

David Carpenter

“The Trailside Killer”



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Date	Age	Life Event
05/06/30		David Joseph Carpenter was born to Elwood and Frances Carpenter in San Francisco.
05/33-adulthood	3-18	David has a pronounced stutter. Is teased in school due to stutter and dress. He was also made to take ballet and violin lessons. He was dressed in a fancy manner. Beaten repeatedly and severely by his mother.
1944	14	Committed to Napa State Hospital for sex offenses.
1947	17	Molested his two cousins, ages 8 and 3; Sentenced to California Youth Authority
11/05/55	25	Married Ellen Heattle, she was 19 years old.
09/56	26	First child, Michael David, born.
07/03/58	28	Second child, Gabrielle Louise, born.
06/17/60	30	Third child, Circe Anne, born. Wife reports that Carpenter had enormous sexual appetite, had to have intercourse three times nightly.
07/60	30	Attacked Lois DeAndrade. Brought clothesline, knife, and claw hammer. Stabbed her hand, hit her in head with hammer at least six times. Military Police Officer Wayne Hicks hears DeAndrade and arrives on scene. Carpenter attempts to shoot Hicks but misses. Hicks returns fire, hitting Carpenter two times, once in abdomen and once in leg. Carpenter is charged with 1 count of assault with intent to commit murder and 2 counts of assault with a deadly weapon.
03/09/61	30	Sentenced to 5 years on 2 counts and 4 years on 1 count for a total of 14 years in U.S. Federal Court. Offenses were committed on federal property. During stay in prison, psychiatrist reports Carpenter has “sociopathic personality disorder” and an IQ of 125.

03/27/62	31	Final divorce from Ellen decreed.
04/07/69	38	Paroled from prison.
08/08/69	39	Married Helen.
01/27/70	39	Attacked Cheryl Lynn Smith. He stabbed her, ripped her clothes off, but she managed to get away. She got his license plate number. The same day Carpenter broke into a home, kidnapped, and raped Wilma Joyce (no last name to protect identity). He then stole her car.
01/29/70	39	Held Sharon O'Donnell with shotgun. She escaped while he was changing license plates.
02/03/70	39	Stole a car from Lucille Davis.
02/03/70	39	Kidnapped and raped Barbara (no last name used to protect her identity). Her infant was present during attack and she remarked that Carpenter was kind to her child. He was arrested the same day.
04/27/70	39	Escaped from jail by cutting through bars and going out the skylight. Recaptured a short time later.
05/01/70	39	Convicted of armed robbery and sentenced to 5 years to life; convicted of kidnapping and sentenced to 1 year to 25 years; convicted of auto theft and escape and sentenced to six months to 5 years on each.
10/29/70	40	Convicted of kidnapping and robbery through a plea bargain in Santa Cruz.
05/21/79	49	Paroled to a federal halfway house.
08/19/79	49	Murdered Edda Kane. She was shot and left naked in Mt. Tamalpais State Park.
09/06/79	49	Released from halfway house and moves in with elderly parents.
02/80	49	Began working for key chain distributor.
03/08/80	49	Murdered Barbara Swartz. She was stabbed repeatedly and found in Mt. Tamalpais State Park.
10/11/80	50	Rick Stowers and Cindy Moreland disappear.
10/15/80	50	Anne Alderson found dead. She had been raped, shot 3 times and redressed. Near Mt. Tamalpais State Park.
11/28/80	50	Murdered Diane O'Connell and Shauna May. Raped, strangled, and shot O'Connell. Possible sexual assault on May and shot her, in Point Reyes Park. Found in shallow graves. Rick Stowers and Cindy Moreland found dead, also in Point Reyes Park.
12/28/80	50	Anna Kelly Menjivar disappears.
01/21/81	50	Candace Dawn Townsend moves in with Carpenter and his parents.
02/81	50	Begins working for Econo Quick Print.
03/29/81	50	Murdered Ellen Hansen. Shot her three times. Shot her companion, Steven Haertle. He survived to give an accurate description of killer. Along with this, other hikers had noticed a red, foreign car around the time of the murders. They were in Henry Cowell Redwood State Park.
04/30/81	50	Candace Townsend moves out.
05/02/81	50	Heather Scaggs disappears.
05/15/81	51	Carpenter is arrested.
05/24/81	51	Heather Scaggs' body is found. Had been covered with brush in a shallow grave. Appeared to have been raped. Shot and found in Big Basin Redwood State Park. She was a co-worker of Carpenter's. Police go to question him at his house and notice his red Fiat car in the driveway and that he matches the police sketch of the suspected "trailside killer." Police run background check and find past felony arrests. Then they show Stephen Haertle a mug shot of him and he fingers Carpenter as the killer.
06/16/81	51	Kelly Menjivar's remains are found in Castle Rock State Park.
07/31/81	51	Charged with 5 counts of murder, rape, and attempted rape in Santa Cruz County. Change of venue granted due to pretrial publicity - moved to Los Angeles.
04/05/84	53	Two juried impaneled at once, one to determine guilt and one for sentencing, a total of 33 people - jurors and alternates. Took 83 days to complete voir dire

