

Company Boy

The Connection Between The FBI, Secret Service, White Supremacists And McVeigh

BY J.D. CASH AND ROGER CHARLES

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It was a memorable moment when “Commander Pedro” Langan made his debut in the Columbus, Ohio, courtroom. Sporting shoulder-length dyed red hair — tied in a ponytail — the leader of the Aryan Republican Army (ARA) was escorted before the bench by six Deputy U.S. Marshals. The heavy security was clear evidence that the wiry figure had not been an easy “collar.” The Commander’s bandaged and swollen face reflected minor wounds he received in the previous day’s “one-sided” gunfight with a FBI SWAT team.

Handcuffed and shackled in leg-irons, the prisoner’s black piercing eyes darted around the magistrate’s court. Spotting members of the media — including veteran crime reporter, Bob Ruth of the *Columbus Dispatch*, the Commander announced, “I’m just another innocent person caught up in the tyrannical legal system ... Power to the people; up with the revolution.”

U.S. Magistrate Terence P. Kemp tried to ignore the display and nodded; “You have listed your occupation: ‘Revolutionary,’ Mr. Langan?”

Declaring his wish to be referred to as Commander Pedro the prisoner admitted he was, “... (T)he founder of the Aryan Republican Army — an army whose goal is the overthrow the government, ... to set free the oppressed people of North America.”

Some in attendance may have figured the guy was nuts, but word was leaking out there was a deadly serious side to this prisoner. Mr. Langan was suspected of having put together a string of nearly two-dozen bank robberies across the Midwest. Even the legendary record of Jesse James was in jeopardy. Certainly the firepower displayed the previous morning was proof the government wanted him badly, and not necessarily alive.



Real life versus flaming rhetoric. Peter Langan following the one-sided fire-fight. Some 40 rounds of officers’ lead perforated his vehicle, accounting for his somewhat shell-shocked gaze.

Shootout

After the smoke cleared in the sleepy lower middle-class Columbus neighborhood 18 January 1996, Langan’s arrest team must have been shocked to discover he had survived the 47 rounds of rifle, pistol and shotgun ammunition — fired from point-blank range as he sat in his van, warming up the engine. Langan later commented that he escaped death that morning by diving into a specially fitted box in the back of the van. “It sounded like I was in a popcorn popper.”

Drug from the van and tossed on the snow-covered ground, medics arriving at the scene cut off Langan’s clothing and searched for wounds. As they worked on the prisoner, Langan warned, “You guys better move us outa here. That van has nitro-methane and some other stuff that doesn’t mix well.” Agents took the hint and loaded the naked figure into a car and called in the ATF to examine the van and house. The results were telling.

Langan was not kidding about the racing fuel. The feds found a gallon of it. Fortunately for all concerned, the container had not been ruptured during the melee. Langan’s luck could not be overstated. Stashed near the nitro-methane, the ATF located several pipe bombs including one large IED (improvised explosive device). A fellow gang member admitted Langan built the complex device that he dubbed the “Commander Pedro Mark IV,” anticipating he might later need to light the fuse and toss it at police. And there was much more. Along with the bombs, the agents seized a police scanner, an AR15, a pair of semi-automatic pistols, several one-hundred dollar bills, seven pre-paid calling cards and numerous fake IDs, including a Deputy U.S. Marshal’s badge and photo ID. And this was just from Langan’s van.

Employing a robot in their search of the Columbus "safehouse" where Langan spent the previous night, the ATF located bomb components including grenades in various stages of readiness. And there was more intriguing evidence. Along with a respectable stockpile of firearms, the search turned up the highest quality body armor, several masks, wigs, disguises, books on the Aryan Nations and Irish Republican Army. Equally impressive, a host of false ID documents, KKK business cards, handcuffs, police IDs and badges. But most important to the case, investigators discovered several copies of a videotape gang members made a year earlier.

Stuffed in envelopes and ready to mail, the tapes were addressed to some of the leading members of the White Power movement. Two names stood out — former Texas Klansman Louis Beam and Aryan Nations guru, Pastor Richard Butler.

Investigators discovered that the homemade two-hour film was the complete outline of the ARA's bank robbery scheme and plans for a racial holy war. A gang member the feds rolled, described the movie, *The Aryan Republican Army Presents: The Armed Struggle Underground*, as a "recruiting tool."

Langan's arrest also led to a storage locker in the Kansas City area. Here the feds would locate an incredible array of false ID materials, weapons and ammo, disguises, more bomb making paraphernalia, and phrase books in foreign languages — including *Arabic*. Also located among the hundreds of pieces of telltale evidence of the gang's activities, a list of every FBI field office in the nation.

