

## Bombing puzzle far from being resolved

OKLAHOMA CITY — Was Timothy McVeigh alone in Oklahoma City? Was he there with John Doe? Or were there more like-minded extremists involved in the bombing of the federal building?

With each new revelation comes more questions and more seeming contradictions.

A senior federal official involved in the investigation told The Associated Press such frustrations are nothing new to such cases.

"The problem for you guys (in the media) and the public is you want it all to make sense each day," he said. "Cops learn in their first few years on the job that every case they ever investigate is going to have some things that are totally unexplainable."

An example: the 1977 yellow Mercury Marquis that McVeigh bought on April 14th in Junction City, Kan.

The used car has become a touchstone for various theories about McVeigh's movements, the possibility of a second getaway car, or a scenario that has McVeigh setting off the bomb himself, then fleeing in the previously positioned Mercury.

McVeigh was arrested in the car as he sped north from Oklahoma City about 75 minutes after the blast. The senior federal official said a note found in the car read: "Not abandoned. Battery cable problem. Will be back to pick it up."

The note also included a date, which was not revealed. Officials are trying to fit this with another puzzle piece: Why did McVeigh have his friend Terry Nichols pick him up in Oklahoma City and drive him back to Junction City two days before the bombing?

Nichols told the FBI McVeigh called him on April 16; the two returned to Junction City early on April 17, the day McVeigh is believed to have rented the Ryder truck with a man investigators identify as John Doe 2.

The owner of the Dreamland Motel, the Junction City motel where McVeigh was registered from April 14-17, reported seeing the Mercury when McVeigh checked in. Within a few days the Mercury was gone, she said, replaced by the truck.

Does this all add up to the possibil-

ity McVeigh parked the car with its note in Oklahoma City, returned to Junction City with Nichols, then drove down to Oklahoma City alone in the rental truck, detonated the bomb and escaped in the Mercury?

The federal official said the scenario is one of several being explored. "It's absolutely possible, physically, for one man to have detonated it," he said.

But there are problems with this theory.

Investigators say McVeigh would have taken a big risk by leaving the car on the street for three nights. The surveillance camera in an automatic teller machine across from the federal building captured images of the Ryder truck, several individuals and a possible second getaway car with Arizona license plates.

At least one witness says he saw two men driving the truck shortly before the explosion.

The federal official said such contradictory bits of information can muddy a clear picture of what happened.

### Trail of evidence

Investigators have compiled a trail of evidence which follows Timothy McVeigh from Junction City, Kansas to the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City.

- Marion:** 1994: Nichols works for rancher Jim Donahue. Co-workers remember his rants against the government and his boasts of an ability to build bombs.
- Billings:** April 19: Timothy McVeigh is arrested for driving a car with no license plate.
- Perry:** April 19: McVeigh is incarcerated at the jail. He is later identified as "John Doe no. 1."
- Oklahoma City:** April 19: Bomb outside the Alfred P. Murrah federal building explodes.
- Fort Riley:** 1988: Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols enlist in the army and are assigned to the 1st Infantry Division.
- Junction City:** April 14: McVeigh checks into the Dreamland Motel. April 17: McVeigh is seen at the Ryder rental agency where he uses a fake drivers license to rent a 20-foot Ford truck.
- Herington:** April 14-17: Timothy McVeigh is seen by neighbors at the home of Terry Nichols. April 22: An FBI search of the Nichols' home uncovers bags of ammonium nitrate, mixing barrels, a fuel meter, blasting caps—all ingredients for the type of bomb used in Oklahoma City. April 22-23: FBI Agents check a storage shed rented by McVeigh. Tracks there have been reported to match the kind of tires Ryder uses on its trucks.

## Four remain at-large following prison escape

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — Ten of 14 prisoners were captured Sunday after they escaped through the roof of a maximum-security jail and over a 20-foot razor-wire fence.

Four of the fugitives were caught almost immediately in the pre-dawn jailbreak, the biggest escape from the Los Angeles County jail system.

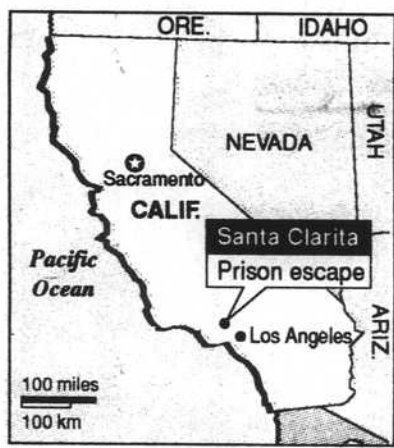
The other 10, wearing orange jail jumpsuits, vanished into the darkness.

Six of them were captured later in the day within five miles of the jail after more than 100 sheriff's deputies and three aircraft mounted a manhunt, sheriff's spokesman Capt. Jeff Springs said.

Two of the four fugitives who remained at large were murder suspects.

Housing developments near the 2,800-acre Peter J. Pitchess Honor Rancho jail were placed under guard as teams of deputies searched for the fugitives. Loudspeakers on patrol cars warned residents to keep children indoors.

