

Trailside Murders

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# Local



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## I made notes' about killer, says witness in the trial of Trailside slaying suspect

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LOS ANGELES (AP) — In dramatic terms, Steven Haertle told a jury why he could identify Trailside slaying suspect David Carpenter as the man who killed Haertle's girlfriend and wounded him three years ago in a state park near Santa Cruz.

Testifying Tuesday in Los Angeles County Superior Court, the 23-year-old University of California, Davis graduate disclosed his thoughts as Ellen Hansen, 20, was shot to death in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park.

"I was thinking I was going to die," Haertle said, "I was thinking I ought to remember what this guy looked like if I didn't die ... I made notes about him in my head."

Haertle is the sole survivor of attacks authorities have sought to link to the Santa Cruz County deaths of Ms.

Hansen, Heather Scaggs of San Jose and five other women in Marin County.

Carpenter is now being tried on charges of killing Ms. Hansen and, two months later, Ms. Scaggs at Big Basin State Park. He has not yet been tried on the Marin County charges.

Under cross examination, defense lawyer Larry Biggam appeared to make little effort to tear down Haertle's account of the assaults. The challenges to Haertle's testimony hit at seeming discrepancies.

Haertle acknowledged that he had given conflicting estimates of the width of the stripes on the killer's jacket, saying once they were 3 inches wide, but later that they were 1½ or 2 inches wide.

Santa Cruz County District Attorney Art Danner has

charged Carpenter with five "special circumstances" in the alleged killings.

If the jurors find that any of the alleged circumstances existed, Carpenter could draw the death penalty. If there is no such finding, the most he could get would be life in prison.

One of the alleged special circumstances is that Carpenter lay in wait for his victims in Cowell Park. Another is that Ms. Hansen was killed during a rape attack.

The case, before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Dion Morrow, was moved from Santa Cruz County because of a finding Carpenter couldn't get a fair trial in view of all the pretrial publicity.