

Nichols witness unable to ID mystery suspect

ASSOCIATED PRESS

McAlester, Okla. — A McDonald's manager testified Friday that Timothy McVeigh and a dark-skinned man were part of a group that piled out of a Ryder truck and entered her restaurant just days before the Oklahoma City bombing.

But the woman could not say whether the man with McVeigh, who was executed in 2001, was John Doe No. 2, the enigmatic suspect who is the key to Terry Nichols' defense on state murder charges in the 1995 bombing. The defense



Nichols

contends others helped McVeigh plan and execute the blast and that Nichols was set up.

Joan Rairden testified that the men visited the McDonald's in Junction City, Kan., shortly before midnight on April 13 or 14, 1995. She said three people came inside, including the man with the dark skin and slicked-back hair.

Rairden said she could not identify the other man from a sketch of John Doe No. 2 that was shown to her by FBI agents after the bombing.

"He was darker. It didn't look like exactly him," she said.

Nichols is serving a life prison sentence on involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy counts.