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# 'Trailside killer' prosecutor paints grisly murder portrait

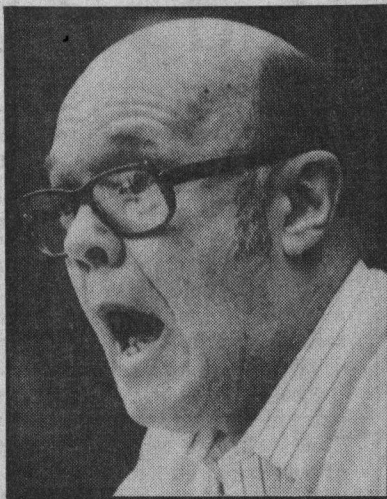
SAN DIEGO (AP) — A grisly tale of murder and rape in Northern California parks unfolded during opening arguments Tuesday in the trial of David J. Carpenter, who is accused of ambushing five hikers, four of them women.

"The five Marin victims were all executed. Each one of them was shot in the back of the head. The same murder weapon was used on each and every one of these victims," said John Posey, an assistant deputy district attorney from Marin County, where the killings occurred in 1980.

Defense attorney Steven Berlin, a Marin County public defender, did not dispute the killings were the work of one man using the same weapon, but he said prosecutors were mistaken in charging Carpenter.

"Mr. Carpenter is not the 'trailside killer,'" Berlin said. "During each of these crimes, Mr. Carpenter ... was doing something else while the killer was in the parks committing murder."

Carpenter, who is already facing the gas chamber for two related murders, sat quietly throughout the presentations by the attorneys, tak-



**David J. Carpenter**

**Faces gas chamber**

ing notes on a legal pad as they spoke.

Posey, in a methodical, narrative style, spelled out in chilling detail the final hours of the five victims: Cynthia Moreland, 18, of Cotati; her boyfriend, Richard Stowers, 19, Petaluma; Anne Alderson, 26, San Rafael; Diane O'Connell, 22, San

Jose; and Shauna May, 25, Idaho.

He told the jury how their relatives recalled the type of clothes they were wearing as they prepared for the nature outings, their occupations and future visits with friends and family they had planned but would never get to enjoy.

Moreland and Stowers were killed on Oct. 11, 1980, at Point Reyes National Seashore, where they had gone hiking. Their bodies were found six weeks later, during the search that also turned up the bodies of O'Connell and May, who disappeared from the same hiking trail on Nov. 28, 1980.

Alderson was found dead Oct. 13, 1980 near a hiking trail on Mount Tamalpais, just north of San Francisco.

Carpenter also is charged with rape in the killings of Alderson and May and attempted rape in the murder of O'Connell, a special circumstance that could lead to a second death penalty finding against him. A second special-circumstance allegation involves multiple homicide.