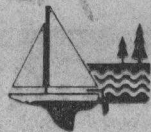


Local



Trailside Murders

A-2—Santa Cruz Sentinel — Friday, Oct. 12, 1984

Carpenter trial costs may hit \$1 million

By JAMIE MARKS

Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — The defense outspent the prosecution by more than two-to-one in the Trailside Slayings case, according to figures released by District Attorney Art Danner Thursday.

The final bill for the case might rise to \$1 million, Danner estimated. "I don't think the criminal justice system has to be that expensive," he said.

Danner called for reforms in the criminal justice system in a speech Thursday night to a small, but receptive, audience of the Live Oak Community Association. It was his first public address since a Los Angeles Superior Court jury last week recommended Trailside Slayer David Carpenter die in the gas chamber.

The trial lasted nearly one year to the day.

Under a formula worked out by the state, Danner said, the state will pick up costs over \$530,000, with the remainder falling on the county's shoulders.

According to figures Danner received from County Administrative Analyst Carol Girvetz, the breakdown of costs is as follows:

As of May 1984

- \$408,000 for defense, including the salaries of two attorneys, investigative fees and expert witnesses.

- \$21,690 in Sheriff's Office overtime and preparation prior to the arrest in May 1981 of Carpenter.

- \$100,000 for prosecution, not including the salaries of two prosecutors, which could push the costs closer to \$200,000.

Estimated costs through trial

- \$300,000 for defense.
- \$100,000 for prosecution budgeted, but Danner said the actual amount may only

DA is happy to be living in a place like Santa Cruz

SANTA CRUZ — "You take things for granted living in a community like this until you have to live in a place like Los Angeles for a long period of time. I just don't understand how people can live there."

That's the way District Attorney Art Danner, looking relaxed and relieved, opened his remarks to the Live Oak Community Association meeting Thursday night.

It was Danner's first public appearance since the conclusion last week of the year-long Trailside Killer case in Los Angeles, and Danner let it be known he was glad to be home.

"It amazed me how much better off we

are," said Danner. "The question that occurred to me was, '... do you people keep living down there.'"

During the four-month *voir dire* — the process of selecting a jury — Danner said he was surprised by how much violence and suffering had touched the lives of the prospective jurors. "Almost everybody had had their car stolen, and all had been victims of some kind of theft.

"Many suffered serious violent crime and nine had been exposed to murder within their close family or circle of friends," said Danner.

— By Jamie Marks

be \$25,000 to \$30,000.

- \$70,000 to \$80,000 in courtroom costs.

Danner said one reason the costs are so high is that "the defense says we need X, Y and Z. A judge reviews the claims, but he's concerned with 'what if this thing gets reversed.' Then you end up with the situation like Juan Corona, where the re-trial cost \$5 million."

Like the fable of the emperor with no clothes, Danner said the criminal justice system is at the point where it needs change.

"Weigh the other points of view and decide what you want" from the criminal justice system, said Danner. "It's a complex system ... but we need to make the system more responsible for its actions, otherwise it gets out of control."

Danner called for reforms, including legislation that would give the federal government jurisdiction to try "serial murderers" like Carpenter, whose crimes occur in two counties or states.

The district attorney said this would be one way of getting around the state Supreme Court, which in his mind is impeding the will of the people on the death penalty.

Danner said sequestered *voir dire* in death penalty cases — the process of picking jurors one at a time — has made jury selection "extremely lengthy," and he suggested this practice be dropped.

Also, Danner said, the change of venue laws should be changed. "In my opinion, there is no need for it," said Danner.

Carpenter still faces trial in Marin

County for the majority of his alleged crimes — five murders and numerous counts of rape, attempted rape and kidnapping for a two-year string of murders on remote trails in Marin County.

The reign of terror caused by the Trailside Slayings forced Point Reyes National Seashore and Mt. Tamalpais State Park — and later parks throughout all of Northern California — to admonish hikers to stay away or only hike in groups.

The trial began Oct. 9, 1983 with jury selection in Los Angeles, and ended on Oct. 5, 1984.

The first of two juries convicted Carpenter, 54, on July 7 of two first-degree murders for the 1981 slayings of Ellen Marie Hansen and Heather Scaggs, both 20 at the time.

Carpenter was also convicted of raping Scaggs and attempting to rape Hansen, and of attempting to murder her boyfriend, Steven Haertle. Although the killings occurred in Santa Cruz County, the trial was held in Los Angeles because of the extensive pre-trial publicity.

Danner had rejected a plea of guilty by the defense in exchange for Carpenter's life.

He defended his decision to seek capital punishment by saying he believes that Carpenter has "killed as many as ... eight people and kidnapped or raped 15 others."

It was for them and the two mothers of the murder victims that he pursued the case. "Everytime I (felt) down, I'd look back and see the mothers of the two victims sitting there," said a somber Danner.

His talk touched the heart of one Watsonville woman in the audience whose daughter was murdered 2½ years ago in Oakland. "I felt I was the guilty party. It's terrible how they make you feel. I felt I was the criminal," said the woman.