

' .44-Caliber Killer' Wounds Two In Car Parked on Queens Street

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

The psychopathic killer who calls himself "Son of Sam" struck again early yesterday when he shot at a young couple, wounding them as they sat in a car parked on a street in Bayside, Queens.

Detectives said the four bullets that wounded the couple—Judy Placido, 17 years old of the Bronx, and Salvatore Lupo, 20, of Maspeth, Queens—had been fired from the same .44-caliber "bulldog" revolver that had already been used to kill four young women and a young man and to wound three women and a man in six other car and street attacks since July 1976.

Yesterday's victims were shot about 3:20 A.M. as they sat in a car on 211th Street south of 45th Road, under a large oak tree and beside a white picket fence at a frame house. The shooting took place three blocks from the 111th Precinct stationhouse.

Yesterday's attack followed the pattern of other assaults on car occupants by the ".44-caliber killer," the police said. He approached the vehicle from behind and fired through the closed

window. Neither victim saw him either before or after the shootings, according to the police.

Most of the women victims had shoulder-length dark hair. This, the police said, has caused anxiety among women in Queens and the Bronx, where all seven of the shootings have taken place. Miss Placido, too, has shoulder-length hair.

The yearlong series of attacks by "Son of Sam" is among the longest by a single assailant in New York history, according to Francis J. McLoughlin, Deputy Police Commissioner for Public Information.

Woman Listed as 'Stable'

Miss Placido suffered wounds of the right temple, the right shoulder and the back of the neck. She was reported to be in stable condition after surgery yesterday in the intensive care unit of Flushing Hospital and Medical Center. Mr. Lupo was being treated in the same hospital for a wound of the right forearm.

A woman who lives across the street from the scene of yesterday's assault told

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from the scene of yesterday's assault told the police that she had heard several shots ring out when the shooting occurred. Another neighbor, a man, said he heard what he thought were firecrackers exploding. They are often set off in the neighborhood, he said.

The attacker yesterday left no letter behind, as he had on two previous occasions. Both were signed "Son of Sam."

Miss Placido, like an earlier victim of the .44-caliber killer, is a graduate of St. Catherine's Roman Catholic High School in the Bronx. Valentina Suriani, 18, who was fatally shot nine weeks ago, graduated from the school last year. Miss Placido graduated last Saturday.

The police gave this account of the latest attack:

Miss Placido and two other young women, all from the Bronx, had driven from her home Saturday night to the Eléphas discothèque, at Northern Boulevard and 211th Street. The bar is a block and a half from the scene of the shooting.

After several hours, Miss Placido's two friends left, but she stayed behind with Mr. Lupo.

When the young couple left the bar, they went to the car of Mr. Lupo's friend and were sitting there smoking cigarettes for about 10 minutes when the shooting occurred.

Police Check Cars

Mr. Lupo then jumped out of the car and ran to the discothèque to get help. Miss Placido staggered out and walked to the corner of 45th Road, where she collapsed in the middle of the street.

Describing the police effort, Chief Keenan said: "We've checked every parked car in the neighborhood for blocks to see if maybe he ducked in one, but we found nobody."

Deputy Inspector Timothy Dowd, who



Associated Press

Police officers conducting investigation near the parked car in which a young couple were wounded early yesterday



Judy Placido in graduation photo

is head of the special task force of 41 officers that has been investigating the .44-caliber shootings, said cars on the Clearview Expressway, which is near the discothèque, had been stopped by his men for checks. The expressway leads from the Throgs Neck Bridge that links Queens and the Bronx.

At a news conference in the 109th Precinct stationhouse at 37-05 Union Street, Flushing, he said: "Our ballistics tests showed that the bullets came from the same .44-caliber revolver that was used in the other shootings."

The Chief of Detectives, John Keenan said the police thought that the assailant might have been in the discothèque while the two victims were there and that he had heard that they had planned to leave and he then preceded them to their car.

A directive titled ".44-Caliber Killer," was sent out under Chief Keenan's name last month to all police stations in the city. It contained a description of the killer; his method of operation; what psychologists and psychiatrists thought of his motivations, and his probable religion and education.

The directive described him as white, 20 to 35 years old, medium to tall in height, of a medium build and with mod-styled dark hair. He was described as pale complected, clean-shaven and having clear skin.

'Probably Right-Handed'

"He is probably right-handed," the directive continued. "He shoots combat style; two-handed and from a crouch. He carries a .44-caliber 'bulldog' revolver manufactured by the Charter Arms Company. The gun may be carried concealed in a plastic or paper bag."

