

Nichols' jurors hear of McVeigh sightings

Nolan Clay | May 14th, 2004

McALESTER Terry Nichols' jurors heard more testimony Thursday about supposed sightings of bomber Timothy McVeigh with another man in Oklahoma City the morning of the Murrah Building bombing.

Jurors at the state murder trial also learned McVeigh wrote a boyhood friend in July 1994 that "blood will flow in the streets" in a clash of good and evil.

"Pray it is not your blood, my friend," McVeigh wrote.

Nichols, 49, contends McVeigh recruited others to help in the April 19, 1995, attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. Nichols says McVeigh set him up to take the blame.

Jurors so far have heard from more than a dozen witnesses about possible sightings of McVeigh with accomplices in Kansas and Oklahoma. Prosecutors contend the witnesses are either mistaken or making up their accounts.

The defense witnesses Thursday included Rodney Johnson, who said McVeigh and another man walked in front of his catering truck two to three minutes before the explosion.

Johnson, of Noble, was driving on NW 5 past the Murrah Building. He said he slowed down as the men crossed the street, heading "in a military quick-step" toward a brown pickup.

"They were clearly together," Johnson said.

Johnson recalled seeing in his truck's side mirror the flash of the explosion, "like the sun crashing down." He described how the blast wave rocked the truck and sent things flying past "almost like a hurricane."

Another witness, Mike Moroz, said he gave directions to McVeigh 20 to 30 minutes before the explosion. He said McVeigh was driving a Ryder truck and asked how to get to "5th and Harvey" site which was the location of the federal building

Moroz, of Mustang, was a mechanic at Johnny's Tire Co., north of downtown Oklahoma City. Moroz said another man was in the Ryder truck.