



Staff photo by Steve Cooper

Claude Wise distributes handbills on a street in Tijuana in hopes of finding his kidnapped daughters

Father seeks girls . . .

(Continued from Metro)

their investigation on the word of a psychic or anyone claiming unusual powers. However, they believe the family's efforts in Mexico can only help because it will widen the range of people familiar with the kidnapping.

In Tijuana, the group's first stop was the Municipal Police, where the chief of police took personal interest in Wise's plight. The chief took a large stack of flyers to distribute to his men. Tijuana media sources and the Border Patrol. A short time later, the girls' pictures were in front of guards at the border.

Everywhere the message was taken, the response of local people was sympathetic and helpful. The flyers were printed at no cost to Wise by Print Quick of San Bernardino with photos donated by Earhart Photography.

Immediate attention of many readers of the handbill was grabbed by a headline declaring, "\$1,000 Reward de Reconcompensa." But as they read further and saw "Two Girls Missing, Dos Ninas Perdidas," their expressions changed and their focus was obviously not money.

Concerned shopkeepers taped the sheet to their windows and kept dozens of copies to hand to customers. A man who couldn't speak English to fully understand the problem talked with Wise and moments later was passing out circulars to passersby. An elderly Pentecostal woman told Jarlenski in broken English and gestures that she would take a pile of papers to her church.

"These people are beautiful. I just can't believe them," Wise said, as he stood in a line of vendors working the crowds with them.

Howlett returned from a walk around a business district block and told of several people who initially rejected the paper. But when they later learned what it was about, they ran after her to take one and offer condolences.

The day was not without its less optimistic moments, however. Howlett walked through the children's ward of a shabby, dirty hospital and came away disappointed at not seeing her granddaughters and shaken by the conditions she had seen.

As he walked along the broken sidewalks of the Mexican city, Wise let his thoughts come into the open — a rare and difficult occasion for him.

Yes, he said, he is by nature an introspective person. Never demonstrative.

But Monday night as he was putting his only safe child, 8-month-old Stacey Wise, to bed, the force of his tragedy became too great.

"I just broke down for about an hour. It just kept coming to me . . . in my imagination I was trying to picture what it must have been for Beverly. It wasn't my kids that made it especially hard for me. It was Bev and realizing I'll never see her again," he said.

The days have left Wise numb and burned out. He doesn't look at things — he has a hollow gaze.

But his spirits were lifted by the trip to Tijuana. It was therapy and, maybe, something that will really make a difference in the search. He was hopeful but his expectations were limited.

Tony Lee Dodge

Verdict is in Victory

By PRISCILLA NORDYKE

Sun-Telegram Staff Writer

VICTORVILLE — Tony Lee Dodge was convicted Wednesday of first degree murder in the August 1976 shotgun slaying of Ronald Allen Houle.

The nine-man, three-woman jury panel deliberated less than eight hours before returning the verdict in Superior Court here.

Dodge sat motionless as the verdict was read.

His wife, Patricia, put her arms around her daughter, Janet, who wept quietly as court clerk Verna Rick polled the jury. Mrs. Dodge remained composed, although minutes before she had cried softly in the court corridor.

two arrested

the window, pointed a gun him and fled, followed by another burglar who had also been in the house.

Officers said they found a pillow case full of rifles that had been dropped in the yard by one of the burglars.

Jailed at the Westend sheriff's substation for investigation of burglary were Raymond Payan II, and his brother Eddie, II, both of 1838 E. Granada Court. The younger brother was also booked for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon, officers said.

ase in court

A. Wilson, 81, was killed. The accident occurred about 7 p.m. Sept. 26 when Smith turned left off Big Bear Boulevard into a restaurant parking lot. The car driven by Gay broadsided her vehicle.

The prosecution, represented by Deputy Dist. Atty. Mike Abernathy, contends that Gay was driving too fast and the vehicle had defective brakes and inoperative lights.