

Ex-Redmond man collects settlement

California malicious prosecution suit nets him \$400,000

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A former Redmond man acquitted of attempted murder in Bend in 1980 has received a \$400,000 settlement in a malicious prosecution suit in San Bernardino, Calif., after being acquitted of murder and kidnapping charges there.

Roy Albert Summers, 45, received the money last month in a settlement of his \$18 million federal court suit against the city of San Bernardino and 11 police officers.

Summers was acquitted in Deschutes County Circuit Court in February 1980 on charges of attempted murder and second-degree

assault in connection with an attack on his ex-wife, Ella Mae "Connie" Kohler. A jury convicted Summers of fourth-degree assault and he was sentenced to one year in jail.

Summers served less than eight months in the Deschutes County Jail, dating from the time of his arrest in late October 1979 until June 10, 1980, when he was released to the custody of San Bernardino authorities.

He faced charges of murder in the 1977 death of another of his seven ex-wives, Beverly Wise, and the kidnapping of two of her children. Summers was acquitted in

1982 amid serious questions surrounding the conduct of two police detectives, according to *The San Bernardino County Sun*.

The killing remains unsolved and Wise's children have never been found, the *Sun* reported.

Summers and his sister, Karen Carino Mastin, who was charged early in the case with helping Summers harbor the children, filed the suit shortly after the verdict.

Summers alleged that police detectives lied to witnesses, lied in search warrant affidavits, threatened witnesses, embellished evidence unfavorable to Summers or disregarded evidence that showed

his innocence.

The chief investigator in the case, Donald Meyer, was arrested in Las Vegas, Nev., in January on multiple charges in connection with a bungled casino robbery and shootout, the *Sun* reported.

Summers now lives in San Martin, near San Jose.

After the verdict in the Kohler case, prosecutors dropped charges against Summers involving another alleged murder attempt on Kohler and Summers' mother, Loucille M. Mayfield, in November. He allegedly abducted the women from a Bend motel, but was found innocent in January 1980 of kid-

napping Kohler. Mayfield later recanted her statement to police.

"They (prosecutors) just wanted to frame a dumb cowboy," Summers said in a telephone interview with a *Sun* reporter. "I guess the police just wanted recognition. The whole thing is pitiful."

The Summers case was one of the more sensational cases in the history of San Bernardino, the *Sun* reported, and cost the city and county \$750,000 to prosecute, as well as \$450,000 in legal costs associated with the suit and \$100,000 of the settlement.

An insurance company will pay the other \$300,000, the *Sun* said.