More than 100,000 people live just south of the jail in Santa Clarita. Small highway and farm communities dot the region.



The inmates escaped their jail module through a hole in the ceiling that had been temporarily repaired with a metal plate, Springs said.

"Somehow the inmates managed to remove the metal plate, enlarge the hole and gained access to the roof," he said.

The jail, between the mountainous Angeles and Los Padres national forests 35 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, has 4,152 inmates.

## Life goes on for boy after bombing takes 'best buddy'

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — The headlights that seemed to turn the highways into endless funeral processions are fewer now. The fliers announcing memorials are coming down. The bouquets heaped on fresh graves, like Trudy Rigney's, are beginning to wilt.

Life moves on for those left behind by the Oklahoma City bombing.

One of those left behind include Jonnmichael Rigney, the son Trudy raised alone. At 11, Jonnmichael's life is beginning anew: a new home 100 miles from his old one, new school and a new family doing their best to make life possible now that his mom, his "best buddy," is gone.

The boy does not express his sorrow yet. Asked how he's doing, he says only, "Fine." Distractedly, he moves from one activity to the next: watching a few minutes of television, playing with a cousin's "G.I. Joe," strumming an uncle's guitar.

His aunt, Paula Rigney, who moved the pictures from the wall of his old bedroom to his new one in his grandmother's house here, stays close by this Thursday afternoon, one day after the funeral. She lights up when Jonnmichael smiles at something on TV.

They talk about it for a moment, then she gently prods, "Did your mom like that show?"

"Yeah," he says. "Are you thinking about her?" "Yeah." "Want to talk about it?" "No." "We miss her, too," she says. "But there's going to be lots of people to take care of you." "I just don't want to talk about

it," the boy replies.

Jonnmichael may "lack the language of pain," as an expert in child grieving explains, but not the feelings.

The boy and his mother were inseparable.

"Jonnmichael was right at her heels. They were mother and son, but they were best buddies, too," said Rick Rigney, Trudy's brother. The boy's father left before he was born, Rigney explained.

As a toddler, Jonnmichael rode on the back of the bike that was her only transportation. She took him to meetings, to work, on trips. They "were silly together," someone remembers. A photo shows her sticking out her tongue, mimicking him.

Together, they struggled to make a better life, fell back, and started again. After a traffic injury cost her her job, they lived in a homeless shelter. They had been on welfare.

Still, when she died Trudy Rigney was closing in on a degree from the University of Oklahoma. And she dreamed of buying the little white bungalow they rented, where azaleas she planted are flowering now in the front yard.

She had parlayed a student internship at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, across the street from the Alfred P. Murrah federal building, into a 30-hour-a-week job and the prospect of full-time employment. She was at work when the bomb exploded.

The honors she won, in spite of all, at the university and at Tulsa Junior College made her son proud and helped form his own determined spirit, friends say.

"Living in a homeless shelter

*"Jonnmichael was right at her heels. They were mother and son, but they were best buddies, too."*

**RICK RIGNEY**  
Jonnmichael's uncle

how many people would have the courage to say, "I'm not going to stop here. I'm going to go on," said Barbara Slagle, the college's director of student activities who presented Trudy a top academic award.

Jonnmichael's father may be "out East somewhere," said Rick Rigney, adding that the family is concerned he could resurface as Jonnmichael's grandmother, Haroldene, seeks custody.

Haroldene Rigney drove to her daughter's home in the Oklahoma City suburb of Midwest City as soon as she learned about the explosion, to care for Jonnmichael. When Trudy's death was confirmed April 23, the family returned to Broken Arrow, outside Tulsa.

"We had all decided before we came back, we just decided we'd raise him just like he was one of our kids," said Rick Rigney, whose two children from a first marriage visit him and Paula on weekends. They'll play and that will help, he hopes.

"Right now we just want to try to show him as much love as possible, hug him as much as we can," he said.

### News... in a Minute

#### Clinton offered refuge

CAIRO, Egypt — Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi says the Oklahoma bombing signaled the start of a mass revolt against the American government, and he offered President Clinton refuge in Libya.

Gadhafi made the remarks in a speech late Saturday marking a battle between Libyans and an Italian military force 80 years ago, the state-run JANA news agency reported Sunday.

"Oklahoma was the beginning of the reaction of the masses living in America," Gadhafi was quoted as saying. "It was a reaction against the nightmare and tyranny."

Saying "thousands of militias were currently waging armed popular revolution in America," Gadhafi invited Clinton and his wife, Hillary, to flee to Libya, "the only safe country in the world."

#### Keg party turns deadly

LAKE RONKONKOMA, N.Y. — An empty beer keg thrown into a bonfire at a party exploded early Sunday, killing a man with pieces of flying metal.

Chester Vesloski, 21, was standing about 35 feet from the fire when the keg exploded. One of the pieces of metal severed his arm at the elbow, said Suffolk County Detective Sgt. Kevin Cronin.

Vesloski died later at a hospital. About 10 people were at the outdoor keg party near woods in this Long Island town. No one else was injured.

The bulk of the keg was found about 250 feet from the fire, Cronin said.

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