

Two hair stylists give testimony at Nichols' trial

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McALESTER - Two Kansas hair stylists testified Monday that bomber Timothy McVeigh and suspect John Doe No. 2 came in their salon together the day before the Oklahoma City attack.

The first stylist, Kathy Henderson, said the two men looked "exactly like" the FBI sketches of two suspects.

"We were not 100 percent sure because we didn't take their names, and we didn't cut their hair," Henderson said.

The stylists, Henderson and Tonia Rumbaugh, are among the new defense witnesses at Terry Nichols' state murder trial.

Most of the 28 defense witnesses appearing so far have testified before - at Nichols' 1997 federal trial. Others are giving their accounts publicly for the first time.

Nichols, 49, contends McVeigh had help from others, and they set him up to take the blame. His attorneys are calling dozens of witnesses who claim they saw McVeigh with others before the April 19, 1995, bombing.

Sketchy details

The stylists worked at Gracie & Co., a salon in Junction City, Kan. Both said they realized McVeigh had been there when they saw news accounts of his arrest.

Rumbaugh told jurors John Doe No. 2 wanted a haircut, but she had to pick her sick son up from school. She said McVeigh stood in the doorway. Henderson said she had too many appointments to do the haircut.

Jurors learned earlier that McVeigh, on April 14, 1995, said he was heading to Gracie's. McVeigh talked of getting himself a haircut as he checked into the Dreamland Motel in Junction City.

The FBI created sketches of two suspects based on the recollections of a Junction City auto mechanic where the bomb truck was rented.

Agents used the sketch of John Doe No. 1 to identify McVeigh as the renter.

Agents later decided John Doe No. 2 never existed. The mechanic eventually said he described an innocent Army private by mistake. Still, the second sketch remains a focus of the defense.

Waitress questioned

Jurors Monday also heard from Nancy Kindle, a waitress at the Denny's restaurant in Junction City on Easter, April 16, 1995.

Kindle said she helped seat McVeigh and two other men. She said she remembered McVeigh because he spelled his name for the waiting list.

She said she later saw McVeigh leaving a Junction City gas station between 4 and 4:30 p.m. that day. Prosecutors contend her recollection is not believable because of evidence McVeigh left Junction City before 3 p.m. on Easter 1995 to plant the getaway car in Oklahoma City.

Also Monday, jurors heard from five more witnesses about sightings of a Ryder truck at a Kansas lake in the days before the bomb truck was picked up.

Prosecutors allege McVeigh picked up the Ryder truck for the bomb at 4:19 p.m. April 17, 1995, then mixed the ingredients the next morning at Geary Lake. However, defense witnesses described seeing a Ryder truck at the lake April 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and the morning of April 17, 1995.

Some reported other vehicles around the Ryder truck. One witness, James Sargent, said he first saw the Ryder truck while fishing April 10, 1995 - the day he retired from the U.S. Army.

"It was hard to miss," Sargent said.

Nichols was convicted at his federal trial of the bombing conspiracy and the involuntary manslaughter of eight federal agents. His state trial focuses on the 160 other fatalities, plus the loss of an unborn girl.