

✓ Card written by victim, says witness

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SANTA CRUZ — A close friend of murder victim Lauren deLaet testified Tuesday about a letter the prosecution contends her alleged killer persuaded deLaet to write to cover up her absence after her murder.

Linda Lee "Isa" Haggerty, 35, who said she once was a dancer in a San Francisco bar, was one of the prosecution's final witnesses in the trial of Royal Kenneth Hayes on charges of homicide, assault, false imprisonment and cocaine possession.

If convicted of all charges and the special circumstance of double murder, the 47-year-old Hayes could be sent to his death in the gas chamber.

He is accused of forcing two women to help him set up, commit and conceal the murders of deLaet, 36, and her companion, Donald MacVicar, 32, in a ripoff of \$250,000 in drug money here Dec. 29, 1981.

Haggerty testified she had known deLaet since 1967, and had lived with her on three separate occasions. She said deLaet had been married during the '70s to a South American man named Jose, identified in earlier testimony as a cocaine dealer.

She said deLaet, allegedly nicknamed "Gypsy" by Hayes, was a frequent user of LSD. DeLaet began using cocaine in 1980, Haggerty testified.

Haggerty said Hayes approached her at a party in San Rafael in the fall of 1981, and asked if she could supply him with several pounds of cocaine.

She said she did not like his "energy," and decided not to get involved.

Haggerty said at the time she was waiting to begin serving an 18-month prison term after a conviction for conspiring to sell LSD.

Haggerty also identified the handwriting on a card mailed to Hayes from Florida after the killings as deLaet's.

DeLaet wrote that she and MacVicar were headed south for a long vacation.

The prosecution contends Hayes persuaded deLaet to write the card to him in preparation for her murder.

Other witnesses have testified the fingerprints on the card were carefully preserved and it was taken to Minnesota by the man who had delivered a gun and silencer to Hayes before the killings.

Sondra Johnson, the wife of the man who allegedly built the silencer, testified she flew to Florida Jan. 14 and mailed the card to Hayes. She flew back to Minneapolis the same day.

The eight-woman, four-man jury is scheduled to travel this afternoon to the corner of the UCSC campus where the killings are alleged to have occurred, and where the bodies were recovered.

Defense attorney Jon Minsloff was scheduled to begin his case today.