

2 arrested in '77 kidnapping of girls . . .

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girls are now.

Investigators told the Grass Valley Union newspaper that the Casners were living with several relatives in what they described as little more than shacks.

But detective Capt. Paul Bonanno said here Monday that there is "no information to base a firm judgment on whether the children are still there or have moved on."

In addition, he said there are no indications that the children have been used in any illegal activities.

No leads developed when detectives showed pictures of the missing girls to Grass Valley school authorities and checked local pharmacies to see if anyone had wanted a prescription for cotazym — a drug used by cystic fibrosis victims to enable them to digest food. Brandi suffers from that disease and needs the medicine.

The children have been missing since March 30, 1977, the day their mother, Beverly Wise, 26, was found murdered in their home.

Wise's ex-husband and Brandi's father, Roy Sum-

mers, 39, has been charged with the murder and kidnapping. He is in jail in Oregon on unrelated charges and is awaiting extradition to California.

Summers' sister, Karen Carino, of Springfield, Va., has been charged with being an accessory to those crimes. But a fugitive from justice hold on her there was dropped last week because San Bernardino authorities did not send the necessary papers in time for her extradition. Authorities say they still plan to bring Carino here.

Detectives developed the Casners' connection when they found Lee's name and Cedar Ridge address in an address book belonging to Roy Summers. The book was confiscated during a search of Summers' Oregon home last fall.

Originally from Napa, Calif., Casner had lived in Cedar Ridge several months, but is known to have lived in the area in the past. Vivian is from Idaho.

Investigators have declined elaborating on Summers' relationship with Lee Casner.

However Boise, Idaho, records of a "probable

cause" hearing, show that San Bernardino detective Don Meyer testified that Brandi attended a Sunday school in Garden City, a Boise suburb, last September 30. She initially gave her name as Brandi Summers, before she quickly corrected herself and said her name was Brandi Casner, he was quoted as saying.

Both the girls were seen numerous times in the Boise area last summer. Police don't know if they went directly from there to Grass Valley.

Witnesses in Nampa, about eight miles outside of Boise, identified Summers as having been at Casner's home there last summer, according to Meyer's testimony.

Interviewed by detectives, another person said that her daughter, Molly, married Casner and the couple was living most recently in Grass Valley.

Molly, who has not been implicated in the crimes, told investigators she had never seen the girls and that Summers never mentioned them to her. Lee, on the other hand, repeatedly denied knowing Summers.

The Casners lived for a time in a mobile home park in Payette, a town near Boise, hearing records say, and investigators believe that Summers may have lived with them there for a short time.

The court records say that Vivian Casner telephoned authorities as a result of articles and pictures of the girls that ran in the Boise Statesman. She said she had seen them at the home of her sister, Juanita Iwakiri, last summer when Iwakiri babysat them.

Iwakiri was arrested Feb. 8 and charged with being an accessory to kidnapping in the case. She was released on her own

recognizance three days later. Her preliminary hearing is scheduled for Wednesday.

She told investigators Feb. 3 that the girls had stayed with her and were brought to her by a woman with dark brown hair.

But a few days later, Iwakiri told investigators she had only babysat for the girls half a dozen

times in 1978, and said she couldn't describe the woman who had dropped them off at her house.

Hearing records say

Iwakiri also told a neighbor that the girls had stayed with her sister, Vivian, in Nampa during the summer of 1977.

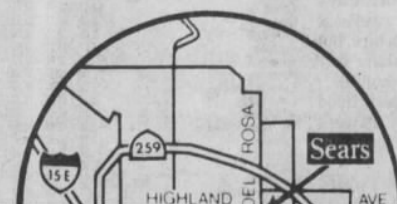


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Slots spit coins . . .

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two hours. Employees just locked up their cash boxes and checked the machines.

Sierra Pacific Power Co. spokesman Mike Reed said a short on a major power line leading to Utah caused all the company's generating facilities to shut down, leaving 165,000 customers without electricity in an area stretching for hundreds of square miles, from Lake Tahoe to Battle Mountain and south to Goldfield.

"We had nothing," Reed said.

At MGM Lanes bowling alley in the depths of the big MGM Grand Hotel-Casino, about 200 people were trying to bowl when the lights went out — and the lane equipment was stilled for about two hours.

"It was disaster," the manager said. "There were a lot of free games."