What the media did not, yet, know; the FBI also suspected Langan's bank-robbery gang had ties to Timothy McVeigh and the Oklahoma City Bombing. And there was another dark secret.

Only months before the gang's bank robbery binge began with the 25 January 1994 robbery of a bank in Ames, Iowa — Commander Pedro was pulled out of jail and put to work as an informant for the United States Secret Service. The embarrassed agency would later have to admit that their CI (confidential informant) had pulled-off bank jobs in seven states.



In this video, "Commander Pedro" Pete Langan explains his grandiose scheme for reshaping American society, and (right) demonstrates one of his explosive "toys" he'd hoped to use in his taking back of America from the evil clutches of the blacks, Jews, fellow travelers, et al.

At least 22 banks were looted and over \$250,000.00 was taken during the spree. None of that money would ever be recovered. Court documents established that some of the funds were funneled to the Aryan Nations' organization.

Modeled after the paramilitary operations of the IRA, the rest of the gang's money was put back for weaponry and other "company expenses" related to their overall plan to commit acts of terrorism. The obvious question for many investigators who worked the ARA case: Was the OKC Bombing financed by these bank jobs?

Although in custody, Pete Langan continued his war against the government. He dangled more hints in front of the media, "I didn't fire a shot today." Adding, "The shootout by federal authorities was an attempt to assassinate [me] because I know too much about CIA secrets."

Prosecutors that first day seemed in a hurry to move matters along. All they asked the magistrate to do was hold Langan on an outstanding warrant they had for jumping bail on a small time robbery case in Georgia, three years earlier.

Suspicious of what he had witnessed, it was *Columbus Dispatch* reporter, Bob Ruth, who first discovered the stunning evidence that, indeed, Langan's Georgia robbery case had been put on-hold by, of all people, agents for the Secret Service. Ruth learned that in August of 1993, Secret Service agents traveled to Georgia and met with Lindsay Tise, the District Attorney for the Northern Judicial Circuit. It had taken some heavy-duty persuading by the agents but they eventually convinced the prosecutor to help arrange Langan's release. Ruth and others began to wonder, why?

A Spook From The East?

Born in 1958, in Saipan, Peter Kevin McGregor Langan came into the world the pampered son of a CIA agent whose cover was that of a "safety official" attached to the International Cooperation Administration. After moving his family to Saigon, Eugene F. Langan, a retired Marine Corps major, advised local police on intelligence matters and assists with their training. His wife, Mary Ann, worked during this assignment at the American Embassy in Saigon.

In Vietnam, Peter is taken care of by housekeepers, a nanny, and enjoys a private education. Bright and inquisitive, he quickly picks up French and Vietnamese. But the allure of the Far East eventually gives way to the harsh reality of street violence. In the aftermath of the CIA-engineered Diem assassination, Saigon is radically transformed.

Eugene Langan sends his family back to Wheaton, Maryland. Not long afterward, he will unexpectedly limp back to the states, as well. At age 50, the father of six is suffering from asthma and emphysema. Then, only months after arriving home, the patriarch suffers a mas-



Weapons seized by FBI during CSA raid of 19 April 1985.

sive heart attack and dies.

As the youngest of those six children, Peter was suddenly a boy adrift. Turning to drugs, he ran away from home. Barely 16, Langan gets into his first gunfight. The shootout occurs on the East Coast of Florida.

In Daytona Beach, Langan robs a man and drives off with the victim's van. When the police catch up, an officer's bullet passes down Langan's arm — blowing out the end of a finger. And there would be more scars.

Prison would forever harden the streetwise teenager. Tried as an adult, Langan is tossed into the adult section of a Florida prison. Recalling this first incarceration, "We called it 'Gladiator School.'" Langan added, "We were young, dumb and full of cum. All we did was fight. Hardly a day went by that someone didn't get shanked. I got into my share of scrapes. I won some and lost some."

The desperate need to survive pushed Langan into the Aryan Brotherhood for protection against Black and Hispanic gangs that roamed the prison yard. In 1978, after four years of hell, Langan is released.

Initially, Pete Langan tries marriage and working straight jobs. Soon he has a son. Then more trouble comes his way. After 10 years of bouncing around the country, Langan finds that decent jobs for ex-cons are scarce and low-paying. Falling on hard times, he and an old friend from Wheaton begin working some small time scams on department stores. Eventually, the scams turn into an armed robbery.

