

# Berkowitz's Statement on Using Rifle Puzzles Police

By DAVID F. WHITE Special to The New York Times

*New York Times (1923-Current file); Aug 17, 1977;*

ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2007)

pg. 24

## Berkowitz's Statement on Using Rifle Puzzles Police

By DAVID F. WHITE

Special to The New York Times

YONKERS, Aug. 16—The Police Department here said today it was baffled by statements reportedly made by David R. Berkowitz recounting how he had shot a woman here with a .45-caliber rifle.

But Deputy Chief Henry L. Stampur said the department had asked the New York City police to test fire a .22-caliber rifle also found in Mr. Berkowitz's possession to see if the bullet would match one recovered by Yonkers detectives in the shooting of a 48-year-old woman here almost six weeks ago.

"Our records don't reveal anything about a woman being shot by a .45-caliber rifle," said Chief Stampur about the results of a check in the shootings in Yonkers in the last three years. Only two unsolved cases were discovered, neither apparently related to the "Son of Sam" case, according to Chief Stampur.

### Elderly Women Not Involved

Neither case involved elderly women, the chief said, and neither involved bullets such as the one described by Mr. Berkowitz in his account of the incident.

The .22-caliber bullet recovered by the Yonkers police came from the right knee

of Frieda Gallagher, 40, of 35 Sterling Avenue, near the Bronx County line, and nowhere near Mr. Berkowitz's apartment at 35 Pine Street.

The shooting occurred at 32 Sterling Avenue on July 4, according to police records, which said the victim had been "sitting on a neighbor's porch watching children setting fireworks off, when suddenly she felt a pain in her right knee."

The second incident occurred on Feb. 24, when a 25-year-old woman who asked that her name not be used, was walking by a high school near Ashburton Avenue,

about seven blocks from Mr. Berkowitz's home. "She was walking along and she said she felt a small pain in her leg," Chief Stampur said.

Both shootings occurred at night. Mrs. Gallagher said she had not even seen the assailant. "I never even thought it was a bullet," she said. "I thought it was a fragment of a flare or something. Because it was a .22 I didn't even connect it [with the .44-caliber killer shootings]."

The other woman could not be reached for comment.