

Kidnap questions . . .

(Continued from Metro)

What did they have to gain?

Shortly before Summers was charged in December, but while he was already jailed in Oregon on the unrelated charges, investigators and Chief B. Warren Cocke were concerned about an in-depth story on the kidnap-murder mystery The Sun was planning to run.

They said the story, which was based on court records and interviews, might place the children in jeopardy if they were still alive.

Cocke said that even though Summers was already in an Oregon jail, he believed the suspect had the means or connections to cause the children harm or drive them further underground.

For the time being at least, that fear has proved to be unfounded, because of the recent sightings of the girls. Detectives will be in Grass Valley again this weekend to do more follow-up work.

Homicide Sgt. Mike Maudsley, when pressed recently whether the girls might be being used in some kind of criminal activity, such as a child pornography operation, told a reporter: "I know what you're getting at. And you're way off as far as we know. There's no evidence of that."

Police have said if they knew the answers to that and other questions, they could solve the case.

These are the three who ties to the case are unclear.

✓ Vivian Casner, 33, was released from San Bernardino County Jail Thursday night because no charges were filed against her. The Grass Valley area woman had been in custody on \$10,000 bail since Monday on suspicion of accessory to kidnapping.

✓ Casner's brother-in-law, Lee Casner, of the same area about 50 miles northeast of Sacramento, was formally charged Thursday with accessory to kidnapping and felony child stealing. His bail is \$100,000. Witnesses in the Grass Valley area told investigators they saw the missing girls with him about seven weeks ago.

But detectives won't give details of that sighting or what the children and Casner were doing.

✓ Vivian's sister, Juanita Iwakiri, of Garden City, Idaho, a Boise suburb, was arrested Feb. 8 for what would be the equivalent in California of accessory to kidnapping. Investigators believe she babysat the girls last summer. She was released on her own recognition and faces a preliminary hearing March 12.

One connection police have noted is that Lee Casner's name was in an address book belonging to Summers that was confiscated in a search of Summers' Oregon home. Summers lived for a time with Lee and his wife, Molly, in Payette, a town near Boise, before the Casners went to California, police say.

Another connection is that a girl attending a Garden City church identified herself as Brandi Summers, then corrected herself, saying she was Brandi Casner.

In addition, Vivian Casner called police when she saw pictures of the missing girls in an Idaho paper last month. She said she thought

Juanita, her sister, had babysat them. She later said she was mistaken. The girls she thought were Brandi and Tiffani belonged to someone else, she said.

In an interview here shortly after she was released from jail Thursday night, Vivian told a reporter that she never saw the children and she didn't believe Lee would try to hide them.

"If he knew where they were, he would say," she said.

The soft-spoken woman said she was anxious to get home and was worried about the effects the publicity of her arrest would have on her young children.

She said she wasn't angry about

being arrested, questioned and interviewed while attached to a lie detector — something she did willingly.

"They (police) were just doing their job," she said. "I told them both I knew they had to be the way they are."

She said her mother and father in Idaho are very upset by what has happened to her and Juanita.

She was picked up outside the jail by an uncle and she spent the night at his house in San Bernardino. On Friday, she made arrangements to head north.

"I wish to hell I knew where the kids are," she said Friday. "It's a mess. I really wish I knew."

Los Padrinos . . .

(Continued from Metro)

tion that the Padrinos keep the magazine. The motion was accepted.

The controversy between the Somos staff and Padrinos board led the staff to file a suit against the Padrinos to keep the magazine. The Padrinos countered with their own suit.

Last fall the Somos staff backed down and relinquished the name "Somos" and made plans to publish their own magazine.

"If we had the financial resources we could have won," one former staff member said Friday. "All we ever wanted to do was put out a quality Chicano publication and we think we can do that anyway."

Most of the old staff is putting together a new Chicano magazine — "Caminos" — which should come out in March.

Some Caminos' staff members and one Los Padrinos spokesman agreed Friday that Morales was caught in a tight situation. On one hand he was dealing — and sometimes sympathizing — with the old Somos staff, yet working for the Padrinos.

"Dan was caught in the squeeze," Gonzales of Padrinos conceded. "It put an extreme burden on him to try to keep everything straight and under control."

Morales said Friday: "My responsibility was to the (Padrinos) corporation. They did what they had to do (by taking control of Somos) and I had my responsibilities."

He took over executive responsibility of the Padrinos in December 1978 when he left the county Department of Manpower Services.

Pair stabbed

RIVERSIDE — A Fontana man was fatally injured and his companion injured here by two men who accosted the couple as they were entering a motel room Thursday.

James Charles Gregory, 43, died of stab wounds at Riverside General Hospital soon after the 7:57 p.m. attack, police said.

Police believe the motive behind the attack at the Travelodge, 1860 University Ave., was robbery because the woman's purse was taken.

The injured woman, Eula Higby, 67, also of Fontana, was reported

He said his decision to leave Padrinos was reached after consulting with board members.

Gonzales said the 43-year-old Morales left primarily because of health problems.

"The Padrinos is moving quickly. There has been so much controversy," Gonzales said. "It was getting hard for Danny to keep pace with the day-to-day operation because of his health. We had discussions with him and he decided it was in his best interest to resign."

Morales said his doctor had told him to "slow down." He said he was working long hours and weekends the last few months.

But Morales said his resignation also was prompted by some "philosophical differences" with some board members. He declined to elaborate.

Morales succeeded Martin Valdez who resigned in late 1978 after a power struggle within the organization, resulting in large part from members' disagreements over the direction of Somos.

Gonzales said the Padrinos are contemplating adding some administrative support to aid the new director.

And such a position has been offered "unofficially" to Morales, he said.

Asked his decision, Morales said, "I decided not to take the job."

"We hated to lose him," Gonzales said. "He was working hard, he'd been there a year and had a lot of experience."

"The board chairman (Alton Alvarez) talked about keeping me as an assistant director," Morales said.

"I was appreciative of the experience I received with the Padrinos," Morales said. "But with the circumstances, I decided to resign."

Morales said he may seek another job with the county.

The new director will probably have to hire a new staff for Somos — money has been set aside — and contend with possible civil action against the old Somos staff (current Caminos staff).

Padrinos' attorney, Carlos Juarez of Inland Counties Legal Services, said a complete audit of the old Somos books will be completed in several weeks.

With the controversy of the last six months and the advent of a