In 1992, Langan and partner, Richard Guthrie, rob a fast-food diner in Georgia. For reasons that remain unclear, the Secret Service gets involved. During a subsequent raid at Langan's Cincinnati residence they find guns. In no time the former felon is rotting in a Georgia jail, awaiting another trial.

Looking down the barrel of a 20-year sentence, Langan decides he had endured enough. He will build an army capable of extracting revenge on this government. Langan fantasizes that if he can get out of this fix, he will recruit inside the Aryan Nations movement.

In August 1993, Langan's fantasy turns to reality. Once again the Secret Service show up, but this time they had a deal to offer. Agents want the inmate to help them locate his former "business associate," Richard Guthrie. The word in the Aryan Nations movement is that Guthrie might be planning to assassinate President Bush.

Langan plays his hand well. He agrees Guthrie is a madman and brags he is probably the only guy Guthrie would come out of the shadows and talk to. The ruse works. In no time agents had Langan on a bus back to Ohio.

Once Langan hooks up with his old friend, but instead of "ratting him out" to the Secret Service, Guthrie is made a full partner in the "company." Guthrie will become "Commander Pavell." A revolution is born. And two years later, no one will be laughing.

Like his pal, Guthrie had grown up in the

Wheaton area, just outside of Washington, D.C. And like Langan, "Will Bill" experienced some of the same hard knocks. A thief by predisposition, "Wild Bill" had given the Navy a try. The outcome was a disaster. Although he was able to complete his EOD training at Redstone Arsenal, in Huntsville, Alabama, and graduate from Indian Head, Maryland's prestigious "nuke school," the hothead was unable to cut it in the coveted SEAL program. Bumped from the program because, in Langan's words, "They figured out Guthrie was a psycho," his Navy career spiraled downward until the misfit was busted for painting a swastika on a ship, threatening an officer and going AWOL.

After doing some brig time, Guthrie accepted a general discharge and hit the streets. Embittered and well-trained in explosives, "Wild Bill" turns to the Aryan Nations to get even with the "system" that rejected him. At Klan and AN meetings around the country, he will proudly introduce himself as a "revolutionist."

Drops From Radar Screen

The Aryan Republican Army's cause was a heady one: the overthrow of the federal establishment and the extermination and/or deportation of all non-whites and non-Christians in North America. The National Socialist plot was all spelled out in the "recruiting film" the feds seized. Here Langan and Gurthrie predict the rebirth of The Order and describe a war on the system that includes a threat to bomb federal installations. Langan predicts, "We have endeavored to keep collateral damage to a minimum. But as in all wars, some innocents shall suffer. So be it."

In the fall of 1993, Langan disappears from the radar screen of his Secret Service handlers. He and Guthrie head to Arkansas. They are looking for men with military backgrounds and who share a penchant for "ethnic cleansing." As



High-quality fake IDs forged by Richard Guthrie.



Richard Guthrie, wearing Reagan mask, on-camera for Aryan Nations recruitment gig prior to being arrested on federal bank robbery charges. The question remains whether Tim McVeigh was part of his band of thieves.

an integral part of that plan, bank robberies will be the fundraising mechanism for their race-based revolution.

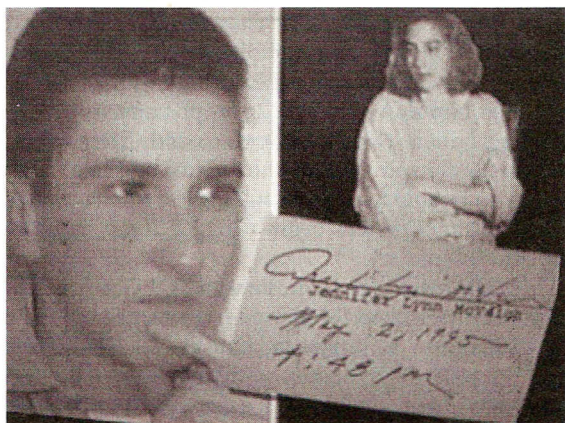
The pair borrowed heavily from the *Turner Diaries* and various books about the IRA. Small cells of operatives are to be recruited to strike at the heart of the enemy — an enemy they simply called ZOG (or Zionist Occupied Government). In the recruiting video, Langan explains that banks are targeted, because, "Heimie has been ripping you and your father off, forever. Now you go take it back."

