

'Mountain man' gets life in rifle attack on 2 hikers

Associated Press

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — A man who lived in a cave near the Appalachian Trail was formally sentenced yesterday to life in prison for fatally shooting a Virginia woman and gravely injuring her companion.

Before sentencing Stephen Roy Carr, 22, who was dubbed a "mountain man" while he was being sought after the shootings, Adams County Judge Oscar F. Spicer allowed the woman who survived to read a statement to the court.

Claudia Brenner of Ithaca, N.Y., was shot in the face and arms with a 22-caliber rifle last May 13 along the Appalachian Trail in Michaux State Forest in Franklin Township, Adams County. Despite her severe injuries, she walked three miles for help.

Her companion, Rebecca Wight, 29, of Blacksburg, Va., died from gunshot wounds to the head.

Carr was captured several days

later and was convicted of first-degree murder Oct. 27 after a nonjury trial. During the brief trial, his attorney said that Carr had felt rejected by women his entire life and that he became enraged when he saw the women making love, believing they were trying to taunt him.

Brenner, 32, read a two-page statement in court in a loud and emotional voice.

"I wish that the inconceivable pain and horror I experienced were fears with no basis in reality, that the sound of shots — that shattering reality in my mind — was a bad dream from which I could awaken," said Brenner.

"Every time I feel my cheek, my teeth, my neck, my heart, I know I have been permanently harmed. . . . I'm thankful that the court system substantiates the truth of the completely unprovoked and pointless murder," she said.



Stephen Roy Carr
Killed one woman, wounded another