

SURF VISITS

site where bodies found

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SANTA CRUZ — The judge, jury and attorneys in the murder trial of Royal Kenneth Hayes left the courtroom Wednesday to walk to the spot where witnesses have said they helped Hayes shoot, mutilate and bury two people.

The panel of eight women and four men stood with other court personnel in the sun-dappled woods less than 100 yards from Empire Grade Road and looked at the shallow depressions where the headless, handless torsos of Lauren deLaet and her companion, Donald MacVicar, were unearthed in March 1982.

They saw the madrone tree against which the victims are said to have leaned, ostensibly to be frisked, when Hayes put a .45 caliber bullet into the backs of their heads on the dark, rainy afternoon of Dec. 29, 1981.

And they saw the area where the animal-ravaged skull of deLaet was found by mushroom hunters in February 1982 — the first evidence of the grisly crime that had taken place in the remote northern corner of the UCSC campus.

Prosecutor Madeleine Boriss had been prepared to show a videotape of the scene, with one of Hayes alleged helpers pointing out various locales. Public Defender Jon Minsloff instead asked the jurors be allowed to view the area themselves.

Hayes remained in his cell in the Water Street jail during the outing.

Earlier in the day, Minsloff had called his first witnesses in his fight to free his client. Hayes who could be sentenced to death if convicted of the double murder.

Hayes is charged with killing deLaet, 36, and MacVicar, 32, after bringing them to Santa Cruz with a promise of a \$250,000 cocaine deal. Two women, who say they helped him bait the trap and spring it on the San Francisco-area couple, testified the victims thought they were taking a back way in to a cocaine dealer's cabin when they walked into the woods.

Minsloff called to the stand a man who said he had been friends with MacVicar since the two went to a Glendale high school together. Glen Murta, now of San Francisco, testified that MacVicar was a longtime drug dealer who sold large quantities of drugs.

One earlier witness had said Hayes and deLaet had been lovers. But two women who knew deLaet have testified that she and Hayes were just very good friends. In fact, one testified, Hayes was trying to arrange a marriage for deLaet with an heir to a large fortune.

Minsloff has said he will prove Hayes did not kill MacVicar and deLaet, but has declined to discuss how he plans to proceed.