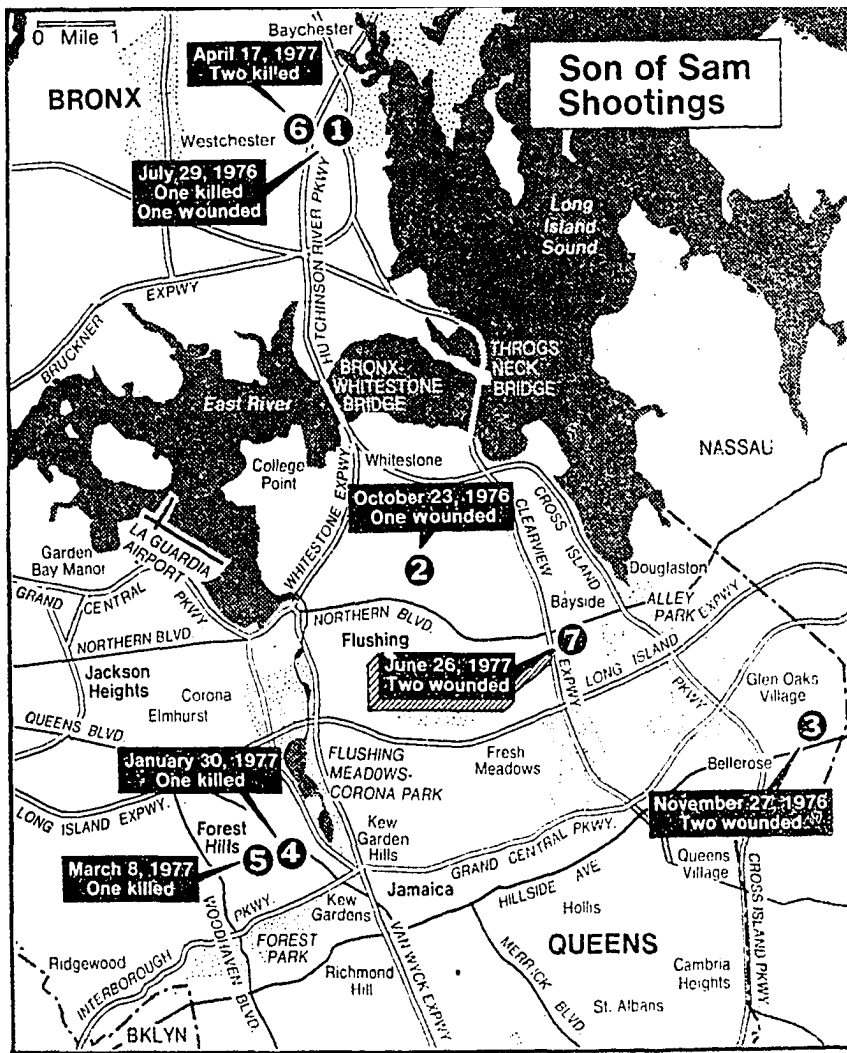
Miss Placido lives with her family at 2208 Wickham Avenue, in the Pelham Bay section of the Bronx, a few blocks from where Miss Suriani and Alexander Esau, 19, were fatally shot April 17 in a car on the service road in front of 1878 Hutchinson River Parkway.

A note signed "Son of Sam" was left behind. A second letter signed "Son of Sam" was sent last month to The Daily News. In the printed note, the writer said there would be more slayings because he had a compulsion to kill.

Based on these notes, the police directive said that medical authorities have diagnosed the killer as "a neurotic, schizophrenic and paranoid, with religious aspects to his thinking process, as well as hints of demonic possession, and compulsion. He is probably shy and odd, a loner inept at establishing personal relationships, especially with young women."

All seven of the shooting incidents took place in either Queens or the Bronx. The police in the areas involved have received numerous prank telephone calls from people claiming to be Son of Sam, complicating the search for the killer.

A police officer at the Northern Boulevard station in Bayside, where yesterday's shooting took place, described such



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a call. He said a man had phoned last week, identified himself as Son of Sam and said, "Next week I'm going to hit Bayside."

The first .44-caliber incident occurred last July 29, when Donna Laurie, 18, was fatally shot as she sat with a friend, Jody Valenti, 19, in a car in the Bronx. Miss Valenti was wounded in the thigh.

On Oct. 23, Carl Denan, 25, was wounded in the head while sitting with a young woman in a car in Whitestone, Queens.

Donna Di Masi, 17, and Joanne Lomino, 18, were wounded while sitting on a porch in Bellerose, Queens, Nov. 27.

Last Jan. 30, Christine Freund, 26, was shot dead while sitting with a male friend in a car in Forest Hills, Queens.

Virginia Voskerichian, 20, was killed while walking home from the subway in Forest Hills. And Mr. Esau and Miss Suriani were killed in April.