

MORE QUESTIONS ON WHETHER OTHERS WERE PART OF BLAST 43,000 FBI 'LEAD SHEETS' TELL OF WITNESSES WHO SAW UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE, CARS NEAR MCVEIGH, RYDER TRUCK.(Local)

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Now, there are even more questions about whether "others unknown" took part in the worst terrorist bombing in U.S. history.

The 43,000 "lead sheets" written by the FBI but never turned over to defense attorneys tell of witnesses who saw unidentified people or vehicles near bomber Timothy McVeigh and the Ryder truck used in the bombing.

That's on top of earlier reports that a "John Doe 2" showed up with McVeigh at the Ryder truck rental shop in Kansas.

And while so much of this may ultimately prove to be unrelated, Terry Nichols' attorney said in U.S. District Court in Denver on Tuesday that he should have had access to them during the 1997 trial.

Michael Tigar discovered the existence of the lead sheets by serendipity in the closing days of the trial.

An FBI agent was called to establish the first firm date the FBI was told that a Ryder truck had been parked at Geary State Fishing Lake near Junction City, Kan., where the government believes the bomb was built.

Agent Christopher Budke referred to a lead sheet he had filled out after a man approached him in a Junction City Burger King on April 26, 1995. The lead sheet stated that the witness saw a Ryder truck and a "gray" pickup truck at the lake.

In a formal FBI interview, the witness said the pickup truck was dark blue.

But the defense team was never told of the inconsistency.

Lead sheets examined by the Nichols team since the trial revealed other information that points to others who may have been with McVeigh, Tigar said.

Defense attorneys have long contended that the government tended to dismiss tips that didn't fit their theory that McVeigh and Nichols acted on their own.

Tigar told Judge Richard Matsch that one tip came from a clerk in a Junction City Subway sandwich shop. Joann Van Buren alerted the FBI that McVeigh and two men - including one who resembled the FBI sketch of "John Doe 2" - came into the shop the day before the bombing.

Nichols' defense never got that sheet of paper.

Instead, it got the formal report of the FBI's interview of Van Buren, which states she saw three men in the shop - no mention of McVeigh or John Doe 2.

The Subway manager told reporters two years ago that two of her clerks saw the three men, and that the third resembled Nichols. She said the FBI confiscated the videotape from the Subway's surveillance camera system. Defense attorneys have never seen that tape.

Tigar's defense was based on showing that people other than Nichols helped McVeigh plan and construct the bomb.

Across the street from the Subway shop is a McDonald's restaurant where a videotape showed McVeigh shortly before he picked up the Ryder truck nearby.

But what the FBI didn't show prosecutors, and the defense never knew, was that there was a lead sheet claiming the McDonald's manager said McVeigh and his "associates" frequented the McDonald's.

The formal interview of the manager, which was turned over to the defense before trial, stated only that McVeigh had been there.