

# Racist robbery gang, linked to McVeigh, called Pittsburg home

# SHADOW WARS



The Associated Press

This still frame is from a video made in 1995 at a safe house in Pittsburg, Kan., and produced by a group calling itself the Aryan Republican Army. The hooded figure is holding money he said was taken in bank robberies to finance the organization, also called the Midwestern Bank Bandits.

## 'We . . . are **YOUR** neighbors'

By Max McCoy  
Globe Staff Writer

PITTSBURG, Kan. — The house at 1103 S. Elm St. is inconspicuous, sitting on a quiet street not far from the state university, in a neighborhood that changes with the ebb and flow of the student population.

The building is vacant now, but for a time in the mid-1990s, it was the perfect hide-out.

This was the so-called safe house of one of the most successful gang of bank robbers ever — a band that is believed to have held up 22 banks across the Midwest to finance its dreams of a racist revolution.

The press called them the Midwestern Bank Bandits, but they called themselves the Aryan Republican Army, and while in Pittsburg they made a drunken, two-hour recruiting video that later was introduced as evidence during the federal trial of the gang's leader.

"Our basic goal," growls a man in a ski mask on the tape, "is to set up an Aryan republic."

The narrator calls himself "Commander Pedro," and with him are three others, all dressed in camouflage, all brandishing semiautomatic weapons. Pedro waves an HK-91 assault rifle. There are also grenades and a plastic Halloween pumpkin overflowing with presumably stolen cash.

"Don't mistake us for cultists," the masked narrator intones. "We, ladies and gentlemen, are *your* neighbors."

And, according to a criminologist at Indiana State University, Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh was one of them, and the gang probably



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David Tubbs (left), FBI special agent in charge of the Kansas City office, and Max Geiman, FBI media representative, talk to reporters Jan. 19, 1996, during a conference in Kansas City. The masks of Presidents Clinton and Nixon were among those used by the Midwestern Bank Bandits.

helped McVeigh destroy the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building with a truck bomb on April 19, 1995.

### War on government

Commander Pedro was Peter K. Langan, a short, red-headed man in his mid-30s who went by the name of Don McClure while in Pittsburg. That's the alias that came out during Langan's 1997 trial in Columbus, Ohio, and it is one of the names the city of Pittsburg has on file for water and sewer service for the Elm Street address in 1994.

Langan's secrets did not stop with the bank robberies or his violent racist agenda or even the possibility that he helped mastermind the Oklahoma City bombing, according to author and criminologist Mark S. Hamm. Langan's outlaw career may have been driven by his tortured private life, which boiled over one night at the Pittsburg safe house and prompted his longtime friend and fellow gang member, Richard Guthrie Jr., to threaten to kill him.

Langan was, and is, a transsexual.

See **Neighbors**, Page 6A



Richard Guthrie Jr.



Peter Langan



Timothy McVeigh

## Neighbors

Continued from Page 1A

Hamm, 52, is a professor in the criminology department at Indiana State University in Terre Haute — the city where, coincidentally, McVeigh is scheduled to die by lethal injection Monday. Hamm wrote a 1997 book titled "Apocalypse in Oklahoma: Waco and Ruby Ridge Revenged," and for six years has been working on another book, one about the Midwest Bank Bandits. Titled "In Bad Company: America's Terrorist Underground," the book is scheduled to be published in October by the Northeastern University Press of Boston, the same house that published his earlier work.

To understand the bandits, according to Hamm, one must understand America as it was in the mid-1990s. Debacles such as the shooting of Randy Weaver's wife and son at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, and the fiery end to the 51-day siege at Waco, Texas, had soured many on the federal government. The result was a shadow war undertaken by a small but extremely violent faction of the far right.

"These guys came out of this political culture," Hamm said in an interview. "No doubt about it. Langan and Guthrie had declared war on the government."

They also were adherents of an ideology called Christian Identity, which holds that northern European whites are descended from the 10 lost tribes of Israel and are the true chosen people of the Bible, that modern Jews and non-whites are the biological children of Satan, and that an apocalyptic racial struggle is imminent.

For Langan, his personal belief system also included a desire to emulate a teen-age Confederate guerrilla who later became the world's most famous bank robber.

"Langan chose Pittsburg because it's in the Four-States Area where Jesse James once lived," Hamm said. "They patterned themselves after the James Gang, and they referred to this several times. They even taunted the authorities and left press releases behind them, just like Jesse James."

