

Kidnap case returns detectives to Idaho

By TINA MAY
Sun Staff Writer

San Bernardino detectives returned to Boise, Idaho, Tuesday to gather more information about the victims and the suspect in a 3-year-old murder-kidnap case.

Brandi Jondell Summers, then 5, and Tiffani Wise, then 2, were kidnapped from their San Bernardino home March 30, 1977, the day their mother was found slain in the house.

Until the last few months, when police reopened the investigation, the girls had been feared dead.

Roy Summers — Brandi's father — has been charged with kidnap-

ping the girls and murdering their mother, Beverly Wise, 26, one of his former wives.

He is currently facing trial in Bend, Ore., on unrelated charges and is awaiting extradition to California in the kidnap-murder case.

Tuesday's trip was the second to the Boise for San Bernardino detectives in two weeks.

On the first trip, detectives John McDonald and Don Meyer were able to verify that the youngsters were seen in Elko, Nev., about last May, but were unable to confirm reported sightings later in Boise, about 200 miles to the north, and

the nearby areas of Buhl andampa.

Police said someone they interviewed in Elko told them Summers had said the girls were in the Boise area last July or August.

Summers was seen in Elko in the same period as the girls, but they were never seen together, police said. He was also seen in Boise early last summer, but never with the children.

San Bernardino Homicide Lt. Don Levan said Tuesday that McDonald and Meyer will probably be gone about a week. Since returning from the first trip they have learned of additional possible

sightings of Summers in Boise.

A news story last week in the Boise Statesman about the missing children and Summers prompted about 15 telephone calls to San Bernardino police from Boise area residents who said they had seen Summers there last summer. Some of those callers, among others, will be interviewed.

Levan termed this trip "routine" and said "there is no earthshaking game plan at this time" as to what investigators expect to learn.

Meanwhile, Summers is scheduled to stand trial Feb. 22 in Oregon on the attempted murder of his seventh wife, Connie. He is

accused of twisting and breaking her arm while holding her beneath a car that was up on jacks. He allegedly unsuccessfully attempted to kick the jacks out from under the car so it would fall on her.

Summers was found innocent earlier this month of kidnapping her in connection with another alleged attack on her.

She was granted a divorce from Summers in December and has resumed her maiden name of Kohler. She recently underwent surgery to repair the damage to her arm.