



AP wirephoto

Richard Trenton Chase was sentenced Thursday to die in the San Quentin gas chamber. Chase was convicted of six counts of first-degree murder. The murders came to be known as the 'vampire' killings.

## Death sentence for 'vampire'

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) — A jury said Thursday that convicted "vampire killer" Richard Chase should die in the gas chamber for six murders.

The eight-woman, four-man jury returned the verdict just before 2 p.m. after beginning deliberations late Wednesday. Deliberations lasted a total of 4½ hours.

Jurors found the killings fit the special circumstances section of California law which deals with multiple killings, saying Chase should be executed on the charges of six counts of murder.

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge John Schatz, who scheduled sentencing for June 8,

must review the findings. He is not bound to impose the death penalty, and could sentence Chase to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The same jury last week found the 28-year-old Chase guilty of the 1978 murders in Sacramento, 90 miles to the northeast. Earlier this week the jurors found that he was sane when he killed the six victims, including a pregnant woman and two children.

Psychiatrists testified Chase suffered from delusions and a persecution complex, and drank the blood of his victims thinking it would "cleanse" him.

## Richard Chase sentenced.



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