

Strange anatomy of murder probe . . .

(Continued from A-1)

stories on the case because they were concerned for the safety of the children. Authorities say they don't know whether the children are alive or dead.

The Sun agreed to delay publication of the story until today to allow more time for investigation and for the police to give a substantial reason why the girls might be in danger and why officers are waiting to file charges against Summers. By press time, however, they still were withholding further comment on the case.

The wait to file charges and the fact that someone has been arrested for accessory to the murder and kidnapping before any arrest has been made specifically for the crime, investigators admit, is unusual.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Joseph Canty, who is handling the case, told a reporter last week: "I'm not expressing any opinion as to the sufficiency of the evidence. It's not appropriate to comment . . . on the approach we're taking. To discuss the case might heighten the danger to the children if they're alive. Filing charges against Summers would bring a lot of things into play that would clutter the case. The question of filing a complaint is our decision."

Added San Bernardino Police Chief B. Warren Cooke: "We've got certain things to do. We need to see where they lead us. Until that's done, if you pin us down to a time when or if charges against Summers will be filed, it just doesn't work. As long as there's some reasonable evidence to explore, we're going to do it."

In addition to the concerns of authorities, Donna Howlett, of San Jose, the missing girls' grandmother, telephoned and asked The Sun to run a story. She feared the children's lives would be endangered, but couldn't explain why. She didn't agree that publicity might help locate the children.

Summers, 30, is now in custody in Deschutes County Jail in Bend, Ore. on charges of attempted murder and kidnapping of his present wife, Connie, and his mother, Loucyle Herman, sheriff's deputies there said.

The charges stem from an offense Nov. 9 during which Summers is accused of attacking the women with a knife and taking them forcibly from a Bend motel to his residence in Redmond, 17 miles away.

After the attack, deputies said, Summers took the women to the hospital. Workers there notified police and when officers arrived, Summers tried to stab himself, deputies said.

He was transported to a state mental hospital for observation before being taken to jail.

In addition, deputies said Summers faces prosecution for another attempted murder charge in connection with an attack on Connie Oct. 28.

Summers' bail for all the charges is \$800,000 and he is being held in an isolation cell, deputies said. He has been arraigned by the Deschutes County Grand Jury and in circuit court and has pleaded not guilty to the charges, officials said. No trial dates have yet been set.

A source familiar with Summers' life in Oregon said that he was a "different person" than the one accused of the kidnapping and murder charges.

He was well liked and respected in his job as a blacksmith. He was a model husband and got along almost perfectly with his wife, whom he met in February and married in June. It was a different kind of family life than he had ever had before.

But he started drinking recently and became nervous, paranoid and abusive, according to the source. The source said the change in behavior may have occurred because Summers learned that he was again being investigated by police here.

During the last few months nearly all trails investigators followed led — at least indirectly — to Summers. Police declined to say why they hadn't pursued the trails during the initial investigation.

One of the indirect connections is a map with specific markings on it that was found at the murder scene.

Records filed to obtain an arrest warrant against Karen Carino, show that police here traced the map to one of Summers' ex-wives. She told investigators that when she left Summers, he had it in his possession.

In addition, several neighbors of Karen Carino, who lived in Pleasanton, Calif., during the summer of 1977, four months after the murder and kidnapping, remember seeing Brandi Jondell and Tiffany there with Carino.

The neighbors in the city about 30 miles east of San Francisco picked out both the children and Roy Summers from several photo line-ups police showed them recently.

One resident told police she had seen the girls playing in front of her home with a boy named Jeff. She said it was her impression the girls were the nieces of the woman who lived next door, whose name was Karen. Karen Carino has a son named Jeff who would have been 5 years old during that summer.

In addition, the resident remembers meeting Karen's brother, Roy, and that at least once she had seen both the children and Roy at Karen's house sometime during the summer of 1977.

The neighbor told investigators that she was under the impression the girls weren't living with Karen permanently. She also said that whenever Roy would come outside the house and the little girls would see him, they would run up to him and appeared to be very happy.

Another witness also picked the children out of a photo line-up. He said he was sure he had seen the girls in the neighborhood during the summer of 1977. He was struck by how pretty Brandi was. She had such a distinctive face that he was quite unforgettable, he recalled.

Karen Carino was first interviewed by police in April 1977 at her Pleasanton home, court records show. At that time she told officers that the short marriage between her brother and Beverly in 1971 was poor from the beginning. It lasted about six months.

