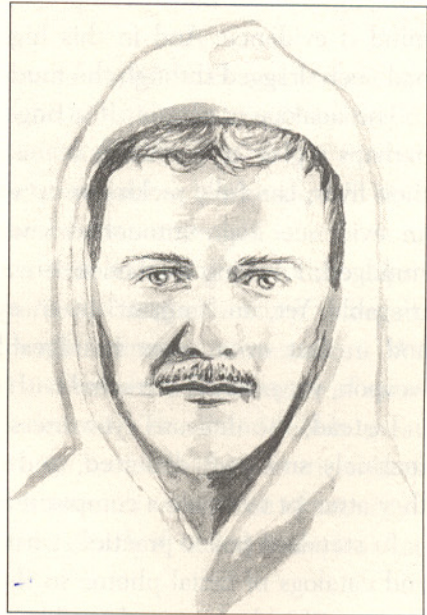
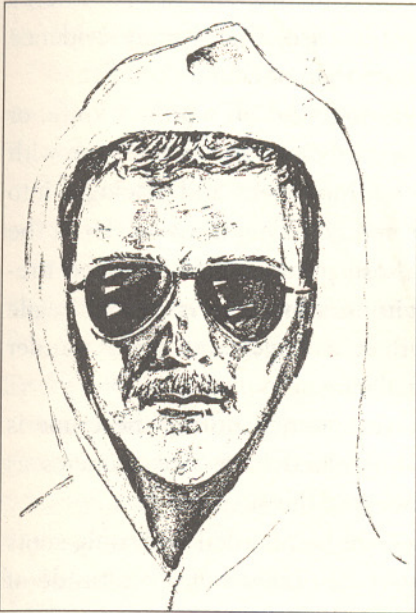


ruddy-faced, redheaded, blue-eyed man with a mustache, wearing a hooded sweatshirt. "This is the image we want you to correct. It's the only thing we've had to go by, but from the day we first released it, we've had an unhappy witness. She's maintained that this is not the right face. We need you to reinterview her and find out what went wrong."

Noel could read the sentiment in my eyes. I looked away while he told me more. On February 20, 1987, a bomb had exploded in a parking lot in Salt Lake City. Three days later an initial attempt at a suspect sketch was prepared in haste by an FBI artist. But it was mechanical, flat, and according to the witness, "wrong." A second artist then entered the case, brought in through a social tie to a ~~public defender~~ ~~involved~~ in the investigation of a potentially related 1985 event. That artist spent weeks toying with his version in a belabored effort to please the eyewitness but only took the image even further away from what she'd seen.



Left: The investigative sketch of the Unabomber, prepared by a freelance artist and released by Sacramento investigators on March 10, 1987. Right: This additional sketch, later privately released by the same artist, depicts what the Unabomber was supposed to look like without glasses, despite having never been seen without glasses by the eyewitness.