

Testimony of Carol Howe in the Nichols Trial

December 10, 1997

I
Next, please.

3 MR. TIGAR: Carol Howe.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Would you
raise your right

6 hand, please.

7 (Carol Howe affirmed.)

8 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Would you
have a seat, please.

9 Would you state your full name
for the record and

10 spell your last name.

11 THE WITNESS: Carol Elizabeth
Howe, H-O-W-E.

12 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Thank
you.

13 THE COURT: Proceed.

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. THURSCHELL:

16 Q. Good morning, Ms. Howe.

17 Ms. Howe, where do you live?

18 A. In Tulsa, Oklahoma.

19 Q. And if you could just lean forward a
little bit and speak

20 into the microphone, it would help people
hear.

21 Ms. Howe, in the fall of 1994,
were you present on

22 numerous occasions at the area known as
Elohim City?

23 A. Yes, I was.

24 Q. And if I showed you a map of the
state of Oklahoma, could

25 you identify for the jury where it's
located?

1 A. Yes, I could.

2 MR. THURSCHELL: I'm going to
show the witness and

3 the jury what's been previously admitted
as D1801.

4 BY MR. THURSCHELL:

5 Q. Now, can you -- let me back out.

6 Do you recognize this map as a
map of Oklahoma?

7 A. Yes, I do.

8 Q. Okay. And I cut it off a little bit
here, but I'll extend

9 it.

10 And focusing in, can you see
that this is Oklahoma

11 City where I'm pointing right here?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Now -- and then this would be Tulsa,
which is where you

14 live?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. Now, in relation to Tulsa,
what we see here -- can

17 you point on this map to where Elohim
City is located? I can

18 zoom in a little bit, if that would help.

19 What you have to do is take the
light pen that's on

20 your front of you -- it's attached to the

wire -- and touch it

21 to the actual television screen.

22 You have to go underneath the
glass. I'm sorry.

23 A. It's right around in this area
somewhere in there.

24 Q. I'm going to focus in on that area.
It's going to change

25 where your marks are, but tell me if I
still have the right

1 area. Do you see -- do you see a town
that -- where Elohim

2 City is located and a post office address?

3 A. In Muldrow, which is right there.

4 Q. And is Muldrow -- what is that major
highway that's

5 indicated running right next to Muldrow?

6 A. Interstate 40.

7 Q. And if you go east on Interstate 40,
where do you get to?

8 What's the first state you reach?

9 A. Arkansas.

10 Q. Okay. And if you -- what's the first
major city you get to

11 if you travel west on I-40?

12 A. Sallisaw, Oklahoma.

13 Q. And after that?

14 A. Oklahoma City.

15 Q. Oklahoma City. Okay. Thank you very
much.

16 I-40 runs directly through
Oklahoma City?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Now, in your -- the occasions that
you were present at

19 Elohim City, did you have a chance to
overhear conversations

20 among individuals who identified
themselves with Elohim City?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. And did you get a chance to
observe their

23 activities?

24 A. Yes, I did.

1 identified themselves talking about their
political views?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. Can you tell the jury what the
political views -- if there

4 was a general sentiment there towards the
federal government?

5 Can you describe that for the jury?

6 A. Yes. There was a very antigovernment
sentiment out at

7 Elohim City that the federal government
was an evil entity,

8 talking about destroying the government.
Very antigovernment.

9 Q. You say talk about destroying the
government. Did you ever

10 hear any individuals who identified
themselves at Elohim City

11 advocate the direct use of violence
against the government?

12 A. Yes, I did.

13 Q. By force of arms?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Do you know who Robert Millar is?

16 A. Yes, I do.

17 Q. Who is he?

18 A. He's the patriarch at Elohim City,
the leader at the

19 compound.

20 Q. Did you ever hear him advocate the
use of direct violent

21 action against the federal government?

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. And if you can, was -- did he -- was
he a religious leader?

24 A. Yes, he was.

25 Q. And were at least one of those
occasions where you heard

1 him advocate that during a sermon?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. And where numerous members of the
community were present?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did you hear talk about violence
against the federal

6 government and advocacy of violence
against the federal

7 government from others who lived at Elohim
City?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you know who Andreas Strassmeier
is?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. What was his position or role at
Elohim City, if you know?

