

...primary tax security and human shortsightedness when we have a clear villain present in this tragedy? Gian Luigi Ferri's story is an old one and to simply refer to him as "a nut with a gun and an attitude" pretty much skirts over what led him to claim his own form of twisted justice.

Ferri was born in Ethiopia to Italian parents. He started working as an engineer when he was 20 came to the U.S. on July 4, 1964 at the age of 27. He came to San Francisco & worked as a draftsman at Standard Oil, then as a counselor at Sunny Hills children center in San Anselmo & an instructor at Sonoma State University. After marrying in 1969, he worked as a mental health counselor(!) in Marin.

In the late 70's he discovered the word of Terry Cole Whittaker, a "self-actualization minister" who wrote the book "MONEY IS GOD IN ACTION". Following the word, he divorced his wife in 1977 & plunged into the real estate... and started his journey to Hell.

According to friends & associates, he gradually transformed from a pleasant, helpful fellow into a greedy materialist, as did a lot of people back in the start of the 80's. Unfortunately, he had no aptitude for putting deals together and no ability to walk away when the shit hit the fan. His first association with Pettit was in 1981 when he hired the firm to help out with a deal involving trailer parks in Indianapolis and Kentucky. It was a troubled project that went sour quickly. When it finally went belly-up like a rotting fish, he filed a grievance letter in which he listed virtually everyone connected with the project of conspiracy to steal from him; the seller & realty company involved with the project, his secretary & various expects who he claimed had been bribed by the realtors, and Pettit for deliberately giving him bad advice.

Even a rat will learn from its mistakes; humans are another matter. In 1982, he enlisted Pettit again, this time to help him sue the owner of the trailer parks. He did win a million-dollar settlement, but as it turned out, he didn't hold the property for long & got involved in litigation again.

## Killer saw conspiracy everywhere

Murphy said Ferri's business ideas tended to be "ridiculous."

But before their friendship ended, Ferri began telling Murphy that "people around here are trying to destroy me,"

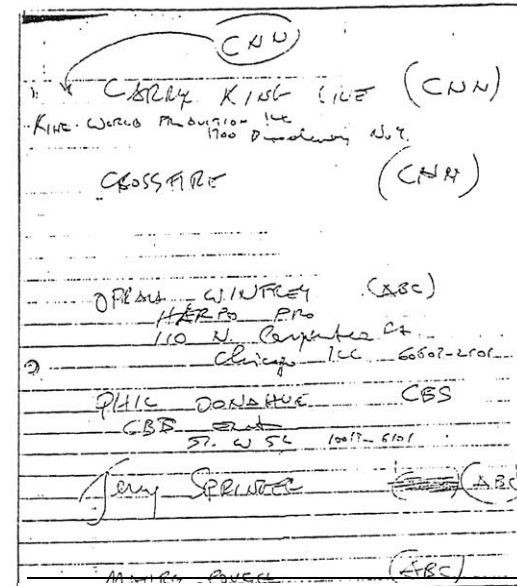
To acquaintances, killer was a lonely but harmless loser



Gian Luigi Ferri, shown in a 1992 driver's license photo, had a string of failed businesses.

## A man in trouble abruptly snaps

Documents found on body of gunman at 101 California suggest he aimed to take his case to talk shows



Notes found on body of Gian Luigi Ferri listed TV shows and personalities, suggesting the mass slayer hoped to make television appearances.

It's an American Failure story: the little guy who believes the bullshit, then when he discovers that it didn't go as planned, turns nasty, like a dog that's been kicked. Sure, there's plenty of cash out there for those with the balls to get it however they can. For Ferri, he just couldn't sink to that level of amorality. He believed in the bullshit. And when all of his plans turned to shit - it had to be conspiracy. He did what he was supposed to; it couldn't be his fault. No, it was the greedy bastards he had trusted. Not Satisfied with what they had already made, they couldn't even let a guy like him just make a living. They wanted everything, wouldn't be satisfied with less.

His business went into the toilet when the country's economy did the same. Even then, he couldn't let it go. He moved from Marin to Vegas in 1988, trying 'co make a go of it there. Things were bad enough for people in the business who knew what they were doing. By this time, he was sure that there was an active group of conspirators out to destroy him. He moved his business to Southern Cal, shortly before the end of '92 - but during his time in Vegas, he had purchased two 9mm assault pistols. The plan was forming.

1993 wasn't a good year for Ferri. In addition to the lack of business, he was hit with a lien from the Franchise Tax Board for over \$3,000 in unpaid taxes. Nothing more was known of Ferri until his appearance at 101.