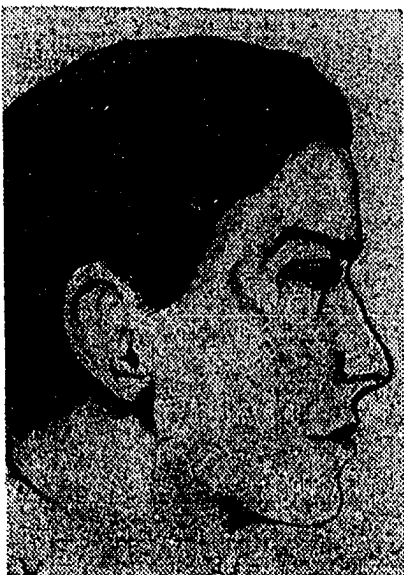




NEW POLICE SKETCH of "Son of Sam," based on information given by witnesses to the latest attack by gunman July 31. Latest description shows suspect as heavier and perhaps younger than earlier depicted. New flier includes for the first time a profile of the suspect's face. Article on page B5.



Police Begin Distributing New Drawing of .44 Killer

By LEONARD BUDER

The New York City police yesterday began widespread distribution of a new drawing and a revised, more-detailed description of the elusive .44-caliber killer who calls himself "Son of Sam."

John L. Keenan, the chief of detectives, said the new sketch and description—based on information supplied by witnesses to the gunman's latest attack, on July 31—provided a clearer picture of the man being sought than earlier versions. The new police flier includes, for the first time, a sketched profile of the suspect's face.

"Some of the people who provided the description were not under stress as victims," Chief Keenan said. "They were not being shot at. Our earlier witnesses had seen the suspect only briefly and were under great strain."

The latest description makes the suspect a little heavier and perhaps a little younger than the man depicted in two earlier police fliers that were widely circulated. There is no mention this time, as there was in an earlier version, of "piercing eyes." There were also differences in the sketches.

The alleged killer was described in the new flier as a clean-shaven white male, 25 to 32 years old, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-9 inches tall, 165 to 175 pounds, with an athletic build, "dark almond-shaped eyes, dark wavy hair, sensuous mouth, high cheekbones."

Copies of the new flier were issued at a news briefing at the Police Headquarters, and some reporters remarked that

the sketch appeared to resemble a person of Hispanic background. However, Chief Keenan said the police were not looking for a person of Hispanic origin. Francis J. McLoughlin, the deputy commissioner for public information, also emphasized this later.

The flyer also contained a description of the clothing allegedly worn by the gunman when he fatally wounded 20-year-old Stacy Moskowitz, and seriously injured her companion, Robert Violante, as they sat in his parked car near the Brooklyn shore on July 31.

The description indicated the suspect wore a blue denim jacket, matching blue denim pants that were slightly flared, a bluish gray Quiana shirt "with small kidney-shaped designs spaced three inches apart," and blue denim deck shoes with narrow white bands.

"We feel much better with this description than with what we had before," Chief Keenan said.

Earlier descriptions were based on information from a handful of survivors of the night-time attacks believed to have been made by "Son of Sam" that have, in a little over a year, resulted in the murders of five young women and a man and the wounding of seven other persons with the same .44-caliber revolver.

Authorities said that they planned to flood the city with copies of the latest flier—25,000 copies have initially been printed—and that these would go to police officers, other law enforcement officers and certain civilians, including cabdrivers. Copies will also be sent to police departments in other parts of the country,

including Florida. An airline stewardess has told the police here that a passenger, getting off a plane at Fort Lauderdale last June 26, had told her he was the "Son of Sam."

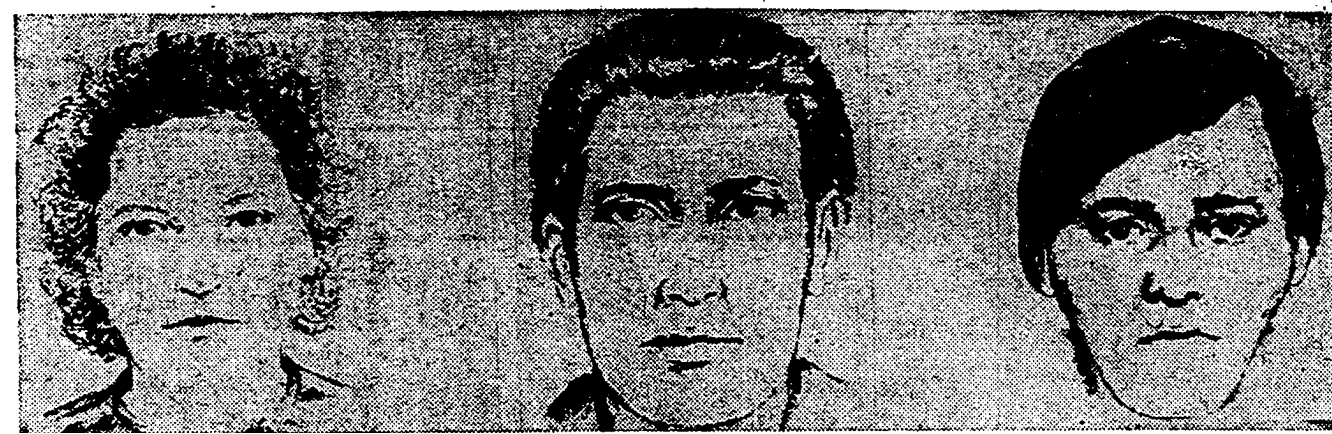
Among those whose information contributed to the new details about the gunman were Mr. Violante, who lost one eye and most of his sight in the second as the result of the last attack, and a witness, identified only as "Tommy Z," who was sitting in a car parked in front of Mr. Violante's car. This witness reportedly saw the killer approach Mr. Violante's brown Buick, crouch, fire, and walk calmly away.

Chief Keenan indicated that some witnesses reported that the gunman wore a wig for at least part of the time, but he would not elaborate. The use of a wig could explain why earlier police drawings showed the suspect with long, mod-style hair. The new sketch shows him without a wig.

Mr. Violante, who is still hospitalized, found out for first time on Sunday about the extent of his eye injuries.

"You know," his father, Pat Violante, said yesterday, "this boy, he never once cried." But then, when the young man was told that Stacy Moskowitz had died, the father recalled, "he finally got emotional and he looked up and said, 'Dad, why?'"

Meanwhile, in Central Park, vendors have begun selling "Son of Sam" T-shirts. The white shirts include an earlier police sketch of the suspect and the message: "Son of Sam—Get him before he gets you."



Police Drawings of "Son of Sam" have undergone transition from earliest, at left, to more recent, right.