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# Santa Cruz Sentinel

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*Trailside Murders*

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## Carpenter's Name Surfaced Early

By PEGGY R. TOWNSEND  
Sentinel Staff Writer

David Joseph Carpenter was named as a suspect in the shooting of two UC Davis students in Henry Cowell Park as early as five days after the incident.

District Attorney Art Danner this morning said investigators were given Carpenter's name April 4, five days after 20-year-old Ellen Hansen was fatally shot and her companion Steven Russell Haertle was wounded as they walked in the park.

Danner said he believed investigators would have focused on Carpenter at some time, but the clues from San Jose Police "brought the focus much sooner."

Carpenter, a 51-year-old San Francisco printer, was arrested Friday in connection with the shooting of Hansen and Haertle.

Monday, he was arraigned on charges of murder, attempted murder and two special circumstances that could mean the death penalty if he is convicted.

Carpenter, who also is suspected of at least five murders in Marin County, did not enter a plea to the charges and the hearing was postponed until June 8.

Carpenter appeared tense and rigid as he was led into the small courtroom at the new Santa Cruz County Jail Monday afternoon.

He sported a close-cropped beard. None of the composite drawings of Carpenter showed a beard and Danner this morning refused to speculate when the murder suspect may have grown the beard.

"Is David Joseph Carpenter your true name?" asked Municipal Court Judge Richard McAdams.

"Ye-ye-ye-ye-yes," Carpenter replied as he got up from his chair next to his court-appointed attorney Larry Biggam.

Carpenter, who reportedly suffers from a severe stutter, appeared ill at ease after the exchange.

"I recognize your problem and you can just nod your head," McAdams told him.

Carpenter remained silent throughout the rest of the hearing. However, he nodded his head in agreement to the question if he agreed to the three-week delay in entering a plea to the charges.

At the request of Biggam, McAdams also ordered that all court documents relating to the search and arrest warrant served on Carpenter be sealed.

He also continued the no-bail status for Carpenter who is being held under maximum security at the new Water Street jail.

Carpenter was under heavy security during Monday's hearing.

In a press conference this morning (see photo on Page 2), Danner talked about the investigation surrounding Carpenter's arrest but refused to comment on many specific details.