12 A. He was a head of security in charge
of security checks and

13 weapons training, that sort of thing.

14 Q. Now, you say "weapons training."
Were there weapons at

15 Oklahoma -- at Elohim City, if you know?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Were there -- can you -- are you
familiar -- did you come

18 to be familiar with certain weapons that
were legal and certain

19 weapons that were not legal?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Were the weapons at Elohim City
legal, or illegal?

22 MS. WILKINSON: Objection, your
Honor.

23 THE COURT: Sustained.

24 BY MR. THURSCHELL:

25 Q. Was it -- was it common for
individuals to carry arms and

1 use them at Elohim City?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Would it -- could you characterize the
number or extent of

4 the armament there during the period that
you're familiar with?

5 A. Very extensive armaments.

6 Q. Mr. Strassmeier: Did you ever hear
him advocate direct

7 violent action against the federal
government?

8 MS. WILKINSON: Objection.

9 THE COURT: Overruled.

10 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

11 BY MR. THURSCHELL:

12 Q. And you heard that from others as
well?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Are you familiar with an individual
by the name of Dennis

15 Mahon?

16 A. Yes, I am.

17 Q. And was Dennis -- did Dennis Mahon
spend considerable time

18 at Elohim City during the period that you
are familiar with?

19 A. Yes, he did.

20 Q. Did he at any point live there?

21 A. He had a trailer out there that he
would go and stay in

22 while he was out there, but he did not
take up permanent

23 residence there.

24 Q. Was he affiliated with another
political group that you

25 know of?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Would that be the group with the
initials WAR?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And what does that -- what do those
initials stand for?

5 A. White Aryan Resistance.

6 Q. Was Mr. Mahon an individual who -- did
you ever hear him

7 advocate direct violent action against the
federal government?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Now, are you familiar with what Timothy McVeigh looks like,

10 Ms. Howe?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Have you seen photographs of Timothy McVeigh?

13 A. Yes, I have.

14 Q. Did you ever see Timothy McVeigh at the Elohim City

15 compound?

16 A. I believe I did.

17 Q. All right. When did you see him?

18 A. It was in July of 1994.

19 Q. Okay. And where did you see him?

20 A. He was at a section of the compound walking across a lawn

21 near the church building.

22 Q. And was he accompanied by any other individuals who you

23 know?

24 A. Yes, he was.

25 Q. And who were they?

1 A. A man named Peter Ward and a man named Andreas Strassmeier.

2 Q. About how far away were you when you believe you saw

3 Timothy McVeigh?

4 A. Approximately 70 feet.

5 Q. At the time that you saw him, did you know his name was

6 Timothy McVeigh?

7 A. No, sir.

8 Q. You subsequently came to learn his
name was Timothy

9 McVeigh?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Now, did you have occasion to -- did
Mr. Mahon -- strike

12 that.

13 Did Mr. Mahon have an apartment
in Tulsa, Oklahoma,

14 during this time period?

15 A. A house, yes.

16 Q. A house. And did you have occasion
to spend time there

17 during the time period we're talking
about, fall, 1994?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Did Mr. Mahon in your recollection --
did he ever receive

20 any phone calls while you were in the
house with him?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Do you recall Mr. Mahon ever saying
or mentioning the name

23 "Tim Tuttle"?

24 MS. WILKINSON: Objection.

25 THE COURT: Overruled.

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

2 BY MR. THURSCHELL:

3 Q. Okay. Could you tell the jury not any
contents of the

4 phone call that he related to you but how
you came to hear his

5 name; that is, Tim Tuttle's name?

6 A. Mr. Mahon received a phone call. We were sitting in the

7 living room. He went into the bedroom to answer the phone, and

8 I heard his statements from where I was sitting.

9 Q. And what did you hear him say?

10 A. I heard him say, "Tim Tuttle, Tuttle, Tuttle, Tuttle,

11 Tuttle," and laughed.

12 Q. And you subsequently had a conversation about that phone

13 call that he had received?

