Police try to verify sighting of missing girls in Nevada

By TINA MAY

Sun Staff Writer

San Bernardino police detectives traveled to Boise, Idaho, and Elko, Nev., this week trying to verify a sighting earlier this year of Brandi Jondell Summers and Tiffani Wise, who were kidnapped from their home almost three years ago.

Investigators went to Elko to do routine follow-up interviews of some witnesses who had previously indicated they'd seen the children alive in Elko either in the summer of 1977 or 1978, Police Chief B. Warren Cocke said Friday.

Detectives now believe, based on the interviews, the children were probably seen in the area in March 1979. Witnesses have identified the girls from photographs police have shown them.

In Boise, detectives talked with one of Summers' ex-wives, Laura, to make sure it was not her or her children who may have been seen in Elko with Summers.

Cocke said investigators don't believe it was Laura Summers seen in March, but they will go back to Elko for further checks before they return to San Bernardino. As far as investigators know, the children haven't been seen in the Boise area, Cocke said.

Brandi, then 5, and Tiffani, then 2, have been missing since March 30, 1977. Their mother, Beverly Wise, 26, was found that day stabbed to death and slumped in a living room chair.

Until the last few months, when police reopened the 3-year-old investigation, the children were feared dead.

Roy Summers, 39, who is Brandi's father, was charged in December with the crimes and is in Oregon awaiting extradition to California.

But he still has several more trials in Oregon before he faces charges in San Bernardino.

Of the alleged sighting, Cocke said Friday, "I'm not willing to say yet that those were the kids. They (the investigators) still have more to do."

Crashed plane found

UPLAND — A Cable Airport security guard discovered a crashed small plane at the end of a runway here early Friday morning, but no one was in it, police said.

The plane belongs to Robert Vogt, 54, of Upland, who keeps it at the airport, at 13th Street and Benson Avenue, officers said.

About 1 a.m. Friday, the guard, William White, noticed that the craft had been burglarized inside the hangar and appeared ready to

be pulled outside to take off. But he didn't see anyone around and didn't make a report about the incident.

Police believe White may have scared the burglars off for a while. But they apparently came back some time before 8 a.m. when the downed craft was discovered. Its landing gear had been thrown about 50 feet east of the plane on impact.

No motive is known for the theft, officers said.