

Weather

Partly Cloudy Tonight,
But Warmer Saturday.
Small Craft Advisory
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Trailside Murder
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Afternoon

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Trailside Suspect In Custody

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A convicted rapist suspected of being the so-called Trailside Killer was arrested in San Francisco this morning on a warrant charging him with the shooting of two college students in Henry Cowell Park March 29.

David Joseph Carpenter, 51, was arrested outside his Sussex Street home at 7:20 a.m. by detectives from Santa Cruz and Marin counties. He was brought to Santa Cruz County Jail today and is being held without bail.

District Attorney Art Danner said today that Carpenter was convicted of rape and robbery in Santa Cruz County in 1970. Carpenter was sent to prison and is currently on parole, Danner said. (See related story below).

Carpenter, a printer at the California Trade School in Hayward, surfaced as a

suspect in a series of trailside killings in Marin and Santa Cruz counties following a tip by the San Jose Police Department, according to Sheriff Al Noren today.

San Jose Police said Carpenter's name was developed early this week during an investigation into the disappearance of a San Jose woman last Saturday.

The woman was last seen at a small shopping center near her Willow Street home. She was to meet someone at that shopping center for a trip to Santa Cruz to purchase a new car, said police.

A police spokesman said information was developed on Carpenter and when he was found to fit the sketch circulated by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, investigators here and in Marin County were notified. The spokesman said a warrant was then obtained leading to the arrest this morning.

Danner today said the warrant charges

Carpenter with the murder of Ellen Marie Hansen, 20, and the attempted murder of her companion Steven Russell Haertle, 20. It also alleges special allegations that could mean the death penalty if Carpenter is convicted. The allegations include charges Carpenter lay in wait for his victims and that the murder occurred during the commission or attempted commission of a rape.

Several weeks after the killing, detectives announced they had linked the Henry Cowell shooting to at least five trailside killings in Marin County. Today, Danner said the link between the cases involved "firearms." He would not comment further on the clues, however.

Carpenter is suspected of confronting Hansen and Haertle as they hiked on a popular trail in Henry Cowell Park. Hansen was shot once in the head and died a short time later. Haertle managed to make his way back to camp for help.

No charges against Carpenter have been filed in Marin County, according to Marin Assistant District Attorney Mike Gridley.

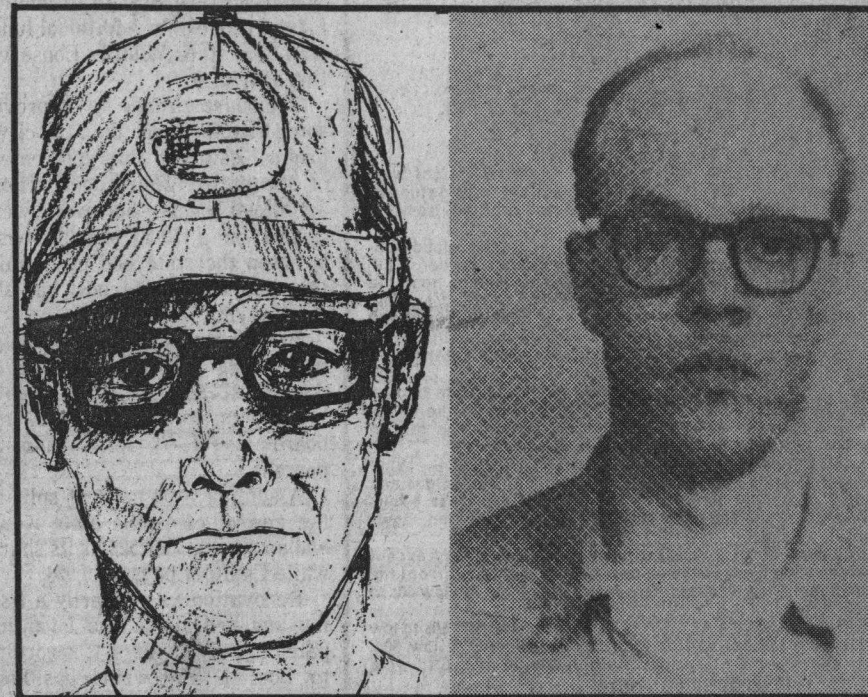
The killings in Marin County began August 1979 when a 44-year-old Mill Valley woman was found shot to death as she hiked on a trail in Mount Tamalpais. Seven months later, a 23-year-old Mill Valley woman — Barbara Schwartz — was stabbed to death in the same area.

Then on Oct. 23, 1979, a 26-year-old student was shot to death in an amphitheater on Mount Tam. The woman was identified as Anne Evelyn Anderson.

Two months later, authorities discovered the bodies of four persons in Point Reyes National Seashore.

The nude bodies of two women — Diana O'Connell, 22, San Jose and Shana May, 25, Troy, Idaho — were found off a wooded

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Police Sketch Of Suspect

Carpenter After 1970 Arrest

Trailside

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trail at the national park. At the same time, searchers found the bodies of a young couple in a shallow grave a short distance away.

The couple was identified as Cynthia Moreland, 18, Cotati, Calif., and Richard Stowers, 19, Petaluma.

Following the Cowell killings, the sheriff's office set up a special task force. Investigators were flooded with calls from citizens who thought they had spotted the killer.

Carpenter was one of those named by an anonymous tipster, said Noren today. When San Jose Police notified local investigators of the possible connection, the task force began an intensive investigation.

Noren and Danner said they did not want to release much information about the case for fear of prejudicing the case.

The district attorney said he does not believe Carpenter had ever lived in Santa Cruz County, "but he had visited," he said.