

Killer routinely toted gun, gag

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The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Convicted Trailside killer David Carpenter kept a gun, wire, rope and a gag in a briefcase as if they were for his "job," a prosecution witness testified during the penalty phase of his trial.

"He described the things as 'this is what I use to gag people with, this is what I use to tie them with,'" Tina Marie Vance, one of the final prosecution witnesses, said Tuesday.

Vance, 18, said Carpenter showed her the items four years ago and told her the gun was for scaring people.

"He was explaining them like this was his job and this was what he did," she said.

The prosecution concluded its penalty phase presentation by showing jurors morgue photographs of a woman found shot to death in Marin County after something was wound around her neck.

Santa Cruz County Public Defender Larry Biggam objected to including the large photos in evidence, but Superior Court Judge Dion Morrow overruled him.

"I think the increased detail of the large photos is valuable," Morrow said after the jury left the courtroom.

The defense is scheduled to begin its case Monday.

The jury has been hearing evidence since Aug. 13. They must decide if Carpenter will spend his life in prison

without parole or die in the gas chamber for the 1981 murders of Heather Scaggs, 20, and Ellen Marie Hansen, also 20, in Santa Cruz County.

During testimony Tuesday the jury heard only about cases and victims for which the balding, 54-year-old Carpenter has been charged but not tried, including some of the five "Trailside Slaying" victims in Marin County.

A separate jury convicted Carpenter of murdering Scaggs and Hansen, as well as raping Scaggs, attempting to rape Hansen, and attempting to murder Hansen's boyfriend, Stephen Haertle, then 20.

Marin County Coroner Ervin Jindrich testified that some kind of rope had been wound tightly around the neck of one Marin County victim, Diane O'Connell, before she was shot to death.

"There's no way to know if she lost consciousness due to the constriction" of the rope before she was killed, Jindrich said.

The picture of this victim that revealed a darkened groove around her neck was one that Biggam objected to admitting into evidence.

Former Santa Cruz County sheriff's Detective James Marston testified that he found a hunting knife, a flashlight with blood on it, a cord with a slip knot, twine and a map of Santa Cruz, among other

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Trailside—

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things, when he searched Carpenter's car in 1970. The investigation stemmed from a case for which Carpenter was never tried, said Santa Cruz County District Attorney Arthur Danner.

Morrow cautioned the jury that references to the items by Vance and Marsten are not "evidence of character."

"They are referred to to show, if they do, what may have been his state of mind at the time," the judge said.

Danner said outside court that the evidence "shows that this guy carried around these things in his car. He had them all the time and he was just looking for an opportunity to use them."

Neither Scaggs nor Hansen was bound before being shot to death, he said.

The murders have been dubbed the "Trailside Slayings" because the victims were found along hiking trails in Northern California.

Carpenter's trial is being held in Los Angeles due to extensive publicity in Santa Cruz.