

TRIPLE MURDERS A MYSTERY

July 12, 1996 | by Gene Wirges

Will three more names be added to the list of unexplained murders and suicides with ties to the Clinton Administration or un-named government enemies? Is there some strange connection to the Oklahoma City bombing?

Questions surfaced as the state Crime Laboratory identified three bodies recovered from Illinois Bayou off Highway 7, north of Russellville in northwestern Arkansas--- William "Bill" Mueller, 53, his wife Nancy, 28, and her eight-year-old daughter Sarah, of Tilly, a tiny community about 38 miles northeast of Russellville in Searcy County.

A TROUBLED INTERVIEW

Bill and Nancy Mueller were interviewed by COMMON SENSE AMERICAN in November, 1995, and Bill was photographed displaying items in his booth. Portions of that interview link peculiar factors-- demanding agents of the government's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, a man sought possibly as the elusive John Doe #2 in the Oklahoma City bombing, robbery of the Mueller home several months before the Murrah Building explosion, and what Mueller considered an assault on his right of free speech.

The Muellers had been reported missing in early January, 1996, when they didn't arrive as scheduled at a gun show in Oklahoma. Mueller was to have checked in at the show with its organizer White Turkey, but never showed. The Muellers' white Jeep Cherokee was found in Pope County the following month but police did not come to investigate for two weeks.

BODIES RECOVERED

Four more months elapsed before Friday, June 28, when a fisherman advised a nearby store owner to call police because he had discovered what appeared to be part of a leg from a human body in Illinois Bayou. Bodies were recovered by Saturday evening, the following day. Hands and legs were handcuffed together on both adults and heads were covered with duct-taped plastic bags. The girl's head was also covered with a plastic bag, bound with duct tape, but there were no handcuffs.

Exhibitors who worked gun and knife shows with Mueller were amazed by reports the murders may be tied to theft of guns being transported by Mueller to a show. Mueller had few guns, they said, and his booth at shows consisted mainly

of books, magazines, T-shirts and bumper stickers. In fact, Mueller had obtained an FFL (federal firearms license) but after a short time, surrendered it and concentrated his efforts on magazines, T-shirts, bumper stickers and the like.

FELLOW EXHIBITORS PUZZLED

A news report quoted Nancy Mueller's aunt (Mary Ballard) as saying Mueller was taking a trailer-load of guns to a gun show in Springdale. That puzzled fellow exhibitors familiar with Muellers operation, partly because he had attended the Springdale show. They also expressed amazement at police speculation that a suspect wanted by Missouri authorities may be involved. James Wilson (aka Timothy Coombs) is being sought on warrants charging first degree assault and armed criminal action in the Sept. 16, 1994, shooting of Missouri State Trooper Bob Harper who had arrested Robert Joos, Jr., a Nazarite minister who heads a fringe religious group.

Wilson was a member of the United Kingdom of God Embassy, Yahweh's Ministries, in Tilly. He was arrested in 1991 for driving without a driver's license but contended state law requiring a license violated his religious beliefs. Dr. Denise Hollabaugh, Nancy Mueller's physician, said Wilson and Mueller knew each other but that Nancy had "*gotten out of that cult.*" She added "*they didn't want much to do with the government.*"

"HARD-WORKING PEOPLE"

Dr. Hollabaugh said the family was very close and once banded together to save family property that had fallen behind on taxes. She described the Muellers as "*hard-working people.*" Searcy County, AR, Sheriff Kent Griggs said Wilson and Mueller were members of an anti-government group. Many items in Mueller's booth were critical of the liberal Clinton Administration-- "Bill Lied" and "Clinton-- Blow it Out Your Sax" are just two of the messages imparted.

Police are investigating the possibility robbery could have motivated the murders. In February, 1995, while the Muellers were attending a gun show, their Tilly home was burglarized and Mueller reported theft of gold and silver bullion and other coins in three ammunition cans, custom knives, ammunition, rifles, coin sets, toilet paper, towels, hair brush, deodorant and a constable's badge. Value was placed at \$50,000 by some sources.