After the Civil War, Jesse James and his older brother, Frank, robbed banks and trains in most of the same states where the Midwest Bank Bandits would operate more than a century later. The James Gang relied on a broad network of sympathizers, and after detectives lobbed a bomb into their farm home — killing a young half brother and maiming their mother — grass-roots sentiment was even more in their favor. The tide turned, however, with the bloody Northfield, Minn., raid of 1876. Jesse James was shot to death in 1882 in St. Joseph.

Like Langan, Jesse James was betrayed by a gang member.

While the number of robberies each gang committed is about the



The Associated Press

**In this Sept. 26, 1995, photo, white supremacist Mark Thomas is seated after addressing an audience at the Boyertown, Pa., YMCA. Authorities said Thomas, leader of the Aryan Nation in Pennsylvania, recruited supremacists for a bank robbery gang.**

same, the James Gang operated far longer, about 16 years. Counting early robberies committed by Guthrie alone, the Midwest Bank Bandits barely managed three years. Their take, according to official sources, was about \$250,000, although Hamm believes the actual figure may be twice as much.

### Funding the revolution

Langan, the son of a CIA agent, grew up in Vietnam, and the family moved to the United States when he was 6. Growing up in a suburb of Washington, D.C., he became fast friends with a boy named Richard Guthrie. The Langan family was open-minded when it came to race, *Pete Langan would later tell* interviewers, and it was elsewhere that he learned his lessons in hate.

Then, Langan's father died of a heart attack. As a teen-ager, Pete — who had once sewed peace signs on his clothes — found himself in a series of scrapes with the law, including a strong-arm robbery that netted only \$78 and a gunshot wound to the hand.

Guthrie joined the Navy, but

washed out of the SEAL program and was court-martialed in 1983 when he painted a swastika on the

side of a ship. Later, he would be found in possession of a pair of night-vision goggles that had been stolen from Fort Bragg, N.C.

By 1989, Langan and Guthrie were together again, and were raking in thousands of dollars in a scam targeting Kmart stores. Although Hamm says he doesn't understand exactly how the scam worked, it apparently involved swapping bar-coded price tags and returning items for cash. Then, in 1992, they robbed a Pizza Hut in Lavonia, Ga.

Langan was arrested in Cincinnati and taken back to Franklin County, Ga., where he boasted about being a supporter of the Aryan Nations and threatened to "tie up" the court system so it couldn't operate.

Guthrie, although still at large, had attracted the attention of the Secret Service, which wanted to talk to him about threats made against President George Bush.

The Secret Service found Langan in jail in Georgia, and struck a deal: In exchange for his becoming an informant and spying on his old friend Guthrie and whatever other right-wing extremism was afoot, federal authorities would arrange Langan's release and set him up in Ohio.

In early 1993, Langan was released.

Right away, he began to form his gang.

His inspiration was The Order, also known as the Silent Brotherhood, a 1980s white supremacist group that allegedly was responsible for the death of Jewish talk show host Alan Berg in Denver and pulled off a \$3.8 million armored-car heist in California.

The leader of The Order was Robert Mathews, who burned to death during an FBI siege and shootout near Seattle. The gang had distributed large amounts of stolen money to right-wing causes and the Christian Identity movement, hoping to fund a racist revolution.

### Recruits

With his old pal Guthrie — who already had pulled a couple of bank jobs and had earned the nickname "Wild Bill" — Langan formed the Aryan Republican Army.

The first recruit, according to Hamm, was teen-ager Shawn Kenney, a former security officer of the Aryan Nations in Ohio, whom Langan had met at a Christian Identity gathering.

The other members of the gang were later referred to Langan by Mark Thomas, a Christian Identity minister and Aryan Nations leader from Hereford, Pa. They were: Kevin McCarthy, Scott Stedeford and Michael Brescia.

McCarthy, 17, was a former drug abuser and 10th-grade dropout from Philadelphia. He also was a bassist, and along with Stedeford, a drummer in his mid-20s, he had formed a Philadelphia skinhead band called Cyanide. Soon, they would be packing assault rifles in their instrument cases instead of guitars.

Brescia, 23, a Philadelphia firefighter's son and former Eagle Scout, was a former resident of Elohim City, the sprawling Christian Identity compound near Muldrow, Okla., just a few miles from the Arkansas state line.

