Carpenter verdict due

LOS ANGELES — The jury in the Trailside Slayings trial had decided this morning whether convicted killer David Joseph Carpenter will spend his life in prison or die in the gas chamber, it was announced at press time today.

The decision was not to be made public

until 2 p.m.

The announcement came at 10:30 a.m. on the sixth day of deliberations.

Carpenter, 54, has been convicted of killing Heather Scaggs and Ellen Marie Hansen beside hiking trails in Santa Cruz County in 1981. He was also convicted of raping Scaggs, attempting to rape Hansen and attempting to murder Hansen's boyfriend, Steven Haertle.