

Summers takes stand, maintains innocence

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CHINO — After nearly three years in jail, murder defendant Roy Summers took the stand Monday to tell the jury his version of the events that led to his arrest in connection with the 1977 slaying of his former wife, Beverly Wise, and the kidnap of two of her children.

"I did not kill Beverly Wise and I did not kidnap those children," Summers told the jury, his eyes scanning each juror for an expression.

When asked if he had told the truth to a police investigator in the case, the 41-year-old Summers replied: "I told the exact truth."

"I don't like to slam anybody

especially somebody that has been the victim of a heinous and vicious crime. I wanted who ever did it, found. And I wanted the kids found. Yea, you bet I told the truth," Summers said from the witness stand.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Smith has tried to prove in the 16-week trial that Summers murdered Wise in her north San Bernardino home out of hatred and kidnapped the children because they witnessed the slaying.

"I didn't like Beverly, but I didn't hate her," Summers replied to one of Smith's questions.

At the time of the children's abduction, Brandi Jondell Summers was 5 and Tiffani Wise was 2. For more than five years they

have been missing. Some prosecution witnesses have testified that Roy Summers, Brandi's father, was seen with the missing children after the murder.

Police have been particularly interested in Brandi because she suffered from cystic fibrosis and needed regular medication to stay alive.

Part of the evidence against Summers includes a medical encyclopedia found by police at one of his homes after the murder.

When asked Monday why he obtained the medical book called the "Mother's and Father's Medical Encyclopedia," Summers said he bought it because it looked "interesting."

"I have always been interested in

medical problems. I have three medical books on people and 40 veterinary books," said Summers, who worked as a farrier before his arrest.

His attorney, Timothy Guhin, spent nearly three-and-a-half hours asking him questions about his alibi and other questions directed at refuting testimony from prosecution witnesses who claim they have seen Summers with the missing children.

According to the defense, Summers was working in Utah the day of the murder. Several witnesses have testified in support of that claim.

Before Summers took the stand

(Please see Summers, B-3)