

Summers' lawyer claims S.B. police investigator lied

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CHINO — A man accused of murdering his ex-wife and kidnapping two of her young daughters is the innocent victim of a faulty and unethical police investigation, the man's lawyer told a jury Thursday.

Roy Summers, 41, had nothing to do with the fatal stabbing of Beverly Wise and the abductions of 2-year-old Tiffani Wise and 5-year-old Brandi Jondell Summers five years ago in San Bernardino, attorney Timothy Guhin said.

"We're here for one reason, and one reason only: That man — Detective (Donald J.) Meyer. He lied," Guhin said in his opening statement. "He lied to various witnesses. He lied to the district attorney, and he lied in his police reports."

For example, Guhin said, one witness identified a road map — a major piece of evidence against Summers — only after she was made to believe police had found her fingerprints on the map.

Guhin also accused the prosecutor of making misleading re-

marks to the jury. And, through his cross-examination of two investigators, Guhin raised serious questions about whether fingerprints and other important evidence were accidentally destroyed or overlooked by police who examined the crime scene.

Summers, Brandi's father, has been in jail since his arrest in December 1979.

The murder and kidnappings were committed March 30, 1977, at the victims' home on the 1500 block of Alto Drive.

The prosecution is trying to

prove that Summers hated his ex-wife and that he took the children because they witnessed the killing of their mother.

Summers, who worked as a horseshoer until his arrest, was cleared during the initial San Bernardino Police Department investigation into the case, Guhin noted. It was only after Meyer and Detective John McDonald reopened the case in 1979 that evidence was gathered against him.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Smith has told the jury

that the reason for the renewed investigation was two-fold: To check into a road map that was found at the crime scene and to re-examine Summers' story that he wasn't even in California when the crimes were committed.

The detectives decided Summers' alibi didn't hold up, so they retraced Summers' trail — 2½ years after the fact — under the theory that if Summers actually had taken the children, someone would have spotted him with the youngsters.

By the time they were finished,

the detectives reported finding witnesses who claimed to have seen one or both of the girls at various times in many places, including:

- Summer 1977, near Livermore and Pleasanton with Summers and his sister, Karen Carino.

- Late 1977, with Summers at a hotel in Elko, Nev.

- May 1978, with Summers in Boise, Idaho, where he was working at a race track.

- May or June 1979, at the

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