place, Jacquez got his mail at a box in the west Odessa post office.

In May 1996, Jim Rosencrans and his girlfriend, Patty Edwards, moved to Odessa to escape the glare of bombing-case publicity and law enforcement scrutiny in

Kingman. Sometime before the end of the year, Rosencrans and Edwards also started receiving their mail at a box in the west Odessa station.

It was the same box Jacquez was using.

The U.S. Postal Service said a post office box can be rented by only one party at a time. If more than one person receives mail in a box, there must be a relationship of some sort.

That doesn't necessarily mean Jacquez and Rosencrans knew each other; a third party could have connected the two.

FBI agent Terry Kincaid, who questioned witnesses in Odessa after the News began its inquiry, said that in addition to Jacquez and Rosencrans, a third man he wouldn't name also received mail in the box at the same time.

Kincaid, based in Midland, sent his raw data to the bombing investigative team in Oklahoma City without determining whether Odessa's Jacquez was the man seen in Missouri with McVeigh and Nichols.

It may remain a mystery forever.

Robert Jacquez of Odessa died Jan. 7, 1997, after an industrial accident.

Rosencrans quit his oil field job three weeks later and returned to Kingman.

THE SAME MAN?

Who was Robert Jacquez of Odessa? Could he have crossed paths with McVeigh and Nichols?

Despite the incredible coincidence of sharing the post office box with McVeigh's friend Rosencrans, it is still unlikely that this Jacquez is the man seen in Maloney's real estate office.

The News sent nine family photos of the Texas Jacquez to the Missouri witnesses. They say it isn't the same man they saw.

But a former girlfriend of Jacquez looked at the sketch drawn from Maloney's description and had an immediate reaction:

``That's him," Teresa Anderson said. ``What did he do?"

GOING UNDERCOVER

Robert Jacquez was born in Pecos, Texas, in 1954.

In 1990, Jacquez and Rodrigo Robles formed R&R Roustabout Services. They worked as contract laborers for drilling companies - a common practice by companies to avoid paying benefits.

Robles told the News they made more than \$100,000 a year. Jacquez, he said, had dreams of success.

``He always wanted people to look on him as an important person," Robles said in an interview in his home.

Robles' wife, Rosa, agreed and found it plausible that Jacquez would work undercover for police.

``It wouldn't surprise me," she said. ``I hear he could spin some tales. Just from the type person he was, he wanted to be somebody. A lot of times, he wouldn't want to speak Spanish."

After running into income tax problems, he broke up his partnership with Robles in 1993 and worked for Black Warrior Wireline. He quit that job abruptly in September 1994 and left Odessa.

The next time Jacquez can be placed anywhere for certain is Christmas Eve 1994 - after the Missouri sighting of ``Robert Jacks."

On that day, Jacquez was arrested at the Fort Bliss military base in El Paso for trespassing. He listed himself as unemployed and said he'd been living with a sister.

On Feb. 6, 1995, Jacquez went to work for C.F. Jordan Construction Co. in El Paso as part of a 10-man labor crew. He drew steady paychecks there, according to the personnel office, through the date of the bombing and until his last day on July 13.

That eliminates him from consideration as the elusive John Doe 2 seen with McVeigh and Nichols in the week before the bombing.

But an air of mystery surrounds even the known facts about the Texas Jacquez.

His foreman at Jordan, David Long, examined the same photos of Jacquez that the Missouri witnesses reviewed. Long said he'd never seen the person in the photos before, even though the News confirmed through Social Security records that Jacquez was his employee.

Once back and working in Odessa as of July 31, Jacquez picked up with old friends and bragged about his undercover work, telling Location Lounge owner Moss that he was tied in with the El Paso police narcotics unit.

The head of that unit refused to discuss Jacquez.

In June 1996, Alday helped him get a job at ICO Spincote, coating and shipping pipes for the oil fields.

It was while on that job shortly before 11 a.m. on Dec. 16, 1996, that Jacquez was fatally injured.