During the same time period that Langan and Guthrie

were putting their plan together, Terry Nichols and Timothy McVeigh turn up in Arkansas. Dead broke, Nichols tells his family he is going to Arkansas *to look at real estate*. On 11 October, alone, Nichols checks into a motel room in Fayetteville. The next morning, Timothy McVeigh will receive a traffic citation on a backwoods two-lane highway, only minutes away from a Christian Identity stronghold called Elohim City — the ARA's future training camp.

A few weeks later, McVeigh will write a letter to his sister telling her that robbing banks is virtuous because banks are run by the Jews. Jennifer McVeigh told the FBI that the letter represented, "Tim's Robin Hood philosophy." She will also later admit that she laundered money from a bank robbery her brother had been involved with.

Also arriving at Elohim City during this period, is



Jennifer McVeigh, sister of Tim, signed a federal affidavit that she laundered bank robbery funds for her brother.

Pennsylvania-based Aryan Nations leader, Mark Thomas. Three years after this crucial trip, Thomas will be indicted and subsequently plead guilty to a substantial role in the ARA conspiracy.

Records seized after the OKC Bombing show that days after the '93 trip to Arkansas, McVeigh and Nichols order a prepaid phone card from the *Spotlight* newspaper. This card will establish an important trail for authorities.

Weeks after obtaining the card, one of the nation's longest string of bank robberies begins. Records reflect that days before an ARA robbery takes place, McVeigh disappears. A few days following these robberies, McVeigh will suddenly reappear — hundreds of miles away. The pattern is surprisingly consistent until McVeigh's grandfather becomes ill in July of 1994 and McVeigh flies to New York to be with him. Afterwards, the patterns resume. The statistical relationship is astounding.

The most important trace of the phone records establishes that someone using the card made a call to Elohim City on 5 April 1995 — just two weeks before the Oklahoma City Bombing. The story at Elohim City was that the caller wanted to speak with Andreas Carl Strassmeir, the mysterious German national whom government intelligence alleged was responsible for terrorist training at the camp. The caller's message was, "Tell Andy, I'm on the way."

A court-appointed investigator for Timothy McVeigh, later confirmed that at the time the call was placed, Strassmeir, AKA "Andy the German" and "Mr. Red," had three young men living with him. All three of those men were members of the ARA gang and would later be arrested for roles in several bank heists.

The 5 April call was from a motel room in Kingman, Arizona, that was rented to McVeigh. Langan, Guthrie and at least two other members of the ARA had just departed Arizona. These same phone records also revealed that a few seconds before the call was made, someone using the name of Tim McVeigh called a Ryder truck rental in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, to check payload capacities of various truck models.

That there was evidence of plans to bomb a federal building by persons at Elohim City, was not at all surprising to the feds. They had informants working the compound. One was the ATF's most notorious confidential informant — the beautiful, blonde, terrorist-in-training, Carol Howe.

Howe skillfully used her womanly guile to burrow her way into the compound and had been supplying reports about the camp since September 1994. Initially, these reports got to her handler, Angela Finley, in the Tulsa office. Soon they were getting attention from intelligence officials in Washington, D.C. Something big was clearly on the horizon.

As investigators would later learn, McVeigh had driven halfway across the country and checked into a motel room near the compound on 12 September 1994. The federal grand jury investigating the OKC Bombing wrote that on 13 September 1994 the plot to bomb the federal building began. On the 14th, McVeigh will turn up in central Kansas. According to the phone card records, McVeigh is searching for bomb components.



Carol, barely undercover.

Howe's reports also note that the patriarch of Elohim City giving ominous sermons. According to those official ATF reports, Pastor Robert Millar was preaching a holy war.

The reports record an incident around 1 January 1995 where Millar called Strassmeir and some of his troops together and told them that they must strike first before the feds wiped them out. Waco would be their rallying cry. A Branch Davidian flag was displayed at the compound.

In follow-up interviews with the FBI, Howe reported that



Co-author J.D. Cash (left) with Elohim City patriarch Reverend Robert Millar (now deceased).

she told her ATF handlers that three targets in Oklahoma had been chosen for attack. One of those targets was Oklahoma City's Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

In retrospect, the doomed Murrah Building was the obvious choice. Millar and other members of his flock were close friends with an inmate in Arkansas that was scheduled to die on 19 April 1995. In fact, some members of the inmate's family were residents of Elohim City. That inmate's name was Richard Wayne Snell.

