

Witness says she lied about caring for missing girls in Summers case

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CHINO — Sobbing uncontrollably on the witness stand, Juanita Iwakiri told an attorney here Thursday that she had lied about caring for two kidnapped girls because she wanted some excitement in her life.

Iwakiri, of Boise, Idaho, was testifying during the trial of Roy Summers, 41, who is accused of murdering his ex-wife, Beverly Wise, and kidnapping two of Wise's daughters from their San Bernardino home in March 1977.

The girls, Brandi Jondell Summers, then 5, and Tiffani Wise, then 2, have never been found, but police detectives investigating the case have received reports that the two have been seen in Idaho, Northern California and Nevada at various times since the kidnapping. Summers is Brandi's father.

Iwakiri was convicted in Idaho of hiding Tiffani in her Boise home.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Smith had been questioning Iwakiri for about an hour about

statements she had made about the kidnapped girls when he broached the subject of her February 1980 interview in Boise with San Bernardino Police Detective Don Meyer. Iwakiri began to answer, paused, then burst into tears.

"I confessed to everything," she sobbed. "I was frightened of him. I would have said anything to get him to leave me alone."

It was exciting to be involved in the kidnapping investigation, she said, and her life running a day-care center for children was boring, so she told a few lies.

"I'd gotten in so far with him (Meyer) . . . it all got out of hand. I would have said anything."

One of Iwakiri's sisters rushed to the witness stand to comfort her and the judge ordered a brief recess.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry," Iwakiri said as she was led out of the courtroom. "This never happened before."

During the recess, Iwakiri's attorney, Edward

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