McCarthy and Stedeford also had been guests at the compound, which is headed by the Rev. Robert Millar, a former Mennonite who came to the Ozarks from Canada. The name of the compound comes from the plural form of the name of God from the book of Genesis, and also has been applied to the righteous and mighty.

At a Waffle House in Van Buren, Ark. — not far from Elohim City — Thomas, the Pennsylvania Aryan Nations leader, introduced Langan and Guthrie to the new recruits, McCarthy would later testify.

Later, Elohim City would surface again and again in the Oklahoma City bombing investigation.

McVeigh was ticketed for speeding by an Arkansas state trooper on the morning of Oct. 12, 1993, just a few miles from the compound. And on Sept. 12, 1994, McVeigh checked into the El-Siesta Motel in Vian, Okla., about 30 miles from Elohim City.

Millar, however, denies that McVeigh ever visited.

But, according to a book written by Stephen Jones, McVeigh's former defense counsel, McVeigh tried to call Millar at the compound two weeks before the bombing.

McVeigh also told a member of the defense team, a polygraph expert named Tim Domgard, that he had written a letter to Millar in mid-March 1995. The letter referred to a "small operation" the pair had discussed in the past, and McVeigh "wanted to know if there would be some type of underground railroad that Millar could inform him of so that he might be able to carry out such operations," Jones wrote.

Domgard, who administered a lie-detector test commissioned by the defense, concluded that McVeigh was being deceptive when he said there were no other conspirators besides Terry Nichols, an Army buddy from Herington Kan., now serving a life sentence.

And, on the morning of April 19, 1995, Millar was a requested visitor on death row at the Arkansas prison where Richard Wayne Snell was scheduled to die later that day.

Snell had been a member of the survivalist Christian Identity group known as the Covenant, Sword and Arm of the Lord (CSA), which had a compound near Branson, Mo., in the mid-1980s. In 1983, Snell shot and killed a Texarkana, Ark., pawnshop owner he believed was Jewish. A few months later, Snell also shot to death a black Arkansas state trooper who had stopped him for a traffic violation.

See Gang, Page 7A

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# Gang

Continued from Page 6A

The FBI had begun the raid that ended the CSA compound on April 19, 1985.

The federal siege at Waco had ended in flames on April 19, 1993.

And, Snell — who some members of the Christian Identity movement predicted would rise after the final days, signaling the start of the race war — was scheduled to die on April 19, 1995.

That morning, Millar and Snell watched on television the news from Oklahoma City. Before he was executed by lethal injection, Snell's last words were a warning to the governor of Arkansas that "justice is coming."

Millar witnessed the execution, then took the body to Elohim City for burial. At last word, Snell continues to occupy his grave, beneath a simple wooden cross on a wooded hillside.

## "No alarms, no hostages"

The gang's bank robberies followed a pattern.

"It would begin with Langan running in first, with the others behind, and they would sometime enter with such force they would create an air vacuum behind them," Hamm said. "Then Pete Langan would take a running leap and jump over the counter, brandishing his assault rifle, and yell, 'No alarms, no hostages.' Twice."

All were dressed in ski masks, camouflage and combat boots. Often, they wore Halloween masks of presidents. And, they used two-way radios to communicate with one another and with gang members outside.

While Langan took 30 to 60 seconds to clean out the teller drawers, Guthrie would guard the lobby and yell foreign-sounding gibberish. Some of it was Spanish; other times it was Serbo-Croatian.

They never went to the vault, Hamm said, because that would take too much time. When they were finished, Guthrie or another would leave a pipe bomb in the lobby, and sometimes they would toss a smoke grenade behind them, leaving the bank clouded in green, noxious fumes.

After racing away in a drop car — a cheap car obtained just for that purpose — they would use another, more reliable car for their real getaway, monitoring police frequencies as they went.

In 1995, on the front seat of a Ford Fairmont they had bought using the name of a retired FBI agent who had worked white supremacist cases, they left an article about McVeigh being charged with the Oklahoma City bombing. After Jim Nelson, a St. Louis FBI agent, publicly announced that the bank robbers had political motivations, they sent out press releases that announced the appointment of Nelson as their spokesman.

## "He's my wife"

Early in 1995, at the safe house in Pittsburg, the gang made the infamous "recruiting video" that originally was intended for the Aryan Nations.

"It was totally whacked," said Hamm. "They were drunk, and it started out kind of serious, then things fell apart. As time went on they drank more, and their lips got loose. But there are some things said, all jokes aside, that are very serious. They concern threats to bomb a federal building, and there is talk of other cells."