In the early '80s, Snell was in trouble with the IRS in Oklahoma City. He and pal, James Ellison, the leader of a group in north Arkansas that called itself the Covenant, The Sword and The Arm of the Lord (CSA), decided to get even with the government by bombing the Oklahoma City Federal Building.

Testimony in a subsequent federal trial established that



The pre-McVeigh era: Wayne Snell earlier plotted bloody mayhem for the Murrah Building in OKC but his plans were short-circuited. He was executed the same day as McVeigh's victims — 19 April 1995 — and is buried at Elohim City.

Snell and another member of the CSA gang cased the OKC Federal Building in 1983. Ellison testified that he authorized Snell to conduct a rocket attack on the building. But while the plan was being implemented, the man responsible for building the rockets suffered a serious accident. Ellison took the event as a sign from God and put the attack on hold.

Not long afterward, the feds surrounded the CSA camp and arrested several of the residents for conspiracy to overthrow the government and weapons violations. The date of that siege was, incredibly, 19 April 1985.

Thus, by the spring of 1995, the ATF realizes that Snell is to be executed on the 19th — and, that James Ellison is due to be released from prison the same month and would be heading for Elohim City to marry one of Millar's granddaughters. Hotheads at Elohim City, Howe reported, were talking about plans to rebuild the CSA and go to war with the government. One of the targets of the ATF's investigation, Dennis Mahon, had even moved his travel trailer to

the compound. The radical leader told Howe that war with the government would be in full-swing by the summer of 1995. The intelligence product was overwhelming.

The Tulsa ATF went into overdrive. They needed to make a case against some of the players at Elohim City before any of the threats they were hearing could be carried out.

Dennis Mahon was an international figure in the KKK and known in the neo-Nazi movement for making outrageous threats. While many considered him just talk, Carol Howe romanced the 45-year-old into helping her make some hand grenades.

At Elohim City, she reports that Mahon tested the devices. Dutifully, Ms. Howe returns with shrapnel from the tests. Thus, with only weeks before the 19 April anniversary of Waco, the ATF has a case against Mahon. And there was yet another major figure the ATF wanted to arrest.

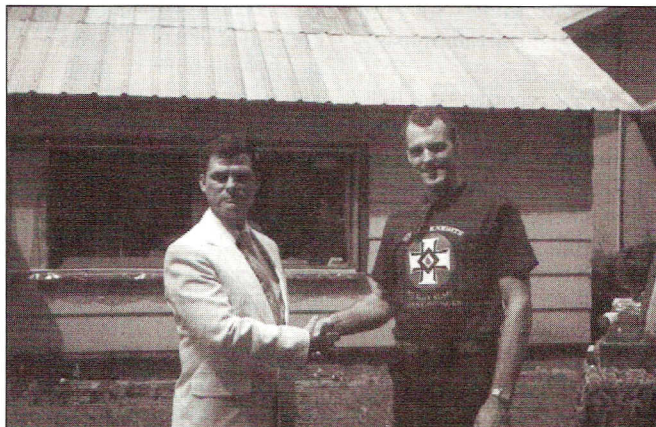
The mysterious Strassmeir character had been listed an "overstay" by the INS. Photographed at Elohim City carrying a firearm, the German was an easy target for the ATF. They would take him down on a 922g — possession of a firearm by an illegal alien. Once in federal custody, they could work up a case for conspiracy to bomb federal buildings and other weapons and explosive violations if the evidence warranted. Finley and her superiors begin plans to arrest Strassmeir in a raid on Elohim City.

While all this is going on, Langan and Guthrie are keeping their distance from the compound — choosing to operate from a safehouse in Pittsburg, Kansas. Employing a multitude of disguises, fake bombs, police scanners and drop cars, the gang has already looted over a dozen banks and are growing bolder and more violent by the day.

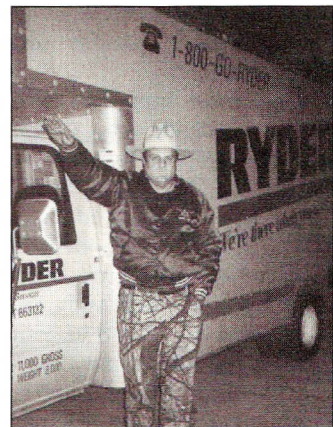
As an example of the gang's reckless nature, Richard Guthrie has taken to mailing postcards to the FBI, bragging about the ARA's exploits. Another favorite stunt: employing fake IDs to purchase "drop cars" in the names of retired FBI agents. After hitting a bank, these cars will be abandoned a few blocks away with a grenade tucked in the front seat or glove compartment.