A pipe-moving machine caught his left arm, pulling it in and tearing it off. It began to pull in Jacquez's jacket, and the force choked him. He was taken to Medical Center Hospital and was kept alive on a respirator for three weeks before his parents authorized doctors to remove him. He died on Jan. 7, 1997, while his girlfriend Diana Stroud was with him.

“I had my hand on his heart and he just died,” she recalled.

‘JUST ANOTHER SETUP’

Jim Rosencrans said he got the post office box the usual way - by plunking down money at the counter. He said he didn't ask for a specific box and was simply given one at random.

He said he neither knew nor met Robert Jacquez.

The huge coincidence, he says, is nothing but an FBI attempt to get him in more trouble.

“It's probably just another setup deal the feds are doing,” he said. “It's some kind of witch-hunt game. They can keep on looking up their (expletive) as far as I care. They made my life miserable. Our lives have been ripped apart and destroyed already.”

The News discovered the post office box connection in December while researching Rosencrans. Soon after the News asked a bombing-case prosecutor about it, the FBI was in Odessa obtaining pictures of Jacquez and showing them to people who knew Rosencrans. Similarly, agents showed Rosencrans' picture to people who knew Jacquez.

The FBI seemed to be asking whether Rosencrans and Jacquez ever were seen together.

But the FBI has yet to take Jacquez's picture to the witnesses in Missouri - the only people who claim to have seen the mystery man with McVeigh and Nichols.

Jacquez's family and friends rallied to his defense, saying he wouldn't have been involved with McVeigh.

``I was with Robert just about every day, every single day," said drinking buddy Alday, although he can't account for Jacquez's time when he was gone from Odessa.

``Whoever you're looking for is someone else," said Dora Lopez, the sister in El Paso with whom Jacquez lived. ``My brother never ever was involved in trash like that."

INFOBOX (1)

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Timothy McVeigh - Convicted Oklahoma City bomber, sentenced to death.

Terry Nichols - Convicted Oklahoma City bombing conspirator, awaiting sentencing.

Michael Fortier - A Kingman, Ariz., friend of McVeigh; star prosecution witness against McVeigh, Nichols.

Robert Jacks No. 1 - A man identifying himself by that name accompanied Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols to a Cassville, Mo., real estate office Nov. 2, 1994, according to three witnesses who were present at the office.

William Maloney - Missouri Realtor who told the FBI that Robert Jacks No. 1 had visited his office in Cassville in the company of McVeigh and Nichols.

Richard Guthrie - Member of a Midwest bank-robbery gang who the FBI believed resembled a sketch of Robert Jacks No. 1. Guthrie hanged himself in prison in 1996.

Robert Jacks No. 2 - A drifter briefly detained by the FBI two weeks after the bombing because he had left Kingman and headed toward Oklahoma, generally tracking McVeigh's movements. The FBI cleared him of involvement in the bombing.

Gary Land - A drifter arrested with Robert Jacks No. 2 and then cleared.

Robert Jacks No. 3 - A Mesa, Ariz., man questioned by the FBI about whether he knew Land. Jacks No. 3 said he didn't.

Robert Jacquez - An Odessa, Texas, oil-field worker who told friends he worked undercover for a government agency. Jacquez died after an industrial accident.

Jim Rosencrans - A friend of McVeigh and Fortier who moved to Odessa in 1996 and shared a post-office box with Jacquez. Rosencrans said he never met Jacquez.

Jason Hart - Convicted Kingman drug dealer who knew McVeigh, Fortier and Rosencrans; told the FBI a man named Bob had visited McVeigh and Fortier in autumn 1994.

Roger Moore - Arkansas gun dealer Nichols allegedly robbed to finance the bombing plot.

John Doe 2 - Unidentified man four witnesses said they saw with McVeigh in the Kansas Ryder agency where the bomb truck was rented. Some federal investigators now doubt that John Doe 2 ever existed.

INFOBOX (2)

TRAIL OF MYSTERY

Key locations in search of ``Robert Jacks," an elusive figure in the Oklahoma City bombing.

