

Ex-husband is charged in murder-kidnap case

By TINA MAY
Sun Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Beverly Wise's ex-husband was charged here Thursday with her murder in 1977 and the kidnapping of her two young daughters.

Roy A. Summers, the father of one of the missing girls, was booked on the charges in a jail in Bend, Ore., where he is accused of the attempted murder and kidnapping of his present wife and his mother. The Oregon charges are not related to the ones here.

The five-count complaint filed in San Bernardino Municipal Court includes one count of murder and two each of kidnapping and child stealing. There is no bail.

The charges followed a three-month renewed investigation of the case by police here, during which officers determined that Summers, 39, was the "prime suspect."

He was considered the prime suspect in the initial investigation of the March 30, 1977, crimes, but police cleared him a few days afterward when he was located in Utah. Witnesses interviewed there then said Summers was in Utah on March 29 and 30, court records show.

Wise, 26, was found by her husband, Claude, in their San Bernardino home stabbed to death and slumped in a living room chair.

The children, Brandi Jondell Summers, then 5, and Tiffani Wise, then 2, were missing. Stacey Wise, the couple's 8-month-old daughter, was sitting in the hallway unharmed.

Despite an intensive investigation, in which investigators interviewed more than 200 persons and traveled all over the country and to Mexico, no suspect was ever arrested and the children were never found. They were feared dead.

Brandi suffered from cystic fibrosis and required medication with each meal to enable her to digest food properly. Her doctors had said that if she went without the medication for more than a few weeks, she would suffer from

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Mormons glad feminist ousted

By JAN CLEVELAND
Sun Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Mormon church leaders here expressed little sorrow Thursday over the excommunication of ERA-supporter Sonia Johnson from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Rita Miller, a prominent church member and outspoken opponent of the Equal Rights Amendment, said it was more than Johnson's support for the ERA that brought about the church action.

"It seemed to me that it was her attitude, her actions, her hostility that was at the bottom of the excommunication," she said. "We all welcome her excommunication. It's better that she stand apart."

However, local ERA supporters said they were dismayed at the ruling and argued that religious organizations should not attempt

to dictate the political beliefs of their members.

The Mormon Church formally announced the excommunication Wednesday. Johnson, 43, a resident of Sterling, Va., had been at odds with church leaders for some time over her outspoken advocacy of the ERA.

A fifth-generation Mormon, Johnson said Wednesday that she felt betrayed and that she would not recant her support.

Dennis Wardle, San Bernardino County Clerk and president of the San Bernardino Stake of the Mormon Church, said, "It just appears that this unfortunate lady spent more time attacking the church than promoting ERA. That's what got her in trouble."

"I've been asked if this publicity wouldn't hurt the church. The answer is not at all. Only those with

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