

# Fugitives caught despite tricks



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — John Doe 2, the shadowy figure sought in the Oklahoma City bombing, has a lot going for him as he tries to elude authorities.

He's hiding in a vast and open nation, possibly sheltered by friends. He can create a new identity with a little research and a few dollars. He can stay in a rural safe house or fade into a noisy urban background.

Radicals from the anti-war movement, such as Abbie Hoffman and Katherine Ann Power, used such tricks to avoid capture for years; many hid in plain sight before finally surrendering.

But the search for Doe is not hopeless. Arrayed against him are dedicated investigators, computerized bloodhounds, paper trails, experience and instinct — all dedicated to one of the largest manhunts in U.S. history.

It's a chase where the smallest detail can yield results.

"You can run and you can hide, but you can't run and hide forever," said Boston police Lt. Timothy Murray, a fugitive hunter who caught the suspect in an 18-year-old murder with only a nickname and a photo to go on.

The search for two men who rented the Ryder truck used in the Oklahoma City bombing began the day after the attack when the FBI circulated sketches of the pair.

John Doe 1, Timothy McVeigh, was in custody the next day — the result of blind luck. He was stopped, before the sketches had been released, for driving a car with no license plates.

But John Doe 2, a swarthy, square-jawed man, remains at large despite a dragnet that pulled in look-alikes. The most dramatic false alarm came Tuesday in an armed raid on a Carthage, Mo., motel. Two men were released 18 hours later.

Attorney General Janet Reno has admitted disappointment John Doe 2 hasn't been captured, but denied the FBI is

stymied. "The bureau has a large number of leads and is pursuing each lead," she said Wednesday.

The FBI had leads two decades ago when it scoured the country for anti-war radicals. Few paid off.

- Abbie Hoffman, prosecuted for protests at the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago, spent six years as a fugitive from drug charges. He changed his name, had plastic surgery then became an environmental activist, appearing on television and testifying to a Senate panel before surrendering in 1980.

- Silas Trim Bissell was a founding member of the Weather Underground charged with trying to bomb a University of Washington ROTC building. He was arrested in Eugene, Ore., where he spent many of his 17 years in hiding as a physical therapist and free-lance artist.

- Jeffrey David Powell, a Weather Underground member charged with clubbing a Chicago policeman in 1970, surrendered just last year. He worked as a lobbyist for child-advocacy groups in Illinois and Colorado.

"It was very difficult to track them," said Bob Gaffney, a former FBI agent who served on a Weather Underground fugitive squad. "They moved within a community of dedicated people who went to great lengths to shelter them. It is hard to penetrate those organizations because of their strong commitment."

False identities are easy to establish. The birth certificate of a child who died years ago can be used to get a Social Security number, driver's license and other identification.

Movement in this country is unhindered. Suspected Japanese terrorist Yu Kikumura used a false passport to travel across 10 states in 1986. He bought parts for three powerful bombs and cased a New York City target before he was arrested by chance on the New Jersey Turnpike.

"It's easy to get lost in this country," said Robert Loudon, the director of John

Jay College's criminal justice center who hunted fugitives as a New York detective. "Some people can hide in plain sight."

But today's man hunters are better armed. Computers can sniff through thousands of driver's licenses, telephone records and fingerprints for connections.

Such tools were used to revive the search for Power, an anti-war radical sought for 23 years as an accessory in the murder of a Boston policeman during a 1970 bank robbery.

Power crisscrossed the country, settling near Corvallis, Ore. She worked as a chef named Alice Metzinger, a name taken from the death record of a New Jersey infant. Power surrendered in 1993, saying she wanted to clear her conscience.

But Murray, head of the Boston police "cold case squad," said authorities were closing in.

A somatotype — a body profile — of Power was checked against driver's licenses, arrest reports and hospital records in six states considered likely hiding places.

The search focused on Oregon; 11,000 possible suspects were narrowed to 150. Power was on the short list when she surrendered.

Murray's squad has had other successes, finding 20 murder fugitives who had been hiding an average of 16 years.

"Anyone can be tracked," Murray said. "There are phenomenal technologies out there where the only limit is your imagination."

Human factors also favor the hunters. Gaffney said fringe members of radical groups sometimes go to authorities when things turn too violent. Loneliness sometimes drives fugitives in from the cold.

"The objective is to isolate yourself, break off any connections that can lead back to you," he said. "You trust no one and stay in contact with no one. That's very hard for people to do."

Loudon said investigators have a tremendous incentive to catch Doe — the images of the Oklahoma City deaths.

# Refugees from Cuba sent home

MIAMI (AP) — An 18-wheeler blocked six lanes leading to the Port of Miami on Sunday as Cuban-Americans protested the new U.S. policy of sending Cubans picked up at sea back home.

About 200 people climbed on top of the truck and jumped police barricades outside the port, where a cruise ship that had picked up 13 Cuban refugees last week docked before dawn.

The truck blocked all traffic leading in and out of the port for almost an hour before its driver was arrested and his rig moved. Police also arrested about a dozen protesters who were blocking the road and waving Cuban flags.

The 13 refugees were picked up in the Caribbean late Wednesday and handed over to U.S. authorities two days later. They were being ferried Sunday toward Cuba aboard a Coast Guard cutter.

The men, ages 28 to 45, would become the first rafters repatriated under the Clinton administration policy that took effect Tuesday.

"As soon as they arrive in Cuba, they will be going to prison. They will not be free," said protester Carmen Iglesias, who left Cuba in 1957.

For 35 years, Cuban refugees were granted permanent residency almost without question.

While up to 20,000 Cubans detained at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base can enter the United States, new refugees will be sent back to Fidel Castro's communist regime.

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