

# Victim's Relatives Are 'Relieved,' Hope Suspect Is 'the Right Guy'

By ROBERT McG. THOMAS JR.

"I think it's great, it's wonderful—if it's the right guy."

With those words, Charles Lomino received the news that the police had caught the man they said had shot and paralyzed his 18-year-old daughter, Joanne, last Nov. 27 in Bellrose, Queens.

"I feel relieved," said Miss Lomino's mother, Eleanor. "We were hoping he'd be caught before he hurt someone else."

"Oh thank God, thank God—thank heavens they caught him," said Mrs. Joseph Valenti, whose 19-year-old daughter, Jody, was wounded in the very first of the .44 killer's attacks on July 29, 1976, in the Westchester Heights section of the Bronx.

Miss Valenti, a nurse who has since returned to work but still bears a scar on her left thigh, seemed less enthusiastic, but only, as she explained, because the call "woke me from a very sound sleep."

"I know nothing about it," she said. "I'm happy they caught him."

Her mother was ecstatic. "We're thrilled," she said, recalling the year of horror for her daughter each time the killer struck.

Then she grew cautious.

"Are they sure it's him?" she asked.

"I don't want to say anything until it's definite."

## 'I'm Overwhelmed'

"I'm overwhelmed. I really have nothing else to say," said Judith Carioscia, whose 17-year-old niece, Judy Placido, was shot in the temple, shoulder and back of the neck as she sat in a parked car last June.

"Judy's all right; she's on a trip," said Miss Carioscia, who is Miss Placido's guardian. She declined to say where he she was traveling or whether she had heard the news.

John Diel, who was sitting in a parked car with 26-year-old Christine Freund when she was shot to death last Jan. 30, was tending the bar at the Ridgewood III in Ridgewood, Queens, early this morning when a friend called with the news.

"Hey! Don't fool around with me, this is nothing to joke about," said Mr. Diel, who was not convinced until he turned on the television.

## 'Place Went Wild'

"The place went wild," Mr. Diel recalled later as his friends streamed into the bar.

"It's not the sort of thing you should celebrate," he said, "it's not a completely happy occasion; I'm still upset by the murder."

"I wish he would have come looking for me," said the 30-year-old man, who had dated Miss Freund steadily for seven years and who had planned to become her fiancé.

"I wanted to get my hands on the guy . . . I just want to take him apart and show him what he is without a gun. I wish they could put me in the cage with the guy tonight."

Relatives of several of the victims now have unlisted numbers and some of those who could be reached by phone had received too many crank calls in the past to trust those that came in last night.

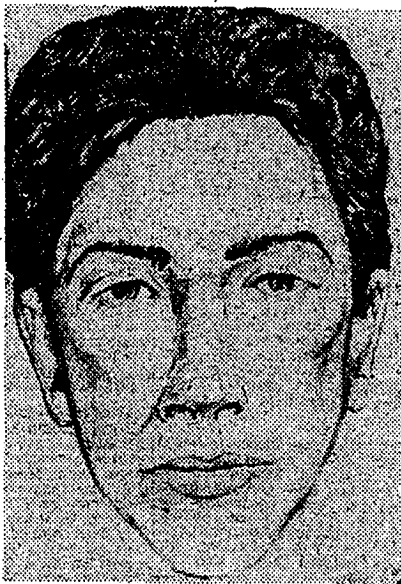
A young man who identified himself as the brother of 19-year-old Virginia Voskerichian, who was shot to death on March 8, answered the phone at the Voskerichian home, but would not give his name and said he would not wake his parents to give them the news.

"I don't believe it," he said.



The New York Times

Suspect arrested by police.



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