

## Trailside Murders

# Attorneys cross-examine camper

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LOS ANGELES — A camper who met Trailside Slayings defendant David Carpenter on a mountain path as he searched for a wounded woman was asked today why he failed to pick Carpenter out of a lineup or identify him at a preliminary hearing.

Fred Morse said he got a good look at Carpenter, even though Carpenter stepped behind a tree and adjusted his backpack as the men passed each other on a trail in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park.

Morse, in testimony last Thursday, identified Carpenter as the man he met on the trail. However, in a lineup in Santa Cruz on May 15, prosecutors say Morse selected the wrong man, and at a 1981 preliminary hearing, Morse testified the man he saw on the trail was not in the courtroom.

Morse and his fiance were hiking in the park when they intercepted a bleeding Steve Haertle, who told them he and his girlfriend, Ellen Hansen, had been attacked. While his fiance tended to Haertle, Morse tried to find Ms. Hansen.

At the preliminary hearing, Morse said he saw Carpenter when he entered the courtroom, but when he was asked to identify the man he saw on the trail, "I looked over and I didn't see him sitting there."

He added that it was possible his view was obstructed in

the courtroom.

It was also pointed out that the day Morse says he saw Carpenter, he was clean shaven, but when he viewed the lineup, all of the men in it were bearded.

Carpenter is charged in Santa Cruz County with two counts of murder, one count of attempted murder, one count of rape and one count of attempted rape.

Because of pretrial publicity, Carpenter's trial was moved to Los Angeles, where two juries — one for the trial and one for the penalty phase if needed — were seated during an 83-day selection process.

Only the penalty jury will be told about charges against Carpenter in Marin County. He has been charged with five slayings there, all occurring along trails north of San Francisco in the fall of 1980.

Carpenter, who served 17 years in prison for attempted murder, rape and robbery and kidnapping convictions, was arrested May 15, 1981, 13 days after one of his alleged Santa Cruz County victims, Heather Skaggs, 20, disappeared.

The San Jose State University student's body was found on a hiking trail in Big Basin State Park about a week later. She had told friends on May 2 she planned to meet Carpenter at a store near her San Jose home.

The other Santa Cruz victim was Ms. Hansen, also 20, who with Haertle was attacked on March 29, 1981. Haertle survived.