

Branch Davidians begin again

Former cult member rebuilds church at Mount Carmel

WACO, (AP) — The "wife" of a one-time member of the Branch Davidians said Tuesday she is renovating a building at the site of last year's deadly standoff into a new church.

Amo Bishop Roden, who says she is the wife of former Davidian leader George Roden, was working Tuesday on the small, ramshackle building a few hundred yards behind the former sect headquarters.

Ms. Roden said she is renovating the building as a church, and possibly a home, for sect members who did not follow embattled leader David Koresh.

The building was used during Koresh's leadership as a machine shop; during a 51-day standoff with federal agents, it was used as cover.

Federal agents raided the compound on Feb. 19, 1993, trying to arrest Koresh on weapons charges. Four agents and six Branch Davidians died in a shootout.

The standoff ended when the wooden compound caught fire and burned to the ground April 19. Koresh and about 80 followers died inside.

The building where Ms. Roden was working is surrounded by tall weeds and dead sunflowers. There are holes in its walls, sandbags piled up and parts of the unswept floor, shattered win-

dows and missing doors. But Ms. Roden says it is the most intact at the 77-acre site.

She wants to have enough work done by Oct. 19 for a weeklong meeting during which all Davidians are invited to gather to choose a new spiritual leader.

"We're preparing for 100," she said, adding that she plans to pray for money.

The invitations include survivors who followed Koresh, but Ms. Roden said she expects them to be a minority and outvoted, if necessary.

"I do not intend to see David Koresh's faction regain control of Mount Carmel. They have never, I don't feel, tried to fulfill the mission of the church, which ... is to provide a means of protecting the righteous during Armageddon," said Ms. Roden.

Her work is controversial, partly because it is unclear who has the right to the land.

Because of unpaid taxes, the county has a lien on the property. The land is in the name of the General Association Davidians, Seventh-day Adventists.

Ms. Roden said she is acting on behalf of George Roden, whom she says has a legitimate claim to the land. The compound site originally belonged to Roden's mother, Lois Roden, whose will named Koresh as trustee.

"She doesn't have any claim to the land. She's just a squatter," said Waco attorney Gary Coker, who secured ownership of personal property at the compound for surviving longtime Branch Davidians. However, Coker said he has not been engaged to pursue any land claim.

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IRS wants back taxes on stolen German art

DALLAS (AP) — Relatives of an American soldier who stole priceless Medieval religious treasures from a Nazi hiding place during World War II is battling the Internal Revenue Service over attempts to tax them for the artwork.

Meador's siblings, Jack Meador and Jane Meador Cook, inherited the art as part of Meador's estate after he died from cancer in 1980. The pieces have since been returned to Germany.

"We understand that at some time the estate can expect to receive notice of taxes that the IRS intends to levy," Randal Mathis, a Dallas lawyer representing the Meadors, said Monday. "When that notice is ultimately received, we expect to challenge it in the U.S. tax court."

Mathis said the IRS hasn't told him how much it will tax the estate.

The New York Times reported that the agency is demanding \$30 million in back taxes, interest and penalties.

But Mathis contends the art can't be taxed because Meador never legally owned it.

"The basic underlying concept is that a person that steals can't acquire title," he said.

"So if we assume that reports that Lt. Meador improperly removed the items from Germany are correct, he could not, under German or American law, have acquired title to them in his lifetime."

The story of the Quedlinburg Treasury began in 1945, during the dwindling days of World War II when

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Ft. Worth woman held hostage

FORT WORTH, (AP) — A woman found fleeing nude from a burning home told police she was abducted after experiencing car trouble, then held as a sex slave for more than 14 hours.

Firefighters and police who answered a 911 call from a residence said they saw the woman screaming and struggling to get away from a woman who lived at the house.

Thaddeus Moyer, 34, and his wife, Karen, 32, were arrested and jailed Monday, with bond set at \$50,000 each for investigation of aggravated kidnapping and aggravated sexual assault.

A 44-year-old woman was taken to John Peter Smith Hospital, then released after treatment for bruises and bites all over her body.

The woman told police her ordeal began when she developed car trouble as she left a bar on east Belknap Street, about two miles northeast of downtown Fort Worth.

She said a man forced her at gunpoint into his vehicle and drove her to a residence nearby, where her clothes were ripped and cut off her. Then, she said, she was gagged and bound with duct tape by her abductor and a woman at the house.

Throughout the night and into Monday afternoon, she told police, the couple repeatedly sexually assaulted her, beat her and bit her genitals.

The woman told police that about 4:20 p.m. Monday, the couple informed her that they expected company a short while later and that they were

going to rent a movie.

The woman said she was placed into a closet nude but was allowed to take her purse with her. After the couple left, she said, she managed to get a cigarette lighter, and used it to burn through the duct tape.

Freeing herself but setting a small fire, the woman said she used a phone in the house to call 911 before she ran outside screaming for help.

About the same time that emergency crews arrived, the woman said, the couple who live in the house drove up and the wife attempted to stop her from fleeing.

Damage to the brick house was mostly confined to the bedroom where the blaze originated and was estimated at \$5,000 to \$10,000, fire investigators said.

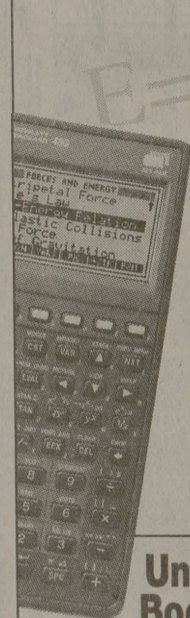
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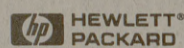
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