Between the racist rants, the gang also performs a couple of "Saturday Night Live"-style sketches: mock ads for "Blammo Ammo" and "Second-Chance Body Armor."

Also on the video, the gang recommends "The Turner Diaries," a novel by William Pierce that tells of a coming race war. The climax of the book is the destruction of a national passport system by blowing up FBI headquarters in Washington with a truck bomb.

The book is a gun-show staple, and a copy was found in McVeigh's getaway vehicle when he was arrested after the bombing near Perry, Okla., for a traffic violation.

The gang also holds up "Vigilantes of Christendom: The Story of the Phineas Priesthood," by Richard Kelly Hoskins. It "advocates guerrilla holy war conducted by individual white warriors," and urges viewers to read it carefully as a handbook for the revolution.

Phineas (or Phinehas) is a Biblical figure, mentioned in Numbers 25, who saves Israel from the wrath of God by slaying an Israelite who had paired with a woman of another race he met at an unholy rite.

Extremists use the biblical passage to justify the use of violence to deter race mixing. The Phineas symbol (a capital P with a horizontal line through it, forming a cross) was painted near the entrance to the Christian Identity church run by Mark Thomas in eastern Pennsylvania.

Curiously, even though Langan clearly saw himself as a member of the Phineas Priesthood, he also was struggling with an unusual problem for a religious fundamentalist: He

was a cross-dressing transsexual who wore women's undergarments, and enjoyed passing himself off as a woman in public.

A transsexual is a person who identifies with the opposite sex, often dresses as the opposite sex, and sometimes undertakes surgery or hormone treatment to make his or her outward appearance conform to the perceived true identity.

Langan was in severe emotional turmoil during his time in Pittsburg, according to Hamm, and his cross-dressing prompted Guthrie to threaten to kill him. The other members of the gang seemed more understanding, but Langan eventually established his own hide-out in Overland Park, a suburb of Kansas City, where his habits would go more unnoticed.

Langan also established an unusual relationship with a woman from Peculiar, Mo., named Cherie Roberts.

Roberts, who later appeared in a suit and tie at Langan's trial in Columbus, Ohio, said she was a transsexual as well. They had met through a Kansas City group called Crossdressers and Friends.

"He's my wife; I'm his husband," she said.

Her pet name for Langan was "Donna." Their plan was to obtain sex-change operations for both, and then to marry.

"I found her testimony to be the most fascinating part of the trial," Hamm said. "It told you what their life was like, and some of the struggles Pete Langan was dealing with. Every year or so, Pete would have a sexual identity crisis and feel so ashamed about his fetish for women's underwear that he would go 180 degrees in the other direction, and start wearing biker clothes."

None of this, however, was apparent to those who knew the gang members under their assumed names or who were inside the house at 1103 S. Elm St. in Pittsburg.

Darren Carriger, a service technician for Bob's Heating and Air Conditioning in Pittsburg, said he met someone named Don McClure — Langan's alias — when he was sent to the address in the winter of 1994

# Bank heists

The Midwestern Bank Bandits, also known as the Aryan Republican Army, were linked to 22 robberies in seven states from 1992 to 1995.

Many of the heists were planned from a safe house in Pittsburg, Kan.

Authorities say the gang stole about \$250,000, but some sources, including Indiana State University criminologist Mark Hamm, suspect the take was at least twice that amount.

The gang's known robberies were:

1. Gateway Federal Saving Bank, Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 27, 1992 (Richard Guthrie Jr. acting alone).
2. Bank One, Cincinnati, Dec. 11, 1992 (Guthrie alone).
3. First Star Bank, Ames, Iowa, Jan. 5, 1994.
4. First National Bank of Davenport, Iowa, Feb. 15, 1994.
5. Associated Bank, Green Bay, Wis., March 11, 1994.
6. North American Savings Bank, Kansas City, Mo., May 19, 1994.
7. Society National Bank, Springdale, Ohio, June 8, 1994.
8. Mercantile Bank,

to repair the furnace.

"It was just an old rental house," Carriger said. "I figured they were college students. The only weird thing is that they had a push-button security system near the back door."

Carriger also noticed a couple of camouflage Army duffel bags under the kitchen table, but he reckoned the residents were members of the National Guard. He replaced a blower motor and got the furnace running, and a taller and heavier man — probably Guthrie — later came to the office and paid cash for the repair.