Carino said Roy had questioned whether Brandi was his child, but he still cared very much for her. He seemed happy that Beverly and Claude got married, Carino said, and felt that Brandi would be well-cared for.

During an interview this October in her Springfield, Va. home, police told Carino her brother was a "very lively" suspect in the case. Under questioning, she echoed the sentiments she expressed in 1977.

In addition, she said that the marriage of Roy and Beverly had broken up because Beverly was flirtatious and because she hated Roy constantly.

However, Carino said she believed the breakup was a clean one. She said Roy didn't appear to care about Beverly once the marriage had ended.

In contrast to what the residents in Pleasanton told police during the last few months, Carino said her brother had never visited her at her home there between April and August 1977. Nor had the children ever been with her in Pleasanton, she said.

Her former neighbors are mistaken if they think they saw the girls at her house, she said.

Roy may have been at her house in July 1977 while she was on a camping trip, because he had been to her home on other occasions when she wasn't there, she said.

Carino told detectives she didn't believe her brother would have murdered Beverly Wise and that he was a sweet, lovable man, incapable of committing

such a crime. She always believed Roy's alibi that he was in Utah when the murder and kidnapping occurred.

She said she was the one who had telephoned Roy to notify him — probably on April 1 — of the murder and he expressed surprise and was concerned about the children.

According to court records, witnesses told investigators that Summers was in Beryl, Utah, March 29, 1977, one day before the murder.

Carino told police she had never seen Tiffany and had only seen Brandi when the girl was an infant.

Although Karen Carino described her brother as a

lovable man who wouldn't harm anyone, information in court records indicates the opposite.

One of Summers' wives after Beverly — he is believed to have been married seven times — told investigators that Summers was extremely violent.

He beat the woman and accused her of seeing other men. He would often force her to get on her hands and knees and beg for her life, the woman told police during an October interview.

He threatened to kill the woman and her children and sexually abused them. The woman told investigators she was too frightened to notify police about all the abuse because she believed Summers would kill her.

The woman told police that Summers had mentioned Beverly Wise to her several times, describing her as "so good" and "rotten," and that she didn't deserve to live.

He had told her that Brandi died in a car accident and was very ill before her death. In addition, the woman told investigators that Summers said he was going to kill Beverly someday or have someone else do it for him.

The woman said she finally left Summers in late March 1977.

Another source, who asked not to be identified, said Summers had recently made similar negative statements about Beverly and said that he was glad she was dead. The source said Summers said Beverly killed Beverly had killed the children, too. But Summers never admitted committing the crimes.

Beverly Wise's mother, Phyllis Dameron of Sunnyvale, Calif., said recently she has tried to shut much of the past few years out. She believes "time heals all wounds," but she is still dealing with what happened nearly three years ago.

"It's had around holidays," she said. "Birthdays are also a reminder."

"How can you adjust to it?" she asked. "You just have to accept it. It happened. Everyone has got problems. No one is exempt."

"It would be nice if they (the police) could close the books on it. We could all get a lot of sleep. There's nothing worse than having something like this with no finish. You have to give up hope and you have to keep hoping. You're just in limbo."

Deep down she doesn't believe the girls are alive. "If someone is capable of killing one, they're capable of killing more," she said.

But she also believes police did everything possible to solve the crime when it occurred.

"Looking back it seems like such a dark time," she said. "They just drained us (she and her husband, from whom she is now divorced) for information. (After that we couldn't give them any more leads. Where do you go with nothing?"

Because no ransom demand was made, Dameron said she has always felt the crime was committed by someone Beverly knew.

Dameron said she wasn't very close to her daughter during the time Beverly was married to Summers.

"I didn't know the man," she said. "It was a quick marriage."

But she said Beverly had told her the marriage broke up because Summers was "very cruel." She didn't say why. Children sometimes keep things from their parents because they don't want them to worry. It's a kind of love, I guess."

She said she and Beverly became much closer after she married Claude Wise and "found happiness."

Search for mother . . .

(Continued from A-1)

who knew Louise could offer was that she moved to San Bernardino a long time ago to live with a sister. No one knows the sister's name.

They do know Louise tried for years to find her son. The last time she was in Memphis — about 10 years ago — she had two children with her. The boys were those children could be Dana's half brother and sister.

Louise hasn't left much evidence of her life in San Bernardino, either.

There are no records of her death or marriage in San Bernardino County's Hall of Records and the state Department of Motor Vehicles has no record of her ever possessing a California driver's license.