- CASSVILLE, MO., Nov. 2, 1994: three witnesses said McVeigh, Nichols and a man named Robert Jacks visited a real estate office.

- ROYAL, ARK., Nov. 5, 1994: Nichols allegedly robbed gun dealer Roger Moore.

- KINGMAN, ARIZ., late 1994: mystery man named ``Bob" said to have visited McVeigh and Michael Fortier.

- OKLAHOMA CITY, April 19, 1995: bombing killed 168 people.

- PERRY, OKLA., day of the bombing: McVeigh arrested here. Drifter Robert Jacks was registered in a motel.

- HERINGTON, KAN., April 1995: FBI finds address book of Nichol's wife. Book contains several spellings of the word ``Jacks."

- ODESSA, TEXAS, 1996: Jim Rosencrans, a friend of McVeigh, uses same post office box as oil field worker Robert Jacquez.

INFOBOX (3)

KEY DATES IN SEARCH FOR `ROBERT JACKS'

1994

Autumn - Kingman, Ariz., man says a man named ``Bob" visited Timothy McVeigh and Michael Fortier.

Nov. 2 - Three witnesses say McVeigh, Terry Nichols and a man identifying himself as Robert Jacks visit a real estate office in Cassville, Mo.

Nov. 5 - Nichols allegedly robs gun dealer Roger Moore to finance bomb plot.

1995

April 19 - Truck bomb kills 168 people in Oklahoma City. McVeigh arrested 80 minutes later in Perry, Okla. Drifter named Robert Jacks registers in motel here.

April 30 - FBI questions unrelated man named Robert Jacks in Mesa, Ariz.

May 2 - FBI detains drifters Robert Jacks and Gary Land. Both men then cleared.

July - Oil field worker Robert Jacquez returns home to Odessa, Texas, after several months out of touch with friends. He tells friends he was working as undercover drug agent for law enforcement.

1996

May - McVeigh friend Jim Rosencrans moves from Kingman to Odessa, shares post office box with Robert Jacquez.

1997

Jan. 7 - Robert Jacquez dies after industrial accident.

December - FBI questions acquaintances in Odessa of the late Robert Jacquez.

1998

January - Three witnesses from Missouri real estate office examine photos of Robert Jacquez of Texas, say it's not man they saw. Ex-girlfriend of Jacquez examines FBI sketch of man seen in Missouri, says it's Robert Jacquez of Texas.

CAPTION(S):

Photo (4), Illustration (3), Map

FBI agents escort Gary Land (right) and Robert Jacks (center background, with head turned) from the Carthage, Mo., police station on May 2, 1995. Land and Jacks, two drifters, were briefly detained, then cleared, in the Oklahoma City bombing investigation. By Mike Gullett / Associated Press, 1995.

CAPTION: The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on the day of the explosion on April 19, 1995. Two men responsible for the bombing - Timothy McVeigh and

Terry Nichols - are in prison, but investigators are still searching for a mystery man in the case. By David Longstreath / Associated Press.

CAPTION: Family photos like these of the late Robert Jacquez of Odessa, Texas, were sent to witnesses who said Timothy McVeigh, Terry Nichols and a man named Robert Jacks visited a real estate office in Cassville, MO., before the bombing. The witnesses said this wasn't the same ``Jacks " they saw..

CAPTION: Are these three FBI sketches of the same man or three different men? Did any of them figure in the Oklahoma City bombing? At left, John Doe 2, a man witnesses said they saw with Timothy McVeigh when the bomb truck was rented.

CAPTION: Center, the man who called himself ``Robert Jacks" when he visited a Missouri real estate office with McVeigh and Terry Nichols.

CAPTION: At right, Richard Guthrie, member of a white supremacist bank robbery gang. Some federal investigators now doubt John Doe 2 ever existed. ``Jacks" has never been found. Guthrie hanged himself in jail.

CAPTION: Trail of Mystery. By Rocky Mountain News. See Infobox (2) for additional information.