14 A. Yes. When he came back --

15 MR. THURSCHELL: No, just so we know.

16 Nothing further, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Wilkinson.

18 **CROSS-
EXAMINATION**

19 BY MS. WILKINSON:

20 Q. Good morning, Ms. Howe.

21 A. Good morning.

22 Q. We've not met, have we?

23 A. No, ma'am.

24 Q. When you were at the compound or the village -- how do you

25 refer to Elohim City?

1 A. As a compound.

2 Q. When you were at the compound, did you know Joan Millar?

3 A. Pardon?

4 Q. Did you know Joan Millar?

5 A. Yes, sir (sic).

6 Q. And she knew most of the people there?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. She knew everybody there?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

10 Q. And she attended some of these same
sermons that you've

11 described for the jury?

12 A. Yes, she did.

13 Q. And as far as you know, she's an
honest person?

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

15 Q. And she would be more knowledgeable
than you, wouldn't she,

16 about what occurred at Elohim City?

17 A. I would think so.

18 Q. She was there every day; correct?

19 A. More often than me, yes.

20 Q. You were not.

21 A. Right.

22 Q. And so if we wanted to know about
Elohim City and what

23 occurred there, she would be a good
source; correct?

24 A. I would think so.

25 MR. THURSCHELL: Objection,
your Honor. Opinion.

1 THE COURT: Sustained.

2 BY MS. WILKINSON:

3 Q. Ms. Howe, you look a little different

today than you did

4 Q. when you were back at Elohim City, don't you?

5 A. Yes, ma'am.

6 Q. Changed your hair color?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. And you had a tattoo, didn't you, at that time?

9 A. Yes, I did.

10 Q. What kind of tattoo did you have?

11 A. Swastika on my shoulder.

12 Q. You were a believer at certain times in your life in

13 white -- white supremacy, weren't you?

14 A. At one period, yes.

15 Q. Well, you were a believer back in March of 1994; correct?

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. You had an incident, you claim, with several

18 African-Americans; correct?

19 A. Three. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. And right after that time, you got yourself in touch with a

21 number called a "racist hot line," didn't you?

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. And that's what you did after you thought that you had some

24 encounter with some African-American men?

25 A. When I did, yes.

1 Q. And you decided that the correct response was to call a hot

2 line; correct?

3 A. I was angry at the time, and so I did
call.

4 Q. And in response, you called a number
where you heard a

5 racist message; correct?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. And you didn't just hear it, you wrote
to the address that

8 they gave you on that message; correct?

9 A. Later, I did, yes.

10 Q. You wanted to meet people that had
similar views?

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. And you did that, didn't you?

13 A. Yes, I did.

14 Q. That's how you met Dennis Mahon?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you began to socialize with him?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. And you had some kind of falling out;
correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And after that, you visited Elohim
City?

21 A. Prior to that and then after that.

22 Q. So you went to Elohim City when you
were still in touch

23 with Mr. Mahon and on good terms;
correct?

24 A. Yes, ma'am.

25 Q. And you went there willingly?

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. With him?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you knew what the beliefs were at Elohim City?

5 A. Not until I went there.

6 Q. But you knew what Mr. Mahon's beliefs were?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. He was a white supremacist; correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And you agreed with him at that time?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. And after you heard these conversations in April of 1995,

13 you heard about the bombing on April 19; correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And you saw pictures of Mr. McVeigh?

16 A. Yes, I did.

17 Q. And in fact, you reported that you had information, didn't

18 you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And when you reported that information, you said you might

21 know who John Doe No. 1 was?

22 A. I was asked to identify some composites, yes.

23 Q. And you gave some information, didn't you?

24 A. Yes, I did.

25 Q. And you said you thought you knew who John Doe No. 1 was?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you said you thought you knew who John Doe No. 2 was?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And you said they were the Ward brothers that were were at

5 Elohim City; correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And in fact when you made those statements, you compared

8 them to Timothy McVeigh and said they didn't look like Timothy

9 McVeigh, didn't you?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And at that time, you never mentioned that you had seen

12 Timothy McVeigh at Elohim City, did you?

13 A. Not on that date.

14 Q. No, you didn't. Even though you were asked about John Doe

15 No. 1 and John Doe No. 2 and the photographs of Timothy

16 McVeigh; correct?

17 A. Correct. Later on, I did talk about Tim McVeigh.

18 Q. You didn't do that right after the bombing when your memory

19 would have been freshest, did you?

