

Trailside Murders

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Carpenter jury is still deliberating

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A jury pondering the fate of convicted Trailside Slayer David Carpenter ended its fourth day of deliberations Tuesday without deciding

whether Carpenter should die for the slayings of two women.

Carpenter, 54, was convicted in July of the 1981 first-degree murders of Ellen Marie Hansen and Heather Scaggs, both 20, in Santa Cruz County. He was also convicted of raping Ms. Scaggs, attempting to rape Ms. Hansen, and attempting to murder Ms. Hansen's boyfriend, Steve Haertle, also 20.

The nearly five-month trial was moved to Los Angeles after a judge decided that

extensive pretrial publicity would have jeopardized Carpenter's right to a fair trial in Northern California.

The penalty-phase jury has a choice of two penalties for Carpenter: life in prison without possibility of parole or death in the gas chamber.

Carpenter also is charged in the slayings of five women in Marin County, who like the Santa Cruz victims were killed along park trails. He has not yet been tried on those charges.