

Pilot's trial beginning Monday

PILOTS / From 1B

appealing the dismissal.

The dead man's mother, Erika Anderson, who no longer speaks to her daughter-in-law, said in a letter to Frank Borman, chairman of Eastern Airlines: "Your employees are liable for our losing Lance. He left your employ unwillingly, as he left his life."

Borman did not reply.

To Dade State Attorney Janet Reno, she wrote: "My fine young eagle should still be flying."

Reno did not reply.

Erika Anderson wants a conviction for first-degree murder, punishable by death, nothing less.

"Can Lance be allowed to be second-degree dead? Like only on weekends?" she asked. "He is 100 per cent dead."

"As of now," prosecutor Roy Kahn said last week, "we are going to pick a jury of 12," implying he will seek an electric chair verdict.

There is no dispute that Gerald Russell, wearing a ski mask, surprised Lance Anderson at the wheel of his Mercedes-Benz and shot him three times, twice in the face, with his own gun.

No one has explained publicly how Lance's revolver, which had vanished earlier, came into Russell's possession.

Before he was killed, Lance managed to squeeze off a single shot from a .22-caliber derringer that belonged to Kathi.

The slug went through Russell's body. He crashed a truck into a light pole 12 blocks away. From the truck, police took a set of shiny Smith and Wesson handcuffs, two cuff keys, and empty bank money wrappers in \$1,000 and \$5,000 denominations.

Detectives speculate that Russell wanted to make the crime look as if it was a drug killing. The Anderson family says Russell was telling

Eastern employees weeks before the murder that "Lance was into drugs."

Kathi refuses comment. She told police that she began her affair with Russell after Lance had an affair with another stewardess. She says both affairs were over.

On the day of the crime, she said, she told Russell she would not divorce Lance. "He took it very well," her best friend, Bonnie Tinsley, said.

Russell and Kathi talked again by telephone that night. Two hours later Russell was lurking in the shadows outside the Anderson home, a homemade silencer at his side.

Defense attorney Joel Hirschhorn says his client cannot remember what he was doing there because he had been drinking. Hirschhorn is expected to call a witness to the stand to testify about Eastern's in-house program for pilots with drinking problems.

The program, airline spokesman Ashlock is quick to point out, is not just for pilots, but "for all employees."

Russell's actor-father, Harold Russell, a two-time Academy Award winner, will testify about his son's drinking. So will a psychiatrist, declaring that a man of high intellectual capacity can drink heavily without the appearance of inebriation.

Prosecutor Kahn insists that Russell is no alcoholic. He has his own theory. "I know why Gerald Russell really went there that night," he says, but he refuses to elaborate until he goes before a jury.

The defense, too, has its own theory of the shooting. "It looks like Lance Anderson shot my client when his back was turned," Hirschhorn says. The assertion is based on an initial report from James Archer Smith Hospital. A doctor thought the through-and-through wound was from the rear.

Hirschhorn believes the trial will last a week. He has asked Circuit Judge Joseph P. Farina to exclude cameras from the courtroom. A hearing on the proposed ban, which is opposed by several news organizations, is scheduled today.

Neither the defense nor the prosecution put Donald Warshaw on the witness list for the trial. He is administrative aide to an assistant Miami police chief and one of Russell's close friends.

Warshaw tried to dissuade Russell from his "dead-end" romance with a married woman. Russell

would not listen.

"He was absolutely infatuated, enthralled," Warshaw said. "That was his life."

"It reached the point at which I think he was somewhat embarrassed about the fact. He would lie to his friends and say he was staying home — but he was really seeing her."

Hirschhorn says: "I think that most people who have been in love in their lifetime understand the power of that emotion. It all really goes back to when Eve offered Adam that first apple."