MORE FROM THE INTERVIEW

In the November 1995 interview at Little Rock's I-30 Expo Center, Mueller told the AMERICAN of the burglary at his home and said he had been having troubles with ATF, government agents who objected to anti-Clinton themes displayed in his show booth. He answered ATF objections by showing he had purchased (leased) booth space and pledged to operate within approved guidelines.

"It's been one strange thing after another," Mueller declared. "First the ATF tells me things in my booth have to be removed. Then I'm introduced to another strange character, Andy Strassmeir, who seemed to parrot the same ATF line. And he introduced me to a real far-out guy named Mike Brescia (pronounced Bra-See-Ah). He bought an item in the booth and I gave him change for a \$10 bill. He insisted it was a \$20. It was real weird."

"...HAD A FEELING"

Mueller said he remembered because he believed one or both might be connected with his home's burglary, or even ATF. He had written both names in a small notebook which he displayed during the interview. *"You know, I just had a feeling."*

Glenn Wilburn of Oklahoma City, who lost two grandchildren in the Murrah Building explosion, has sought answers to what many believe is complicated and mysterious. *"I had someone in authority tell me government agents were set to arrest Brescia in Philadelphia about three weeks ago, but it didn't happen. Supposedly the arrest was in connection with bank robberies in the midwest,"* Wilburn said.

GAVE 'EM THE SLIP

"Now I'm told Brescia gave 'em the slip and is somewhere in Canada. I wouldn't be surprised to find double-agents and counter-intelligence agents all through this thing, and I'm not sure we'll ever learn the real truth."

Mueller said he was later contacted by show organizers who suggested removal of "prohibited items." Later he forwarded a copy of "prohibited items" which included: *"Books, magazines, pamphlets, bumper stickers, audio and video tapes that are not directly connected to gun collecting, knife collecting or hunting..."* That would cover most of the items in Mueller's booth and he was upset.

ATF'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Mueller contacted U.S. Rep. Tim Hutchinson who relayed the complaint to ATF in Washington, DC. In response, ATF Director John Magaw acknowledged the government had developed a "Strategic Plan" and presented it to gun show organizers. The purpose was to control "destructive subjects (which) may contribute to ...any negative image in regard to gun shows," he said. Magaw wrote that ATF has no actual jurisdiction over books, pamphlets, bumper stickers, etc., but "explained that promoters (of gun shows) may establish their own set of guidelines" over such materials.

In the ATF letter, Magaw said gun show promoters could avoid "restrictive regulation" by establishing an acceptable "code of ethics." Mueller seemed certain the threat of "restrictive regulation" was critical.

Following the ATF "suggestion," show promoters began to "come down on" items critical of the Clinton Administration, Mueller told the AMERICAN. He saw this as an abridgement of his right of free speech. Magaw said Mueller had simply misunderstood the Strategic Plan. "*The list of prohibited items also includes items which encourage violent overthrow of the government, explain how to make destructive devices such as homemade bombs, or contain nudity.*" These were not part of Mueller's booth fare. (The ATF letter and "prohibited items" are published in this edition.)

DETAILS ABOUT THE BURGLARY

David Mason, who rented the Tilly home to the Muellers, said he found the front door lock "forced" after the Muellers disappeared and "the bottom of the door was kicked in." But he had no idea why anyone would want to abduct and kill them. His wife, Sylvia, described the Muellers as "a good Christian family...they were nice people."

George Eaton, publisher of the Patriot Report, said Mueller may have known who robbed his home in 1995. He said he met Mueller at a gun show and later introduced him to Andy Strassmeir, a friend of Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh.

Roger Moore of Royal (near Hot Springs) reported a masked man robbed him at his home, taking a number of weapons about two months before the robbery of Mueller's home.

The FBI has said sale of guns from Moore's home may have helped finance the Oklahoma City bombing.

No connection has been established between the two robberies, nor any connection of the Mueller robbery with the Oklahoma City bombing.