

Killer tried to lure teen-ager into prostitution

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By LYNN ELBER

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An 18-year-old woman testified that David Carpenter, the convicted Trailside Slayer, told her when she was 14 that she could earn a lot of money by performing sexual favors for customers he would provide.

"He was perfectly serious," Tina Marie Vance testified Thursday in the penalty phase of Carpenter's murder trial.

Carpenter was convicted of killing Ellen Marie Hanson and Heather Scaggs, both 20, in separate 1981 attacks in Santa Cruz County.

The jury will decide if he will die in the gas chamber or go to prison for life without possibility of parole.

Carpenter was also convicted of raping Scaggs, the attempted rape of Hansen, and

the attempted murder of Hansen's boyfriend, Steven Haertle, then 20.

"He knew a lot of friends who would be interested in sexual contact with me, and I could make a lot of money from them," Vance said Carpenter told her in 1980.

She alleged that Carpenter said she would have to sit on the men's laps, act like a little girl and call the men "daddy."

"He would take some of it (the money)," she quoted Carpenter as saying, because he would provide the customers.

Vance said she agreed to the proposition because "I was frightened and I thought if I didn't do anything to upset him, I'd be OK."

However, she said she never had any sexual contact with Carpenter's friends.

Vance, who also testified during the first phase of Carpenter's trial, said the

conversation took place on a car trip from Fresno to San Francisco after she met Carpenter at the house of an acquaintance of her boyfriend's in Fresno.

Carpenter was also visiting the house, and Vance said he convinced her that the car she and her boyfriend had driven from Los Angeles had been reported stolen and that she should come to San Francisco with him.

Santa Cruz District Attorney Arthur Danner recounted Vance's earlier testimony that during the ride, Carpenter showed her a gun and a satchel with rope and wire in it.

Earlier Thursday, the prosecution attempted to show that Carpenter allegedly returned to the spot where he shot Hanson and Haertle and urinated on the earth where Hanson's body had fallen.

Santa Cruz County sheriff's Deputy Robert Tanner testified that six days after the attack in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, he found fresh footprints matching Carpenter's and what appeared to be urine stains.

"The area of the earth was still damp (from the urine)," Tanner said.

Under cross-examination by defense attorney Steve Wright, Tanner said that although soil samples had been taken, no analysis had been done.

Tanner also conceded that other people, including campers and day hikers, had been in the area in the six days between the murder and Tanner's return to continue the investigation.

Carpenter has also been charged with five slayings in Marin County, north of San Francisco, in 1980. He has not been tried on those charges.

Trailside Murders