

Lawrence Bittaker
“Pliers”



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Date	Age	Life Event
09/27/1940	0	Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
		Adopted by Mr. & Mrs. George Bittaker
		Moved around a lot. PA, FL, OH, then finally CA
1957	17	Dropped out of school
		Arrested for auto theft, hit & run, & evading arrest in Long Beach, CA
1959	19	Released from California Youth Authority
Aug 1959	19	Convicted of Interstate Motor Vehicle Theft. Sentenced to serve 18 months at federal reformatory in Oklahoma
		Transferred to U.S. medical center in Springfield Missouri for good behavior at the federal reformatory in Oklahoma
1960	20	Released by doctors from U.S. medical center in Springfield Missouri
Dec 1960	20	Arrested in Los Angeles for robbery
May 1961	21	Convicted of the L.A. robbery. Given an indeterminate sentence of 1-15 years in state prison
1961	21	Diagnosed as “borderline psychotic” and “basically paranoid” while in state prison. Said to be manipulative, and a great deal of pent up hostility.
1962	22	Psychiatrist noted him as having “poor control of impulse behavior”
1963	23	Paroled after serving barely 1/6 of his possible maximum sentence
1964	24	Jailed for parole violation & suspicion of robbery
1966	26	Diagnosed again as “borderline psychosis” in jail; bragged about how stealing cars made him feel important; also stated he felt as if he were misunderstood, mistreated and falsely accused his whole life; medication was administered
1966	26	Released from jail
1967	27	Parole Violation. Convicted of theft & leaving the scene of a hit & run accident. He received another 5 year sentence
April 1970	30	Paroled after serving less than 3 years
March 1971	31	Arrested for burglary and parole violation
Oct 1971	31	Convicted on both counts, receiving an additional sentence of 6 months to 15 years
1974	34	Arrested for assault with intent to commit murder. Bittaker had stolen meat from a supermarket, put it down his pants and walked out, a store employee went outside to confront Bittaker and the employee was immediately stabbed.
1974	34	Interviewed with forensic psychologist Dr. Ronald Markman; it was to be proven whether or not Bittaker was insane during the attempted murder. Dr.

		Markman confirmed that Bittaker was a sociopath, and it was revealed that Bittaker had faked all previous psychotic behavior.
1974	34	Was sent to California Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo.
1978	38	Met Roy Norris at California Men's Colony The two men claimed to be soul mates and never left one another's side. They shared the same fantasies of domination through rape and torture. They made plans to have some "fun" after being released from prison. They planned to kill young women ages 13-19, every year of being a teenager.
Nov 1978	38	Released from California Men's Colony; moved in with his mother and purchased a silver 1977 GMS cargo van and named it "Murder Mack"
Feb 1979	39	Wrote to Norris and arranged to meet at a cheap downtown hotel
Feb - June 1979	39	The men searched for a place to kill the young women they planned on kidnapping. The place was buried deep in the San Gabriel mountains, on a fire mountain road;
06/24/1979	39	Norris and Bittaker find their first victim, Cindy Schaeffer (WF, 16). She was taken by the men and brought into the truck, where Norris duct taped her mouth shut and bound her ankles and wrists. She was driven to fire mountain road where she was raped, and strangled with a wire hanger. Her body was thrown in a canyon.
07/08/1979	39	Norris and Bittaker picked-up Andrea Hall (WF, 18) who was hitch hiking the Pacific Coast Highway. She was taped and bound in the back of the truck and once again, brought back to fire mountain road. Andrea was repeatedly raped by turns. Norris and Bittaker took pictures of the girl as she fought for her life. When she started to scream the men asked her not to stop. Bittaker stabbed Andrea twice with an ice pick, once in each ear. She was then strangled and then thrown off of a cliff
09/03/1979	39	Norris and Bittaker spotted their 3 rd and 4 th victims hitchhiking along the Pacific Coast Highway. Leah Lamp (WF, 13) and Jackie Gilliam (WF, 15). The men picked up the girls and said they were going to the beach; the girls smoked marijuana casually and noticed Bittaker drive away from the direction of the beach. The girls tried to resist but were tied, bound, taken to the fire road, and kept prisoners for two days. Bittaker and Norris repeatedly raped and tortured the girls while tape-recording the whole time. Norris took a baseball bat to Leah's skull. Bittaker stabbed Gilliam in both ears with an ice pick, didn't kill her so strangled her to death with a coat hanger. Bittaker squeezed Lamp's throat while Norris pounded her head 7 times with a sledgehammer. The girls were then thrown off of a cliff
10/31/1979	40	While driving in the Sunland-Tujunga section of the San Fernando Valley the men picked up hitchhiker Shirley Ledford (WF, 16). Almost immediately after entering the van, Shirley was bound and gagged with construction tape. The men repeatedly stabbed her with pliers; hit her with ice picks in the ears, and hammers to the elbows 25 times while sodomizing her at the same time. They did not want her to stop screaming. The event was being recorded the whole time. The men eventually wrapped a hanger around Shirley's neck tying it with pliers until she died. The men then decided, instead of throwing her off of a cliff, to set her body on the front yard in a residential neighborhood, Hermosa Beach.
11/20/1979	40	Burbank police in suspicion of rape and kidnapping arrested Bittaker at his home.
11/30/1979	40	Norris was brought before Detectives Cray and Bynum as well as District Attorney Kay and a judge. He was confronted about possible information pertaining to the kidnapping, rape, torture and murder of several different women. He soon enough, confessed, and started to put blame on Bittaker. He was allowed to plea bargain, essentially putting more weight of the crimes on Bittaker. Norris and Bittaker were then charged with robbery, kidnapping,

