

Ex-wife tells jury Summers once said he 'would kill' Wise someday

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CHINO — Murder defendant Roy Summers made threatening comments about his ex-wife, Beverly Wise, just months before she was slain and two of her young daughters were kidnapped, one of Summers' other ex-wives testified Wednesday.

"He said someday he would kill her . . . or somebody else would," Luella Tullis told the jury. "He said that she was no good, she was a rotten person, she didn't deserve to live"

Summers, 41, could be imprisoned for 25 years to life if he is convicted of murdering Wise and abducting her children, Brandi and Tiffani, at the victims' San Bernardino home five years ago.

The youngsters still are missing. Brandi was 5 years old and needed daily medication for cystic fibrosis when she disappeared. Her half-sister was 2.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Smith is trying to prove that Summers killed the woman out of hatred and kidnapped the girls because they witnessed the slaying. Summers is Brandi's father.

The case against Summers is based on a road map of California that was found at the murder scene, alleged sightings of the children with Summers and his friends, and incriminating statements Summers supposedly has made.

Tullis said her relationship with Summers began in August or September 1976, about six months before the crimes were committed. She said Summers developed a drinking problem and told her about his divorce from Wise.

"He was quite upset about it. He said she took everything he ever had," Tullis recalled.

"He (also) said that he found her with someone else . . . and there was a fight, and people got beat up and police came. And, he said he should have killed her then," she said.

Under questioning by the prosecutor, Tullis told the jury, "He felt like if anything ever happened to her, he would be blamed for it

(Please see Trial, B-10)