20 A. Not on April 21.

21 THE COURT: Let's let her finish the answers. Go a

22 little slower, here.

23 BY MS. WILKINSON:

24 Q. If you could just respond to my questions, Mrs. Howe.

25 You did not report that information on April 21, just

1 two days after the bombing, did you?

2 A. No, ma'am.

3 Q. And that's when your memory would have been freshest,

4 wouldn't it have been?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And after that, you agreed with law enforcement to go into

7 Elohim City and do some investigation, didn't you?

8 A. Yes, I did.

9 Q. You cooperated with law enforcement at that time?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you went back to Elohim City?

12 A. Yes, I did.

13 Q. And you tried to look for the Ward brothers?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And after that, you were debriefed by the agents, weren't

16 you?

17 A. Yes, I was.

18 Q. And at that time, you never reported that you had seen

19 Timothy McVeigh at Elohim City, did you?

20 A. It would have been at that time, yes,

that I did.

21 Q. You did?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. When was that?

24 A. It was approximately April 25 or 24.
I was at the Tulsa

25 ATF office. At the time that I was at
that office, I was shown

1 videotape. One videotape included Timothy
McVeigh. I looked

2 at the videotape and I told them that he
looked familiar; that

3 I had seen him at a rally.

4 Q. You said you had seen him at a Klan
rally. You didn't say

5 that you had seen him at Elohim City?

6 A. They're all white separatists.

7 Q. But they're different locations,
aren't they?

8 A. They hold rallies at Elohim City.

9 Q. But you said you had seen him at a
Klan rally -- correct --

10 not at a rally at Elohim City? You said
you had seen him at a

11 Klan rally?

12 A. At a Klan rally.

13 Q. So your memory has improved since
then, hasn't it?

14 A. Not particularly.

15 Q. Well, you now know more details,
don't you?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Well, you never mentioned a
conversation about Tim Tuttle

18 at that time, did you?

19 A. No. I didn't know the significance.

20 Q. In fact, you were very concerned
about the bombing in

21 Oklahoma City, weren't you?

22 A. Yes, I was.

23 Q. And you were trying to help out?

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. Trying to cooperate?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And you've said you were very
concerned and assisting the

3 Government in any way you could?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And you never provided that
information as to Tim Tuttle to

6 the United States Government, did you?

7 A. Not at that time, I didn't.

8 Q. You didn't provide it for many months,
did you?

9 A. No.

10 Q. In fact, you've never provided it to
the U.S. Government,

11 have you?

12 A. No. Through testimony, I have.

13 Q. But never provided it to the agents
that you were --

14 THE COURT: Well, are you
speaking specifically about

15 what she's just said with respect to
Dennis Mahon?

16 MS. WILKINSON: No -- yes, about

him hearing "Timothy

17 Tuttle."

18 THE COURT: I think we should be
very specific when

19 you're asking her questions like this as
to what you are

20 asking.

21 MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry, your
Honor.

22 BY MS. WILKINSON:

23 Q. You've never provided the United
States Government with the

24 information you testified to today
concerning hearing Mr. Mahon

25 say the name "Tim Tuttle."

1 A. No.

2 Q. You were asked, were you not, when you
were cooperating

3 with the Government right after the
bombing, Ms. Howe, about

4 what you knew about Mr. Mahon, weren't
you?

5 A. Yes, I was.

6 Q. And you provided that information?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. You provided that he had been at the
compound?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

10 Q. And that he shared some of the views
of the people out at

11 Elohim City?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you never mentioned at that time
that he had talked

14 about some man named "Tim Tuttle"?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Correct?

17 A. He talked about a lot of people. I didn't know the name

18 was significant at the time.