"They fit in well with the local community," Hamm said. "They didn't live in seclusion. Guthrie, for example, presented himself as an ex-cop from the East Coast who had been busted for using excessive force with black gang members. He

Springfield, Mo., July 7, 1994.

9. Nebraska State Bank, Omaha, Aug. 3, 1994.

10. Boatman's Bank, Overland Park, Kan., Sept. 21, 1994.

11. Columbus National Bank, Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 25, 1994.

12. East Des Moines National Bank, Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 11, 1994.

13. Third Federal Savings, Middleburg Heights, Ohio, Dec. 9, 1994.

14. Commercial Bank of Westport, Maryland Heights, Mo., Dec. 27, 1994.

15. Boatman's Bank, Des Moines, Iowa, March 29, 1995.

16. Great Financial Bank of Louisville, Ky., May 24, 1995.

17. Guaratee Bank of Glendale, Wis., June 22, 1995.

18. Magna Bank of Bridgetown, Mo., Aug. 15, 1995.

19. Bank One, Madison, Wis., Aug. 30, 1995.

20. Roosevelt Bank, St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 22, 1995.

21. Society National Bank, Cincinnati, Ohio, Dec. 8, 1995 (Guthrie alone).

22. Midamerica National Bank of Sylvania, Ohio, Dec. 19, 1995.

also talked about drinking coffee with members of the police force, and going to square dances and a cockfight or two."

Guthrie, Hamm said, may have used the name Ray Mitchell while in Pittsburg, and he was deeply tanned.

"On the tape, Pete Langan says at one point that he is tired of funding these other cells," Hamm said. "And, I think one of the cells he's talking about is the one composed of Tim McVeigh and Terry Nichols, that they funded through the robbery of a gun dealer in Arkansas."

## Badge and pink toenails

Kenney, the first recruit, ultimately backed out of the gang before committing any robberies. Later, he would lead authorities to Guthrie in Cincinnati.

Captured in January 1996, Guthrie then told investigators

where to find Langan, and "Commander Pedro" was arrested after federal officers confronted him on a residential street in Columbus, Ohio.

Although Langan claims he never shot first or even shot back, agents pumped about 30 rounds into his white Chevy van, but Langan was not seriously hurt. When authorities got him out of the van, they found he was carrying a U.S. Marshal's badge. His toenails, it was discovered, were painted pink.

In the vehicle, authorities found 3,400 rounds of ammunition, assault weapons, 11 pipe bombs, five hand grenades, FBI hats, police uniforms, fake IDs, and a hollow Bible made to conceal a gun.

The recruitment video was found in an envelope addressed to the Rev. Richard Butler, head of the Aryan Nations, in Idaho.

A month later, in February 1996, a routine traffic stop by a St. Louis police officer led to the discovery of guns, a rocket launcher and other items belonging to the Aryan Republican Army that had been kept in a storage locker in Joplin, Mo.

Nicholas W. Guthrie, 31, a brother of Richard Guthrie, was pulled over for drifting onto the shoulder of the road. When Guthrie and his father, Richard Guthrie Sr., became nervous, the officer searched the vehicle and found the weapons — and another Aryan Republican Army videotape — in the trunk.

The Guthries, who were headed to their home in Sterling, Va., told authorities they had been asked to clean out the Joplin locker by Richard Guthrie Jr.

Nicholas Guthrie was charged with a felony weapons violation, but the 72-year-old father was released.

Langan was convicted in two separate trials, of robbing two banks, assaulting federal officers, using a deadly weapon in a crime, and being a felon in possession of firearms and a pipe bomb.

He was convicted in February 1998 on five charges involving bank robberies in Columbus, Ohio, and Springdale, Ohio, a Cincinnati suburb. In October of that year, he was found guilty on one assault charge, two gun counts and one bomb count

in relation to his arrest.

Langan, then 40, was sentenced to life without parole plus 35 years by U.S. District Judge John Holschuh on Dec. 19, 1998.

At his sentencing, Langan testified that he was a transsexual and wanted to have a sex-change operation in prison. He also said he wasn't trying to hurt anyone who wasn't trying to hurt him, and that his beliefs put him in conflict with the federal government.

Langan was given a mental and emotional evaluation at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, Mo., then was sent to serve his life sentence without hope of parole at the Supermax federal prison in Florence, Colo.

Kenney has since joined the Army, Hamm said. McCarthy, Stedford, Brescia and Thomas were all charged and later convicted in connection with the bank robberies.

