

# Ex-officer testifies he lied to witness

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CHINO — The former chief investigator in a San Bernardino murder case lied to a witness in an effort to get her to change her story to police, the ex-investigator testified Thursday during the trial of Roy Summers.

Former San Bernardino Police Detective Don Meyer, who in 1979 headed the police probe into the 1977 murder of Beverly Wise and the kidnap of two of her children, told the jury he lied to alibi witness Luella Bowler during the investigation to "get to the truth."

Wise, 26, was found stabbed to death in her north San Bernardino home. The children, Brandi and Tiffani, are still missing. They were 2 years old and 5 years old, respectively, when they disappeared.

Asked by Summer's attorney, Timothy Guhin, if he thought lying to witnesses was wrong, Meyer replied, "Not always. It depends on what I'm hoping to gain."

Guhin shot back, "In other words, the ends justifies the means?"

"Yes," Meyer said, "if it will help me locate those children."

The police investigation, the most extensive in San Bernardino history, has been the subject of controversy from its beginning, more than five years ago. Meyer and Detective John McDonald took over the revitalized investigation in 1979 after the initial investigation came to a standstill earlier that year.

Now, as the trial enters its 11th week, the focus has shifted from Summers' alleged guilt to Meyer's conduct during the two years he worked full-time on the case.

Defense attorney Guhin hammered at Meyer for most of Thursday. Meyer, who resigned last month after nearly 23 years in police work, is scheduled to return to the witness stand Monday.

According to the lawyer, Meyer told Bowler —

(Please see Trial, B-8)