

# Detective testifies in kidnap of S.B. sisters

By TINA MAY  
Sun Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Lee Casner, charged as an accessory in the 1977 kidnapping of two young San Bernardino sisters, told investigators he has never seen the girls but knows Roy Summers, who is charged with their abduction.

That's what San Bernardino po-

lice detective Don Meyer said Monday as he testified in Municipal Court in the second day of Casner's preliminary hearing.

The 37-year-old Grass Valley, Calif., man is also charged with felony child concealment in connection with the March 30, 1977, kidnapping of Brandi Jondell Summers, then 5 years old, and Tiffani Wise, then 2. Their mother,

Beverly Wise — Summers' former wife — was found dead that day at her home.

Summers, who is Brandi's father, is charged with murder and kidnapping in the case. He is in an Oregon jail awaiting extradition to California.

The dead woman's husband, Claude Wise, testified Monday about discovering his wife stabbed to death three years ago and said that Brandi had lived with him and Beverly since the girl was about 10 months old. She was never legally adopted, however.

Police believe Casner has seen the girls and that they were with him from time to time in the last nine months, both in Grass Valley and in Idaho.

According to Meyer's testimony, Brandi was seen at a church in Garden City, Idaho, a Boise suburb, last September and identified herself as "Brandi Casner."

Both Casner and Summers had been seen in that area numerous times last year, detectives have said.

Meyer said he learned from a woman he interviewed in Boise that Casner might be connected to the case. He then headed for Grass Valley, about 50 miles northeast of Sacramento, to question him.

Casner told Meyer in the interview last month that he met Summers in Nampa, Idaho, a town near Boise, in 1979 "when it was about to turn warm," and had seen him a few times in a bar, the detective testified.

Meyer said Casner told him that Summers had also come to his trailer at a park in Payette — about 40 miles from Boise — where he lived for a time, but that he never saw him after about last May.

In addition, Meyer said an address book belonging to Summers that was found in a search of Summers' Oregon home contained

Casner's name and a Nampa address.

But he said Casner told him he didn't know how Summers got the Nampa address.

Casner's wife, Molly, testified Monday that she and her husband lived in Nampa last January to early March.

The couple separated and Lee moved to Payette. By late March or

early April, she said, she joined her husband and stayed until mid-July when they separated again.

She said she returned to Nampa and stayed until January 1980. In that time she didn't see her husband at all, she testified.

A Grass Valley store owner, Ja-neen Lafreniere, testified Friday

(Continued on B-4, column 4)

## County takes responsibility for Yucaipa Park

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY Board of Supervisors Monday took over responsibility for the San Bernardino County Yucaipa Park project, as it lacks the estimated \$364,800 to complete the job.

The board took the step in the proposal to hand \$364,800 contract for utility

work. The project, \$1.1 million, is the county, as it BVMWD, from the program for financial facilities. The district includes its beginnings in

the park, in that the aid of Davis

park. The project has been told reporters and reservoirs, has now run out of

money and is prevented by Proposition 13 from securing the additional local financing it had planned.

The supervisors authorized preparation of a new agreement under which the county would be responsible for constructing a swimming pool and related facilities, roads and restrooms, for installing waste disposal systems and for finishing the landscaping work.

Patton said he hopes the park will be ready for use late this year.

In other actions Monday, the supervisors:

✓ Without discussion, accepted a report in which Flood Control Director Dino Di Pietro warned that mudflows will continue as a problem "in the next several rainy seasons" at the Harrison Basin in north San Bernardino, where overflows this winter have damaged some 40 homes.

Di Pietro recommended a \$5.5 million project to build a new, larger debris basin and channel upstream in Harrison Canyon, but he expressed doubt that federal funds will become available for the plan.

He said lesser measures will provide only "some relief." These measures, he said, include a second reseeding of the burned watershed, sandbagging of canyon ravines and a plan for two log dams in upstream areas assuming a grant can be obtained from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service to pay most of the \$1 million cost.

✓ Asked their Special Districts Department for a recommendation on a proposal by the Local Agency

(Continued on B-4, column 1)

## Gates appointment sparks U of R conflict

By KAREN PARKER  
Sun Staff Writer

REDLANDS — The appointment of Dr. Gerry Gates as the University of Redlands' vice president for academic affairs has brought a heated response from faculty and search committee members.

At a special meeting Friday, faculty assembly members voted to request that university president Dr. Douglas R. Moore appear before the assembly and explain his appointment of Gates, which overrode search committee recommendations.

One faculty member who refused to be identified said the move was not a vendetta against Gates.

Assembly members complained that Gates was chosen over their recommendation of University of Redlands alumnus Carl Ledbetter and that Moore violated affirmative action guidelines in the search process.

"We were led right down the primrose path," one search committee member said, complaining that Moore's handling of the appointment was "undemocratic."

The committee conducted an 11-

week open search for candidates that resulted in three finalists for Moore to consider.

Gates served as acting academic vice president, also by Moore's appointment.

Gates was officially appointed to the position March 5.

Moore refused to comment on claims by some faculty members that he had not attended the search committee meetings, which he had promised to attend, and that he had not consulted with the faculty before making his decision.

Bill McDonald, head of the faculty assembly, said the meeting has been set for noon Wednesday.

In deepest appreciation to our family and friends during the recent loss of our husband and father, Andrew Diaz.

The Diaz Family

NEW ROOFS RE-ROOFING  
REPAIRS  
FREE ESTIMATES  
MORRISON-HOPE INC.  
205 SO. ARROWHEAD 885-6881