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Restaurant manager saw McVeigh with unknown man

The Associated Press

MCLESTER, Okla. — 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, a McDonald's manager testified Friday.

Joan Rairden said she was unsure if the man with McVeigh was John Doe No. 2, the enigmatic suspect who is the key to

Terry Nichols' defense on murder charges in the April 19, 1995, bombing. The defense contends Nichols was set up to take the blame for the bombing, which McVeigh planned and executed with others.

Rairden testified 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 McVeigh and a man with the

dark skin and slicked-back hair.

McVeigh went to the rest room, Rairden said, and the man with the slick hair placed an order. McVeigh returned to the restaurant with the same group during the lunch hour a few days later, she said.

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

The sketch was based on a description by a worker at a nearby body shop where McVeigh leased the Ryder truck that delivered the bomb, which killed 168 people.

The drawing depicted a muscular man with brown eyes and hair who witnesses said was with McVeigh at the leasing agency.

On cross-examination, prose-

cutor Suzanne Lister asked Rairden why security videotapes from the restaurant show McVeigh there just once, two days before the bombing. Rairden said she had not reviewed the tapes.

The testimony came in the second day of questioning of defense witnesses.

Nichols, 49, a native of Lapeer County, was at home on the day of the bombing, but prosecutors contend he helped McVeigh

build the bomb. He faces the death penalty if convicted on first-degree murder charges.

Nichols is serving a life prison sentence on involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy counts in the deaths of eight federal law enforcement officers. In this trial, he faces 161 counts of first-degree murder for the deaths of the other 160 victims and one victim's fetus.

McVeigh was executed at a federal prison three years ago.