

Witness: Summers had 'too much' on Iwakiri

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CHINO — A former resident of Bend, Ore., testified here Tuesday that she heard Roy Summers tell his mother in February 1980 that Juanita Iwakiri would never talk to police about him because "I've got too much on her."

Jean Remund, now a resident of Mesa, Ariz., said she overheard the conversation while sitting in the front row of a Bend courtroom where Summers was being tried on charges that he assaulted, attempted to murder and kidnapped his seventh wife, Connie Kohler, who divorced Summers in December 1979.

Summers is on trial here on charges that he murdered another ex-wife, Beverly Wise, and kidnapped two of her daughters from their San Bernardino home in March 1977. The girls, Tiffani Wise, then 2, and Brandi Jondell Summers, then 5, have never been found, although they reportedly have been seen at various locations in California, Idaho and Nevada.

Remund said she was sitting in the front row of the courtroom with Kohler, who was her employer, when Summers' mother and sister walked in and began talking to Summers.

His mother said "they arrested Juanita Iwakiri in Idaho," Remund testified during questioning by Deputy District Attorney Michael Smith.

"Roy said it was too bad they had arrested Juanita and taken her away from her kids. Then he leaned toward them and said, 'It's OK. She won't talk. I've got too much on her,'" Remund said.

Remund said she was about eight feet from Summers when she heard the conversation.

Summers was found guilty of a misdemeanor assault charge in Bend, but innocent of attempted murder and a more serious assault charge. The charges stemmed from an incident in October 1979 during which Kohler received a severely broken arm.

Also on Tuesday, defense attorney Timothy Guhin cross-ex-

amined Laura Lee, a Boise, Idaho, resident who on Monday said that she saw Tiffani Wise at the Boise home of Juanita Iwakiri no later than mid-August 1979.

Iwakiri, who ran a day-care center in her home, was arrested in February 1980 and later tried and convicted of second-degree child concealment for hiding Tiffani. She served 120 days of a five-year sentence before being released on probation in November 1981. She is appealing the conviction.

Despite his questioning, Lee remained firm in her conviction that it was Tiffani she saw. Lee agreed that she had once told investigators that she had been shown so many pictures of children that she was no longer sure what the child she saw at Iwakiri's looked like. But she said she could not "back off" from what she had told police in 1980.

"I have had no reason to change my mind," she said. "I've just always known that the photo I was shown was of the child I saw at Tiny's (Iwakiri's) house."

In testimony on Monday, Boise Police Detective Hugh McNichols said that after San Bernardino police detectives told him in February 1980 that the missing girls might be in the Boise area and asked him to help in the search, he located a girl named Brandi at a church school in Garden City, near Boise.

Church school officials said the girl had initially identified herself as Brandi Summers, then corrected herself and said her name was Brandi Casner, the same last name as Iwakiri's brother-in-law.

However, McNichols said the girl's name actually was Brandi Kastner and that she did not resemble the missing Brandi Summers. He said the Garden City girl had a little sister named Summer.

The Summers trial will resume here today in the courtroom of Superior Court Judge William Pitt Hyde. Smith said he may conclude his case against Summers this week. There will then be a week-long break in the trial before Guhin begins the defense.