Except for a promise from a Memphis Social Security employee to search government records for information on Louise, the Royers believe they have reached a dead end.

Quests like Dana Royer's have come more and more to public attention in recent years, and have

sunday special

inspired considerable debate among adoptees, natural parents and adoptive parents.

In many cases, adoptive parents feel very threatened when their children begin to search for their roots.

But not Marion Royer. She told her only child from the time he was an infant that he was adopted and that someday, if he wanted, she would help him "find his people."

"His mother is younger than me. From the records we can find she would be 30. I'm 64 and my husband and I aren't going to live forever. When we're gone this boy will be absolutely alone." Marion said during a telephone interview last week.

"I'm not looking for someone to give him a home. He's got a home here and he will have even after we die. But there is nobody for him. It would be nice if he had a mother, or maybe a brother or a sister," she said.

"I'd just rest better if he had somebody to call his own."

Marion and William adopted Dana through the Tennessee Children's Home Society (TCHS), a Memphis institution that was rocked by scandal a few months after the Royers completed their adoption.

There were accusations — leaked to the press in September 1969 — that the home's director, Georgia Tann, was charging exorbitant fees for out-of-state adoptions, that the babies did not get proper care in the home, that there was little investigation of the prospective adoptive parents and even that some of the babies in the home had been illegally wrested from their natural parents.

Two days after the information became public, Georgia Tann died of cancer. The home was closed and all the blame for the scandal was heaped on the director. Subsequent investigations have shown, however, that Tann had the tact cooperation, if not the outright assistance, of many prominent Memphis citizens, including a juvenile court judge.

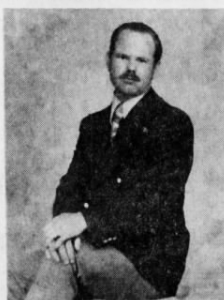
When the Royers began their adoption, they had few hints about the TCHS' malfeasance.

We heard they charged you for babies. But they didn't do us that way. We were here in Memphis. They had to keep their noses clean here," Marion said. It cost us \$30.

But the Royers do bear the TCHS some hard feelings, for several reasons.

Dana was sick with croup and bronchitis when they brought him home at age 17 months. His

(Continued on A-3, column 1)



These are photos of Dana Royer (Donald Ray Sinclair). The top one shows Royer at about the age of 2. The bottom photo was taken when he was in his early 30s.

'Only child' meets her two sisters

By JAN CLEVELAND

Sun Staff Writer

MONTECLAIR — The voice on the phone asked, "Does Memphis, Tennessee, and the year 1946 mean anything to you?"

Yes, said Linda Davilla, she was born there that year.

"Does the Tennessee Children's Home Society mean anything to you," the caller asked.

"Yes, I was adopted through there," Davilla said. "Oh good, you know you're adopted. Well, I just wanted to let you know that you've got two sisters."

"My husband said I just screamed. My family didn't know what was going on, but when they heard me say, 'I've got sisters,' they turned off the TV and just listened," Davilla said, reliving the moment last April 23 when her sister Carolyn Mitchell first contacted her.

About a week later the Montclair resident was on a plane, bound for Memphis and a reunion with sisters Carolyn Mitchell and Marion Kain. It was a nerve-racking trip. And when she reached the Memphis airport, not only were her two sisters there, but so was a television crew that has been documenting Mitchell's work in reuniting families separated by adoptions arranged through the scandal-ridden Tennessee Children's Home Society (TCHS).

"I was the last one off the plane and all I could see was the camera lights," Davilla said, remembering the day while fingering a photograph of her sisters. "Then I saw my two sisters standing there together and I just stopped and pointed at them and said, 'That's them.' My sister told me later she thought I was going to pass out."

"I was so nervous at first. I thought I wouldn't know what to say to them. But after awhile it seemed like I had always known them," she said.

Davilla is now helping Marion and William Royer of Memphis who would like to arrange a similar reunion between their adopted son and his natural mother, who they believe lives in San Bernardino.

During the past seven months, Davilla has learned much about reuniting families, while at the same time learning about her own new found relatives.

She now knows that her natural mother put her and her older sister Kain up for adoption in the TCHS. Mitchell was raised by her mother as an only child.

Kain was the first to search for her natural mother. She found her, and was then reunited with Mitchell. Their mother didn't tell them about Davilla, but the women learned about their third sister through an

(Continued on A-3, column 3)



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