		forcible rape, sex perversion, criminal conspiracy, and five counts of murder. Bittaker denied everything.
Feb 1980	40	Bittaker was given a jury trial; the prosecutor was seeking the death penalty. During trial Bittaker showed no remorse for the killings. He also wrote a book called <i>The Last Ride</i> which illustrated his partnership with Norris as well as details about their killing spree
02/17/1981	40	The Jury was finished deliberating the case, and brought 26 guilty verdicts for rape, torture, kidnapping, and murder. After these were heard, the case was moved on to a new phase, which would warrant the death penalty. 38 special circumstances were found;
1981	40	Bittaker was sentenced to death on March 24, 1981. The judge included an extra 199-year life sentence just in case his death sentence ever commuted to life.
As of 2007		Bittaker is still on death row at San Quentin Prison

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	5 confirmed
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	California
Cities where killing occurred	South Bay area of Los Angeles
Type of killer	Organized thrill
Height	N/A

Childhood Information

Date of birth	09/27/1940
Location	Pittsburgh, PA
Birth order	Only
Number of siblings	0
XYX?	N/A
Raised by	Both parents
Birth category	Adopted, only child
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	None
Age of family event	N/A
Problems in school?	Yes
Teased while in school?	No
Physically attractive?	No
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	No
Physically abused?	No
Psychologically abused?	No
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Worked in aircraft factories
Age of first sexual experience	N/A
Age when first had intercourse	N/A
Mother's occupation	N/A
Father abused drugs/alcohol	N/A
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	N/A

Cognitive Ability

Highest grade in school	Dropped out at age 17
Highest degree	N/A
Grades in school	N/A

IQ	Said to have “superior intelligence”
Source of IQ information	Source taken from records found by forensic psychologist Dr. Markman
Work History	
Served in the military?	No
Branch	N/A
Type of discharge	N/A
Saw combat duty	N/A
Killed enemy during service?	N/A
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	N/A
Types of jobs worked	Machinist
Employment status during series	Employed
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Single
Number of children	None
Lives with his children	N/A
Living with	Self
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	Yes
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist?	Yes
Time in forensic hospital?	No
Diagnosis	N/A
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes
Spend time in jail?	Yes
Spend time in prison?	Yes
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	5 (Confirmed)
Victim type	White teenage female, hitchhiker
Killer age at start of series	39
Date of first kill in series	June 24 th 1979
Date of final kill in series	October 31 st 1979
Gender of victims	Female
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	15-19
Type of victim	Hitchhikers, random
Method of killing	Torture with ice picks, pliers, and hangers, Strangulation by wire hanger.
Weapon	Kept in the van. Pliers, hangers, ice picks, sledgehammer
Was gun used?	No
Type	N/A

Did killer have a partner?	Yes
Name of partner	Roy Norris
Sex of partner	Male
Type of serial killer	Organized lust, organized thrill
How close did killer live?	Drove to crime
Location of first contact	Picked victim up off street
Location of killing	At Killer's pre-selected abandoned area
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Abducted
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Yes
Tortured victims?	Yes
Stalked victims?	Yes
Overkill?	Yes
Quick & efficient?	No
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	Yes
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?	No
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	No. Did audio record the rape/killing and take pictures
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	Yes
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	November 20 th 1979
Date convicted	February 17 th 1981
Sentence	Death, plus 199 year life sentence
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	San Quentin Prison, California
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	N/A

References

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