

Accessory to murder charge lodged against Lee Casner

By TINA MAY
Sun Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Another charge — accessory to murder — was added to four others against Lee Casner at his Superior Court arraignment Wednesday in connection with the 1977 murder of Beverly Wise and the abduction of her two children here.

The other charges against Casner, 37, of Cedar Ridge, Calif., are two counts of accessory to kidnapping and two of felony child concealment of Brandi Jondell Summers and Tiffani Wise.

The sisters, then 5 and 2 years old respectively, were taken from their home March 30, 1977, the day their mother was stabbed to death. The girls have never been found, but have reportedly been seen numerous times in Pleasanton and Grass Valley, Calif., Virginia, Idaho, and Nevada since their abduction.

San Bernardino police investigators have tied Casner to the girls because he was reportedly seen with Brandi last month in the Grass Valley area, about five miles from Cedar Ridge.

Detectives believe Casner lied to them in an interview last month when he said that although he knew Roy Summers — who is charged with the kidnapping and the murder of Wise, his former wife — he had never seen the children. Summers is Brandi's father.

Two weeks ago Municipal Court Judge Carl E. Davis ordered Casner bound over for trial after a preliminary hearing because he believed the evidence showed Casner had lied.

Moreover, Davis said, the falsehoods "helped the trail grow cold" and "constitutes (Casner) aid-

ing and abetting" Summers to avoid prosecution, thus making Casner an accessory to the crimes.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Joseph Canty, who is handling the case, used that same logic Wednesday in filing an accessory to murder charge against Casner at the Superior Court arraignment.

Meanwhile Wednesday, two San Bernardino detectives were in Livermore, Calif., and one was in Grass Valley to do "pre-trial" work in preparation for Summers' court appearance here within the next few weeks and in connection with his sister, Karen Carino, said

homicide Lt. Don Levan said.

He said other trips by detectives to Oregon, Virginia and Idaho are scheduled in connection with the case.

Carino, 33, of Springfield, Va., has been charged with accessory to both kidnapping and murder. She is not in custody in Virginia because authorities here waited more than the 90-day limit to seek her extradition.

However Canty has said he still plans to extradite her, although he has declined to say when that will

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