Guthrie, meanwhile, had committed suicide.

The day before he was to testify against Langan in 1997, Guthrie was found hanged to death from a bedsheet in his jail cell.

He was 38.

Guthrie already had pleaded guilty to 19 bank robberies, and shortly before his death he had told a reporter for the Los Angeles Times that he had written a manuscript that would tell all.

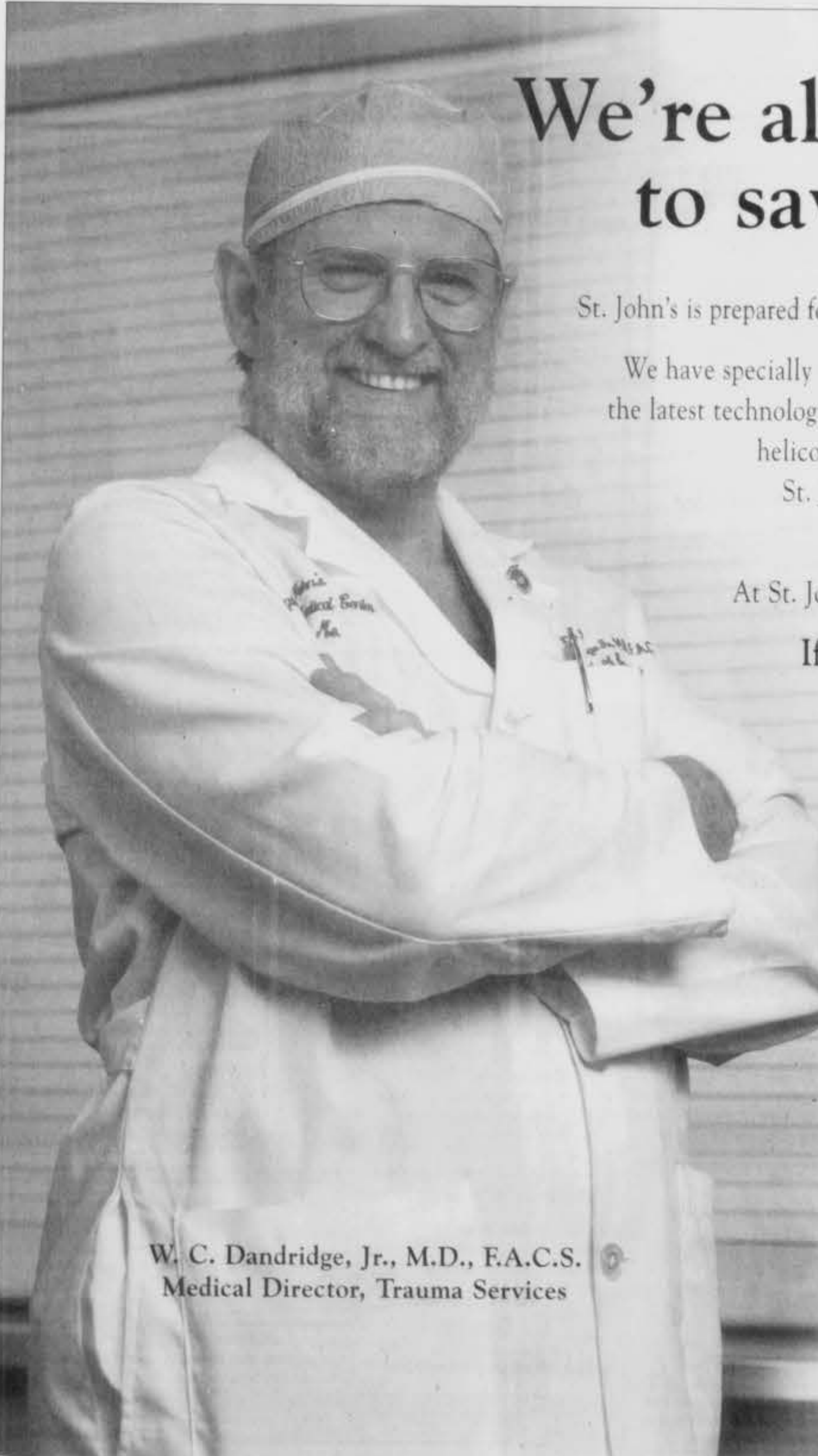
## "Who are these others?"

In 2000, Hamm had finished writing the book about the Midwestern Bank Bandits and, having developed Langan as a source, sent the manuscript to him at the Supermax prison in Colorado for comment.