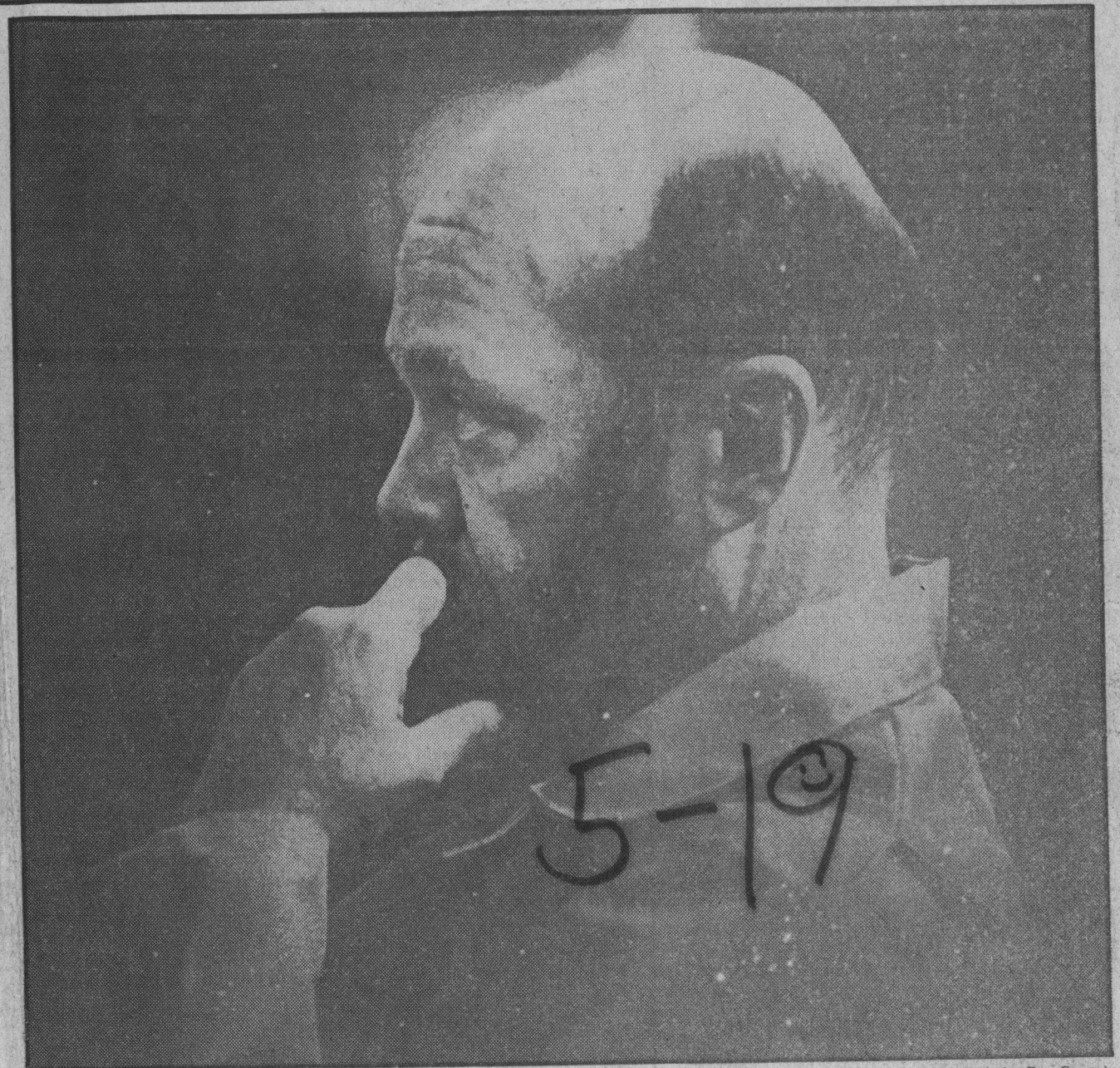
He said someone had given Carpenter's name to investigators a short time after the killing in Henry Cowell Park.

Sources said Carpenter's name had surfaced three times before San Jose Police contacted local authorities about their suspicions regarding Carpenter.

Danner maintained investigators would have looked at Carpenter during their review of the case without the San Jose clues, but that it probably would not have been so early because of the way investigations have to be conducted.

Danner confirmed Carpenter was part of a lineup in front of witnesses in the case, but refused to comment on whether Carpenter was identified by them.

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David J. Carpenter was arraigned for Cowell Park killing Monday.

(Sentinel photo by Dan Coyro)



# Carpenter's Name

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He also refused to comment on whether Haertle came to Santa Cruz for the lineup and had identified Carpenter. He did say Haertle was a major witness in the case. "You can draw your own conclusions," he told the press.

Danner also confirmed investigators are looking into a possible connection between Carpenter and the murders of two Santa Cruz women — 19-year-old Jennifer McDowell and 21-year-old Diane Steffy.

"It is routine procedure and good investigation technique to check out other open and unsolved homicides with regard to any apprehended suspect," said Danner.

But, he added, there is no connection with the murders "at this time."

A source said investigators were concentrating on the Henry Cowell shooting rather than the two 1979 murders because of the upcoming trial.

Marin District Attorney Jerry Herman also said his office is continuing its investigation into at least five killings in his county that may be linked to Carpenter.

But, no charges have been filed.

Danner this morning said investigators had not recovered a murder weapon in the case and also refused to comment on reports that a woman who used to live with Carpenter had given him a gold windbreaker similar to the one seen by witnesses to the Henry Cowell shooting.

He also said he did not wish to speculate about differences between the Carpenter and the published description of the Henry Cowell murderer.

The murder suspect was described as having greying blond hair. At the hearing Monday, Carpenter's hair appeared to be dark with greying streaks.

The suspect also was seen wearing horn-rimmed glasses. Carpenter wasn't wearing glasses Monday. The murder suspect did not have a beard.

"I don't want to speculate on when he grew a beard," said Danner.

Danner also said Carpenter's arrest was a "fine effort" by the Santa Cruz Sheriff's Department, the Marin County Sheriff's Department, San Jose Police, San Francisco Police, the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms board and the FBI.