Even after the bombing and his January 1996 arrest, Guthrie hinted during plea negotiations with the FBI that he had a getaway driver by the name of Tim, or "Speedie" as he referred to him. Guthrie, though, denied this "Tim" character was Tim McVeigh. But he did reveal that the ARA had another cell. It is this cell that is believed to have been formed in August 1994, strictly to provide expertise and

Continued on page 68



Dennis Mahon in a grip 'n' grin with Aryan Nations honcho Louis Beam, at Beam's Idaho enclave. (right) Dennis Mahon poses alongside yet another Ryder truck.





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materials for the OKC bombing. However, if the FBI ever asked "Wild Bill" for the names of those persons, it is not noted in the government's records provided defense attorneys in the ARA cases.

But more information did slip out from another key ARA member. When fellow gang member Mark Thomas is arrested in early 1997 for his role in the bank robbery conspiracy, he quickly acknowledges that Guthrie had, indeed, implicated a young man that Thomas once tutored in Christian Identity and who lived for quite some time at Thomas' Pennsylvania farm before moving to Elohim City. He was Kevin McCarthy, one of Strassmeir's roommates at Elohim City.

Thomas told a bevy of reporters that McCarthy was involved in the bombing. "Richard Guthrie told me, 'Your young Mr. Wizard took out the Murrah Building.'"

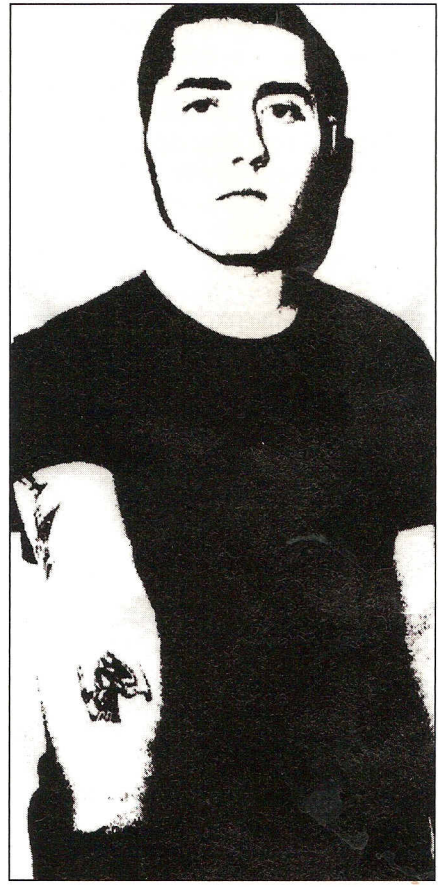
However important this information might be for the OKBOMB case, implicating the 19-year-old skinhead in that crime presented the government with another real problem.

Death: The Great Neutralizer

Federal prosecutors in Philadelphia were counting on McCarthy to provide them with much need testimony to get convictions against Langan and other ARA members for the bank robberies. The dilemma was only resolved when Mark Thomas entered into a plea agreement with the government. Suddenly, the U.S. Attorney in the ARA case appeared at a press conference and announced that Thomas had recanted his earlier statement regarding McCarthy, indicating the whole story had been concocted to make McCarthy look bad.

By this time, Richard Guthrie was in no position to confirm or deny anything. Months earlier, on 12 July 1996, he was found in his cell, dangling by the neck from a bed sheet. Suicide was listed as the cause. Inexplicably, only the day before his death, Guthrie told a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* that he was excited about a book he was working on that, "(G)oes a lot more deeper than the bank robberies" and would record his exploits in the White Power movement. Also on the day Guthrie spoke with the reporter, a federal judge

signed an order to move the inmate to a different facility. According to a written plea agreement that Guthrie had just entered into, he would provide information about, "Organizations whose goal was the overthrow of the United States government or engage in domestic terrorism."



McCarthy with tattoo.

When Pete Langan heard about the manuscript, he asked his lawyers to get it. The government vigorously denied they had found a manuscript in Guthrie's cell when they cut him down.

But they had found it.

In our next issue, more extraordinary details about the Elohim City connection to the OKC Bombing, including intriguing information from "Wild Bill" Guthrie's amazing account of the gang from his unpublished manuscript, *Banks For The Memories*.

J.D. Cash, a longtime Oklahoma investigative journalist, has broken several major stories on the OKC Bombing.

Roger Charles, a U.S. Naval Academy grad and former consultant on ABC's 20/20, is, likewise, an authority on the tragedy and a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