		questioning.
07/06/84	54	Found guilty of all charges.
11/16/84	54	Sentenced to death.
01/31/85	54	Charged with 5 counts of murder, 2 counts of rape, and 1 count of attempted rape in Marin County.
09/13/86	56	Change of venue granted. Moved to San Diego.
05/10/88	58	Convicted of 5 counts of murder, rape, and attempted rape in Marin County cases.
06/27/88	58	Carpenter sentenced to death a second time for Marin County cases.
06/14/89	59	Mistrial declared because a juror had found out Carpenter was convicted of murder and sentenced to death in Santa Cruz County cases. Later retried and found guilty of all Marin County charges.
04/28/97	66	California Supreme Court upheld the death penalty for Carpenter.
11/30/99	69	California Supreme Court upheld the death penalty for Carpenter for the second time. To date, he is still incarcerated in San Quentin Prison.

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	10
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	California
Type of killer	Mixed lust
Height	5'10"

Childhood Information

Date of birth	05/06/30
Location	San Francisco, CA
Birth order	2 nd of 3
Number of siblings	1 older half-brother who lived in another state, 1 younger sister
XYY?	No
Raised by	Both parents
Birth category	Middle of father, oldest child of mother
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	N/A
Age of family event	N/A
Problems in school?	Yes, disciplinary
Teased while in school?	Yes, because of stutter, fancy clothes, and taking ballet and violin lessons
Physically attractive?	No, balding, crooked and yellow teeth, white and hairless hands
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	Yes, stuttered badly
Head injury?	No
Physically abused?	Yes, beaten by mother, went to school with bruises on legs, black eyes, visible welts
Psychologically abused?	Yes, by both mother and father, told he was worthless.
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Package/postal delivery driver
Age of first sexual experience	Pulled down girl's underpants at age 8.
Age when first had intercourse	14
Mother's occupation	Housewife
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Yes, described as a heavy drinker.
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No

Cognitive Ability

Highest grade in school	10th, but complete GED at McNeil Island.
Highest degree	Trade school for printing
Grades in school	Excellent
IQ	125
Work History	
Served in the military?	Yes
Branch	Coast Guard
Type of discharge	Honorable
Saw combat duty	No
Killed enemy during service?	No
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	No
Types of jobs worked	Key chain distributor, Econo Print Shop
Employment status during series	Employed at key chain distributor and print shop
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Divorced
Number of children	3
Lives with his children	No, children's mother did not allow visitation. He saw his children sporadically as adults.
Living with	Parents
Triad	
Animal torture	Yes
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	Yes, only confirmed by one source.
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	Yes, smoked marijuana.
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist?	Yes, during both incarcerations was examined by psychologist (prior to serial killings).
Time in forensic hospital?	Yes, at age 14, Napa State Hospital
Diagnosis	Sociopathic personality disorder
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Assault and Battery with a hammer on a woman in 1961, two counts of kidnapping and robbery in 1970.
Spend time in jail?	Yes. Escaped with four other inmates after being sentenced for kidnapping and robbery, but before being sent to prison.
Spend time in prison?	Yes, in 1961 and in 1970
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	10
Victim type	Hikers and joggers in woodlands around San Francisco and Santa Cruz.
Killer age at start of series	49 years old.
Gender of victims	Women and the men they happened to be with.
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	18 – 44
Method of killing	Execution style gun shots to the head or repeated stabbing.
Type of serial killer	Mixed lust

How close did killer live?	Drove to crime, but didn't live too far away.
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Weapon	Killer brought with him a gun and a knife.
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Raped four victims and attempted to rape another, but didn't and killed her.
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	Yes, in the one case where he stabbed the victim repeatedly in the chest.
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	No
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	Yes, one victim, Anne Alderson, was found lying against a tree.
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	No
Robbed victim or location	Stole vehicle.
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Yes. Six victims were simply left where they fell dead.
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	Yes. Four victims were found in shallow graves not far from where he killed them.
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	May 14, 1981
Date convicted	July 6, 1984
Sentence	Death by the gas chamber at San Quentin.
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	San Quentin State Prison, California
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	N/A

References

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