

Summers ruling expected today

By Pete Ryan
Bulletin Staff Writer

"I never touched any woman in my life, before that day," Roy A. Summers told a Deschutes County Circuit Jury Monday.

The jury is expected to reach a verdict this afternoon in the trial of Summers, who is charged assaulting and attempting to kill Ella Mae "Connie" Kohler, 45, his former wife. According to testimony given by Kohler, Summers, 39, broke her arm and attempted to drop a car from a jack onto her last Oct. 28.

After a verdict is reached, Summers will be sent to San Bernardino, Ca., where he is charged with murdering Beverly Wise, another of his seven ex-wives, and kidnapping her children.

The children, Brandi Jondell Summers, 8, and Tiffani Wise, 4, have been missing for three years. They were reportedly seen last summer in Boise, Idaho, at the home of Juanita Iwakiri, 27, who was arrested Monday for kidnaping and released on \$100,000 bail.

Iwakiri told police that she had seen the children, but she denied knowing who they were.

Investigators found photographs and belongings of the missing children in Summers Redmond home last November. They believe that the children may be staying in Boise with an acquaintance of Summers, who is Brandi's father.

At the trial Monday, Summers testified that Kohler "jumped" him while he was changing a tire on the couple's car. He said she later broke her arm when he was trying to

restrain her during a domestic squabble.

Kohler testified last Thursday that Summers intentionally broke her arm and choked her, causing her to pass out. He then dragged her under a jacked-up car in the garage of the couple's Redmond home and attempted to kick the jack out, she said.

Summers testified that Kohler was "the most jealous woman I've ever met," and attacked him because she was afraid he would leave her.

Prosecutor Jim Harvey attempted to prove last week that Summers sought to kill Kohler because she had repeatedly promised to give him half of her property — which includes \$400,000 in real estate — and then changed her mind.

Summers testified Monday that Kohler only promised him half-interest in her Redmond home, which he said he refused to accept.

Summers admitted choking his wife, but he said he did it in self-defense when the couple was arguing in the garage. He said that when she later broke her arm, she told him he "was going to pay for it" in prison.

Kohler testified last week that Summers had admitted "killing before," and told her he had intended to drop the car on her and take the couple's truck.

Summers and Kohler both testified that Kohler drove to Central Oregon District Hospital herself, and he went there a short time later. He was arrested by Redmond Police the day after the incident.

The jury was to have reconvened at 1 p.m. today.