

In September 1983, in a barnlike shed on his farm in the northeast corner of Washington state, Mathews formed a group he named The Silent Brotherhood, also known as The Order. Over fifteen months, it became the most dangerous right-wing underground since the Ku Klux Klan first rode more than a century earlier. Yet Mathews had no use for white sheets, burning crosses, or other anachronisms in his new Order. His was a white underground with an ambitious plan: funding the far right's victory through robberies, battling its enemies with assassinations, and establishing its presence through a guerilla force bent on domestic terrorism and sabotage.

It's aim: a separate white homeland on U.S. soil.

Who was Robert Jay Mathews and the men and women who became part of the radical racist movement he inspired? What prompted their beliefs and actions? Kevin Flynn and Gary Gerhardt provide chilling insight into such questions in **THE SILENT BROTHERHOOD: Inside America's Racist Underground** (The Free Press; July 24, 1989; \$22.95).

Veteran reporters for the *Rocky Mountain News* in Denver, Flynn and Gerhardt covered the story of the Silent Brotherhood from its earliest days. Based on their in-depth investigative reporting of the violent activities of the Brotherhood, as well as extensive interviews with its members now in prison, the authors provide a rare, intimate view of the racist underground's key personalities, survivalist ideology, and organized terrorism. With frightening detail, the authors demonstrate the conventional appearance and demeanor of radical right-wing group members. With a call for pride in race, family, and religion, The Silent Brotherhood attracted seemingly average citizens, "law-abiding folk who, as their frustration with America's course grew harder to handle, gradually, almost casually, slipped into the world of extremism."