

Ex-detective says he erred on stand

By **RAMON CORONADO**

Sun Staff Writer

CHINO — A former key investigator in a major murder case testified Tuesday that he gave erroneous information to the San Bernardino County grand jury during its 1980 review of the case.

Transcripts show that former San Bernardino Police Detective Don Meyer told the grand jury that murder defendant Roy Summers described to a former girlfriend how he planned to fatally stab his ex-wife, Beverly Wise, and kidnap two of her children. However, the girlfriend — Luella Bowler — has told Summers' jury that Summers never made such a statement.

When questioned in court Tuesday, Meyer initially said he never gave that account to the grand jury. But, after defense attorney Timothy Guhin read from the grand jury transcript, Meyer said, "If it is in the transcript, I apparently did."

Wasn't there only a span of three months between the woman's statement to Meyer and Meyer's testimony to the grand jury, the defense attorney asked? Yes, Meyer acknowledged.

Meyer told the jury he did not have police reports available to him when he testified before the grand jury. He was talking strictly from memory, he said.

Further questioning Tuesday revealed that Meyer also told the grand jury he had shown mug shots of Summers to three witnesses in Elko, Nev. Reading from

transcripts, the defense attorney quoted Meyer as telling the grand jury that the witnesses positively identified Summers.

However, those same witnesses have testified during the trial. Only one of those witnesses said she was ever shown the photos.

Asked to explain the discrepancy, Meyer said he made a mistake. All he remembers now, he said, is telling the grand jury that the witnesses positively identified Summers.

Tuesday's testimony came during Meyer's third full day in the witness stand. Summer's attorney has zeroed in on Meyer, calling into question the former detective's veracity and his handling of the investigation. Meyer worked on the case full time for two years.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Smith has tried to prove that Summers, 41, murdered his former wife in her north San Bernardino home out of hatred and kidnapped the children because they witnessed the slaying. The children, Brandi and Tiffani, were 2 and 5 years old when they disappeared. They are still missing.

At least 12 prosecution witnesses have said they saw Summers with the two missing children in three different locations after the slaying. Also, two of Summers' former cellmates have testified that he confessed to them that he committed the murder. And lastly, the prosecution has tried to prove

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