

Another arrest in Wise kidnap case

By TINA MAY
Sun Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — The husband of an Idaho woman charged in connection with the 1977 kidnapping of two San Bernardino sisters was arrested here Thursday evening for investigation of perjury after he testified before the county grand jury.

Michael Gene Iwakiri, 31, of Boise, Idaho, was the sixth person to be arrested in the three-year-old case and is being held in county jail on \$100,000 bail. He was also

booked for investigation of accessory to kidnapping and felony child concealment, sheriff's deputies said.

Brandi Jondell Summers, then 5 years old, and Tiffani Wise, then 2, have been missing since March 30, 1977, the day their mother, Beverly Wise, 26, was found stabbed to death in their home.

Police have been particularly concerned about Brandi because she suffers from cystic fibrosis and needs medicine to digest her food properly. Without it, she could die. The case was reopened last September.

Police homicide Lt. Don Levan declined Friday to discuss details of Iwakiri's testimony, saying only

that Iwakiri lied about his involvement with the children, which spans the last three years.

Earlier this week, Iwakiri's wife, Juanita, was bound over for trial following a preliminary hearing in Boise. Information disclosed at the hearing showed that she took care of the girls off and on between April 1977 and August 1979.

Juanita, or "Tiny" as she is known, was charged in Idaho with what would be the equivalent in California of felony child concealment.

Juanita's hearing was closed to the press, but testimony was heard from several persons, including two of her neighbors.

Records show that one neighbor told investigators earlier this year that she first met Juanita in 1976 because a friend recommended Iwakiri as a baby sitter.

In the early spring or summer of 1977, Juanita told the neighbor that a sister in California had asked her to care for two little girls who had been taken from the home of a woman who was murdered there. It is not clear who supposedly took the children.

The neighbor told investigators that all through that summer, Juanita talked about the two girls and repeatedly said that they had been kidnapped and their mother had been murdered. She said Juanita told her many times that the man who had killed the woman was the boyfriend of her sister in California, records show.

(Vivian Casner, 33, who lives in

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Hobbs removed from IMA

By CRAIG STAATS
Sun Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Mayor W.R. Holcomb removed Sixth Ward City Councilman John D. Hobbs Friday as the city's alternate representative to the Inland Manpower Association, the two-county manpower consortium.

Holcomb said he dropped the councilman as his alternate because he has "not been able to come up with a good working relationship with Councilman Hobbs."

Holcomb said Hobbs' views are generally opposed to his and a true alternate ought to share similar views on manpower issues. IMA is responsible for administering federal jobs funds in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

Hobbs, however, said Holcomb could not act without the consent of the City Council and blasted Holcomb for not at least telling him in advance.

"I can't believe the man would be that stupid," Hobbs said.

Asked why he had not told Hobbs in advance, Holcomb said: "He doesn't communicate with me when he's going to do things." Holcomb said he did not decide until Friday morning and there was no time to tell Hobbs.

"I just felt it was my decision, not his," Holcomb said.

The dispute is part of a larger struggle between Holcomb and the council over who will represent the city at IMA. The council already has approved a change in the IMA joint powers agreement that will permit it to name a councilman as the city's representative, but that change must first be approved by the other IMA members — the city and county of Riverside and the county of San Bernardino.

Now, the agreement dictates that San Bernardino's representative will be the mayor.

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