

Strange anatomy of a murder probe

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SAN BERNARDINO — While authorities consider Roy Summers the "prime suspect" in the 1977 murder of Beverly Wise and the kidnapping of her two small children, they have not filed charges against him. And they won't say why.

Court records show that Summers, Wise's ex-husband and the father of one of the missing children, is the central figure in the police department's renewed investigation of the crime. The case was reopened in September.

Summers was considered a prime suspect during the initial investigation, but police cleared him a few days after the murder when he was located in Utah.

Witnesses interviewed in 1977 said Summers was in Utah on the day before the murder.

Summers' sister, Karen Carino of Springfield, Va., was arrested at her home earlier this month on charges of accessory to murder and kidnapping. Police believe the children visited her Northern California home a few months after the crimes occurred.

The complaint filed against her in municipal court here says she "had knowledge Roy Summers murdered Beverly Wise" and kidnapped the two children and aided him "to avoid arrest, trial, conviction and punishment" for those crimes.

Carino, 33, posted \$5,000 bond soon after her arrest and her extradition to California is pending. She

declined to comment on the case when questioned by The Sun.

But no one has been charged specifically with the murder and kidnapping in the case.

Beverly Wise was found by her husband, Claude, in her San Bernardino home March 30, 1977, stabbed to death and slumped in a living room chair.

The children, Brandi Jondeli Summers, then 5, and Tiffani Wise, then 2, were nowhere to be found. Stacey Wise, the couple's 8-month-old daughter, was sitting in the hallway unharmed.

Despite an intense investigation, during which more than 200 persons were interviewed and investigators traveled all over the country and to Mexico, no suspect was ever arrested and the chil-

dren were never found. They were feared dead.

Brandi suffered from cystic fibrosis and required medication with each meal to enable her to digest food properly. Her doctors had said that if she went without the medication for more than a few weeks, she would suffer from severe malnutrition and could die.

Results of the new investigative efforts have raised the possibility the girls may be alive. But authorities won't comment much beyond that.

Following a story that ran in The Sun Thanksgiving day about the renewed investigation, police asked the newspaper not to run any additional

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