

Ex-wife: Killer had split personality

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LOS ANGELES (AP) — The ex-wife of convicted Trailside Slayer David Carpenter described him as a husband who could be charming and cordial, while masking his true feelings.

"He has the ability to be all the things you expect him to be," said Ellen Cooke, who was married to Carpenter from 1955 to 1961. But, she added, "He really is quite different."

The prosecution ended penalty phase testimony Wednesday. Closing arguments are scheduled Tuesday before the jury which will decide whether Carpenter is to be sentenced to the gas chamber or life in prison without possibility of parole.

Cooke described Carpenter as "very domineering in our relationship" and said he kept her out of important decisions, such as which house to buy.

"He basically found the house for us," she said as Carpenter watched from across the courtroom. She testified she knew nothing of his previous criminal record until a parole officer visited their home in 1960.

Cooke divorced Carpenter after he ran into trouble with the law. She visited him

in jail after he was arrested, where she said he told her not to worry about him if he was sentenced to prison.

"He stated I didn't have to worry because he knew all the games," she said. "He knew all the answers."

Correctional officers called by the defense have testified Carpenter was a model prisoner during earlier stays in prison.

July 6 Carpenter was convicted of the first-degree murders of Ellen Marie Hansen and Heather Scaggs, both 20, in separate attacks along Santa Cruz County state park trails in 1981.

In other testimony Wednesday, Carpenter was described as a "calculating, intentional" criminal by a psychologist called by the prosecution.

"He did know right from wrong," said Dr. Stanton Samenow, a clinical psychologist from Alexandria, Va. "Mr. Carpenter was calculating, intentional and planning in what he did."

Samenow, who took part in a 14-year study of 255 criminals at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C., said Carpenter's thought patterns were similar to career criminals he examined in the study.

He also testified that Carpenter refused to answer questions when he tried to interview him in the Los Angeles County Jail at the request of prosecutors Sept. 7.

"He did not trust me and he did not want to speak with me," Samenow said. "He did not want to talk with me about anything."

His evaluation of Carpenter was based on his examination of court records, reports by probation officers and law enforcement officials dating back to the 1940's, and interviews with three people who knew Carpenter, Samenow testified.

The husky ex-convict still faces trial on five counts of murder in the trailside deaths of five persons in Marin County in 1980. The Santa Cruz charges were tried in Los Angeles County because of extensive pretrial publicity in Northern California.