"Langan said, in essence, 'You're missing the part about the Oklahoma City bombing,'" Hamm recalls. Specifically, Langan told him to review the work of J.D. Cash, an unconventional reporter for the tiny McCurtain Gazette at the tiny, in southeastern Oklahoma.

Cash started his reporting career after a close friend in Oklahoma City lost two grandchildren in the bombing, and he originally wrote for a right-wing publication called Jubilee. Later, after infiltrating the

See Bandits, Page 8A



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## ■ Bandits

Continued from Page 7A

Elohim City compound and breaking several national stories, Cash went to work full time at the Gazette.

"So, I go back and revisit the work done by Cash," Hamm said. "At that leads me to believe that the may have been three or four members of the gang in Oklahoma City. From April 5 to the bombing, McVeigh is seen with several other people. Who are these others? I shall look to the Aryan Republican Army for that answer."

Hamm discovered that the activities of the bank bandits closely matched those of McVeigh in the months before the bombing.

Also, Hamm said, he received a copy of Guthrie's 300-page dying declaration from an undisclosed FBI source. In all, Hamm said, three FBI agents approached him offering him copies of the manuscript.

In it, Guthrie speaks of a gang member called "Tim" or "Speedy" who drives the getaway car.

"I theorize McVeigh may have been that getaway driver on more than one occasion," Hamm said. "And, a crime of the magnitude of Oklahoma City requires three things: ideology, skill and organization. Now, McVeigh had the first, but for the second and third things, he just did not have what it takes."

McVeigh was a "slash and burn" terrorist, Hamm said, and there is nothing to suggest that he had the patience or the tenacity to engage in the long-term planning necessary for the Oklahoma City blast.

Also, Hamm said, it probably wasn't the diminutive and bespectacled Terry Nichols who robbed Royal Ark., gun dealer Roger Moore to finance the bomb materials. Moore described the ski-masked man who robbed him as robust and dark, and said he was not wearing glasses.

Guthrie, Hamm said, was a much better match, physically and psychologically, for the masked intruder who stole guns and precious jewelry from Moore's ranch. And, Hamm said, Guthrie was known to have been deeply tanned.

And, according to Hamm, Guthrie was a pretty good match for a mysterious figure called "Robert Jacques" who was seen with McVeigh and Nichols in November 1994 in Cassville, Mo. The foreign-sounding name, Hamm said, was one of Guthrie's trademarks.

"I created a timeline for the bandits, and I also had a timeline for Timothy McVeigh," Hamm said. "When I merged the two, I saw that there were too many instances where McVeigh and the Aryan Republican Army came together just to be a coincidence."

He said they were at the same Overland Park gun show together; they were in Fort Smith, Ark., near Elohim City; and they were in the Kingman, Ariz., area at the same time. And, Hamm said, McVeigh's whereabouts are unknown for days before and days after many of the bank robberies.

"What always has been the weakest part of the government's case," Hamm said, "is how did McVeigh support himself during his years on the road, when he doesn't work. The offerings on the gun-show circuit were meager, and sometimes he couldn't even afford a table."

Also, McVeigh once gave his sister, Jennifer, a trio of \$100 bills he said came from a bank robbery he had helped plan.

Hamm rewrote his book.

He now suspects that as many as three or four members of the Aryan Republican Army were with McVeigh in Oklahoma City and elsewhere in the days before the bombing. That, he said, may explain why so many witnesses who claimed to have seen McVeigh with another man have given such varied descriptions.

And, although authorities cannot account for much of the money that was stolen by the gang, Hamm said there is no evidence to suggest that the bank robberies financed the Oklahoma City bomb. Instead, he said, federal investigators are probably right when they say the robbery of the Arkansas gun dealer provided the few thousand dollars needed, but that Guthrie and the Midwestern Bank Bandits may be responsible for that heist, too.

Hamm believes that Langan's sexual identity crisis was the trigger for the seven-state crime spree that followed. Also, in a five-page letter written from prison, Langan describes his stay in Overland Park — where he could dress as a woman and go shopping with Cherie Roberts — as the happiest time of his life.

"I've been an assistant warden, I've worked death row, and I've been a criminologist for 25 years," Hamm said, "but Langan is beyond a doubt the most fascinating criminal I've ever met, and also the most competent. Commander Pedro was just an alternate identity to compensate for the shame he felt for dressing as a woman."