19 Q. You were also asked about Mr. Strassmeier, weren't you,

20 after the bombing?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you told the Government what you knew about

23 Mr. Strassmeier?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And you never mentioned to the Government at that time that

1 you had seen Andreas Strassmeier and Tim McVeigh together at

2 Elohim City; correct?

3 A. I didn't know Tim McVeigh at that point.

4 Q. On April 21, you didn't know who Tim McVeigh was?

5 A. No. I was met early Friday morning before apparently that

6 I had seen all the video and the TV.

7 Q. How about when you were interviewed on April 25?

8 A. At that time, I had seen video of him.

9 Q. Everyone in America had seen Timothy McVeigh's picture,

10 hadn't they?

11 A. I think so.

12 Q. And you didn't mention when you
talked about Andreas

13 Strassmeier on that day that you had seen
him with Timothy

14 McVeigh at the compound in Elohim City,
did you?

15 A. No.

16 Q. And you were debriefed again in May,
weren't you, after

17 you --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- cooperated? And you never
mentioned that you had seen

20 Andreas Strassmeier and Timothy McVeigh
on the compound in

21 Elohim City in May of 1994, did you?

22 A. Not then, no.

23 Q. You knew they were very interested in
information about

24 Timothy McVeigh, didn't you?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You knew he was under arrest?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You knew he was one of the main
suspects in the bombing?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you knew that they were
questioning you about Andreas

6 Strassmeier?

7 A. At that time, no. On the first --

8 Q. You didn't provide any information on
Andreas Strassmeier

9 after the bombing.

10 A. Yes, I did, but not at the time that
I thought you were

11 asking about, the 1st through the 3rd of
May.

12 Q. You knew that the Government was
trying to investigate

13 whether there was any connection between
Elohim City and

14 Timothy McVeigh; correct?

15 A. I'm sorry. Could you repeat that?

16 Q. You knew that the Government was
trying to investigate in

17 May of 1995 whether there was any
connection between Timothy

18 McVeigh and Elohim City.

19 A. I didn't know -- yeah, I think so.

20 Q. That's why you went to the compound,
didn't you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. That was your whole purpose in
cooperating?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. And you knew that; and even knowing
that, you never told

25 them that you saw Andreas Strassmeier and
Timothy McVeigh

1 together in Elohim City in 1994, when you
had those

2 conversations with agents in May of 1995?

3 MR. THURSCHWELL: Objection, your
Honor. Asked and

4 answered several times.

5 THE COURT: Yes. We've been over
this with her.

6 MS. WILKINSON: No further
questions.

7 THE COURT: All right. Any
redirect?

8 MR. THURSCHELL: Yes. Briefly,
your Honor.

9 **REDIRECT**
EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. THURSCHELL:

11 Q. Ms. Howe, you were asked by the
prosecution about a visit

12 to Elohim City you undertook at the
request of the Government

13 after the bombing. Is that right?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Did you on that visit get -- speak to
people at the

16 compound about the bombing?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. What was the general sentiment at the
compound about the

19 bombing?

20 A. They were supportive of the bombing.

21 Q. All right. Now, at the time -- you
also said, I believe,

22 in response to a question that you were
not aware -- you were

23 not aware of the significance of the name
"Tim Tuttle" at the

24 time that Ms. Wilkinson was asking you
about. Is that correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. All right. And do you recall when you
first became aware

2 that Tim Tuttle had anything to do -- the

name "Tim Tuttle" had

3 anything to do with the Oklahoma City
bombing case?

4 A. It was approximately the first of this
year, and somebody

5 mentioned the name to me; and I didn't
understand in what

6 context. They only said, "Have you ever
heard the name 'Tim

7 Tuttle'?" And at that point, I remembered
that I did because

8 of the incident that had occurred; and
then I -- I didn't know

9 the significance of the name, but I -- I
did realize that it

10 was significant.

11 Q. Were you at that point in time --
were you providing

12 information to the ATF? Were you still -
- were you under some

13 kind of government contract or --

14 A. Yes, I was.

15 Q. All right. Now, have you testified
under oath before about

16 the -- your overhearing the name Tim
Tuttle and seeing Timothy

17 McVeigh at the compound?

18 A. Yes, I have.

19 Q. Prior to this?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Prior to this date?

22 A. Yes, I have.

23 Q. And that was fairly recently?

24 A. Yes, it was.

25 MR. THURSCWELL: Nothing
further, your Honor.