

# Detective testifies in . . .

(Continued from Metro)

that she had seen a man, whom she subsequently learned was Lee Casner, in her store with two youngsters a couple of months ago.

He called them "Brandi" and "Tiffani," Lafreniere said. She identified Tiffani from pictures detectives showed her, but couldn't identify Brandi, she testified.

Monday's hearing was full of stops and starts because of technicalities. They included whether Molly Casner could testify without violating her constitutional rights and whether Lee Casner's brother, Robert, should testify because he'd testified about the same matters last week before the county Grand Jury.

The jury had told him he wasn't to discuss his testimony.

The store owner, Lafreniere, had identified Robert Casner as a man with whom she had seen Lee

Casner in her store several months ago.

Robert Casner testified Monday that "to the best of my knowledge" he had never seen Brandi and Tiffani. In addition, he said the children had never been in his house nor at the home of his brother.

Judge Carl E. Davis said he was "sufficiently satisfied" that the grand jury admonition didn't apply to Robert Casner in this case. Nor would it put him in jeopardy of a contempt of court charge if the case goes to trial.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Joseph Canty declined comment on why Robert Casner testified before the grand jury. He refused to acknowledge that such testimony had even taken place, saying he wasn't allowed to say anything about the matter.

As for the situation involving Molly Casner, questions arose when she began to answer Canty's

questions about whether she knew Summers. Deputy Public Defender Gary Smeltzer raised the possibility that she might incriminate herself if she responded.

Canty promised her immunity, but attorney Richard P. Barbour, who was appointed to represent her, advised her not to testify.

In another matter Monday, Meyer, under questioning by Smeltzer, testified he hadn't been truthful when he told a couple in Nampa that several persons had seen the missing children at their house last summer. Only one person had seen the girls, Meyer said Monday.

Roy and Sandy Frazier testified Friday that they told Meyer the girls had been at their house several times because they were afraid to disagree with the detective. They feared being jailed they said.

The hearing continues today at 10 a.m.