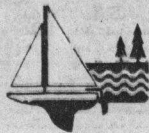


01-05, 10-8 11, 2 5.1.9 Trailside Murders

Local



A-2—Santa Cruz Sentinel — Wednesday, Sept. 12, 1984

Carpenter once ruled not a danger to society

By LINDA DEUTSCH
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Four years before David Carpenter killed two young women, a psychiatrist wrote a report concluding Carpenter was not a danger to society and recommended his release from prison, according to testimony Tuesday in the penalty phase of the Trailside Slayings trial.

Santa Cruz County District Attorney Arthur Danner brought out the report to counter defense psychologist Craig Haney's testimony that Carpenter, a severely troubled man, never received the psychological care he needed in prison.

Danner read part of the report, written by Dr. Stephen M. Raffle, a Berkeley psychologist, to jurors.

"At this time I do not consider Mr.

Carpenter a proximate danger to society," Danner said, quoting the March 23, 1977 report.

The report was submitted to prison authorities in support of Carpenter's parole from the California Medical Facility at Vacaville. Carpenter was released later that year.

Haney said he had reviewed Raffle's report and acknowledged that records show Carpenter had 27 months of therapy in prison.

Danner noted that a prison psychiatrist had written in 1975 that Carpenter underwent therapy and had progressed in overcoming his severe stutter and emotional problems.

"If paroled, inmate is expected to maintain present gains and improve in the future," that report said.

Carpenter, convicted of two 1981 Santa

Cruz slayings, faces trial on charges he murdered five other persons in Marin County in 1980.

Haney, a psychology professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz, also testified that Carpenter denied during a recent interview that he killed his two Santa Cruz victims, lying because he was "embarrassed and ashamed."

"It was important to him not to be involved in those crimes," Haney said. "It was very difficult for him to accept and admit openly some of the things he's done. He was embarrassed and ashamed."

"There were instances in which he lied, and many instances in which he told the truth," Haney said.

Superior Court Judge Dion Morrow asked Haney: "So your answer is you don't know what to believe?"

"That's true," said Haney.

He testified before jurors who must decide whether to send Carpenter to the gas chamber or to prison without possibility of parole.

Carpenter was convicted July 6 of killing Heather Scaggs and Ellen Marie Hansen, both 20, in separate Santa Cruz County attacks in 1981. He was also convicted of raping Scaggs, attempting to rape Hansen and attempting to murder Hansen's boyfriend, Stephen Haertle, then 20.

Carpenter had served 17 years in prison on convictions of attempted murder, rape, robbery and kidnapping before his 1981 arrest in the Trailside cases.

After the Santa Cruz County case, which was tried in Los Angeles because of the extensive publicity in Northern California, Carpenter faces prosecution for five murders on Marin County trails.