

# Westchester week in review

## Son of Sam shocks still shake Westchester

A flurry of activity continued this week in Westchester in the wake of the Son of Sam arrest.

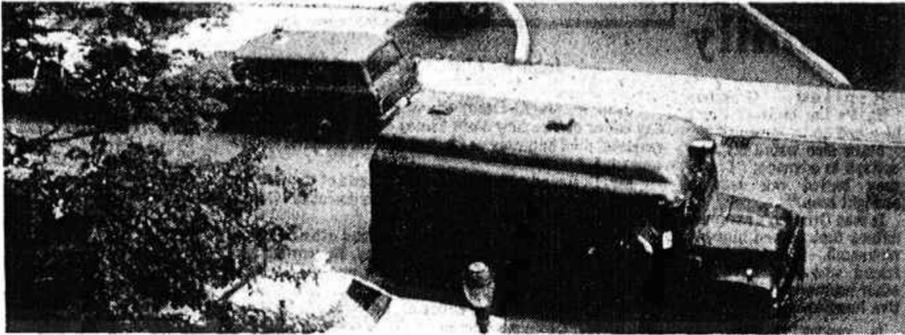
As David Berkowitz, 24, of 35 Pine St., Yonkers, was undergoing psychiatric observation to determine whether he can stand trial for the murders of six young people and the wounding of seven others, there were three significant developments in Westchester.

One, there was a report that Berkowitz had been seen with another man at a dog kennel in Mamaroneck the day before his arrest in connection with the murder of Stacy Moskowitz in Brooklyn. What made police attentive to the report was that the worker at the kennel said that the other man resembled earlier artists sketches of the man hunted as Son of Sam, the notorious .44 caliber killer. Police wanted to know whether the alleged killer had an accomplice, and so they probed the kennel worker's story.

According to police, a diary kept by Berkowitz indicated that the alleged killer worked alone. By the middle of the week, police reported that they did not believe that Berkowitz was the person who visited the kennel and discussed with a kennel employe the possibility of adopting a German shepherd. They said they had no evidence that Berkowitz ever visited the kennel.

A second report received more attention, and although police have not been able to verify it, they think there is some truth to the story. Berkowitz, according to reports, is supposed to have indicated to police, possibly in his diary or other papers found strewn in his unkempt apartment, that he shot an elderly woman in Yonkers and wounded her. The report contended that the shooting was with a .45 caliber rifle. If true, it would mark the first crime by Son of Sam outside New York City and in Westchester.

The only thing wrong with the report is that there were no cases in the Yonkers police files that appeared to resemble such a shooting. There were two



Van takes suspect David Berkowitz to arraignment Tuesday

open cases involving the shooting of women in Yonkers in the past three years. In one, a woman was hit by a .22 caliber rifle bullet while seated on a porch this past Independence Day. A bullet recovered from her knee was examined. Police said that it did not come from the .22 caliber rifle found in the Berkowitz arsenal. In the other shooting, earlier in the year, no bullet was found. Police said a young woman was walking on the street late at night and suffered a clean wound, possibly made by a bullet of smaller caliber than a .45.

Other jurisdictions in the county were checked and there was no immediate link with actual cases. Dist. Atty. Carl Vergari of Westchester said that if the shooting report pans out, he would seek to indict Berkowitz in Westchester of the alleged assault and for possession of illegal guns.

Berkowitz of being the Son of Sam. A lawyer for the family contended that Berkowitz had harassed neighbors and was suspected of shooting dogs.

Meanwhile, in New York, Berkowitz was indicted on charges of second degree murder and assault in the Brooklyn shootings and there were reports that grand juries in Queens and the Bronx had returned sealed indictments concerning their killings. Berkowitz was arraigned in court in Brooklyn. His attorney entered a plea of not guilty, and said that if Berkowitz is permitted to go to trial, his defense will be insanity.

### Bus bids sought

Westchester advertised this week for bids from firms wishing to sell the county 107 new buses. The bid request went out after months of delay due to federal government red tape. The buses are expected to cost more than \$8 million, with the bulk of the funds supplied in a grant made last year by the federal Urban Mass Transportation Administration. If the contract is awarded on schedule in mid-October, the buses could be on the road by next July, according to county officials. The buses would be leased to private firms. The county wants to outfit the new buses with wheelchair lifts.

### Yonkers borrows again

For the first time since Yonkers was saved from default by an \$80 million dollar bond sale engineered by the state, the city has re-entered the borrowing market. The Bank of New York's County Trust Region purchased \$1.6 million in short-term notes at an interest rate of 5 per cent. The money will be used to complete a high school extension, repair a skating rink and improve traffic signals.

## Other major news

### Governor vetoes bills

Concluding the bill signing period, Gov. Carey announced that he had vetoed four bills affecting Westchester. One would have permitted Pelham Manor to become the first village in the state to be allowed to impose a local sales tax. The governor indicated that the establishment of such a precedent would open the way for all villages and towns in the state to do the same, and maintained that there would be an administrative headache to collect the taxes.

A second bill sent back without his signature would have allowed White Plains to buy the now vacant state armory in White Plains for \$1. Carey said that the building and grounds were worth at least \$200,000, and maintained that there was nothing in the bill which would allow the property to revert to the state if and when the city stopped using the place for recreational purposes.

A third bill vetoed by the governor would have given Yonkers police and firemen the opportunity to insure retirement benefits for their widows. They originally chose a plan which did not have an option to pass their benefits on to their widow when they died. Carey said the bill was defective.

Carey also vetoed legislation that would have given the Blind Brook school district aid for construction of its \$5 million high school, acting the way former Govs. Rockefeller and Wilson responded to earlier bills. Carey said that the district went against the state's recommendation to merge with another district.

### Arson task force

Mount Vernon Mayor Thomas Sharpe met this week with Dist. Atty. Carl Vergari to coordinate activities in the hopes of capturing the person or persons responsible for the worst wave of arson that the county has known. As a result of the meeting, Mount Vernon will form a task force of police and fire officials to probe the fires and to work with Vergari's office. Mount Vernon has had more than 80 arson fires this year. Vergari said that it has become a countywide program. Vergari said there used to be 10 to 11 arson fires a month in the county, but this year the county is averaging 20 a month.

### Condos okayed in Larchmont

Larchmont has approved the construction of the first condominium complex in that village, permitting 40 town houses selling for \$75,000 to \$85,000 each to be built on former nursery property on Boston Post Road near Lorenzen Street — the so-called Pine Ridge complex.

### Ossining: Yes and No

After voting down various school propositions on three previous votes, Ossining residents approved propositions this week to spend \$139,000 for sports and other extracurricular activities in the schools, and also okayed, by one vote, the spending of \$40,000 for community use of the schools. Propositions to spend \$65,000 for instructional supplies and \$110,000 on capital projects were defeated.

### Urban county grant up

A total of \$1,183,000 awarded to Westchester under the federal Urban County Community Development program will be shared by 23 municipalities, County Executive Alfred DeBello announced. The funding represents a \$538,000 increase in last year's grant which was divided among 18 communities. Most of the second year funds will be used for low interest loans to rehabilitate housing, public works projects, a youth program and building code enforcement. The largest block of money, \$479,000 will go for public works projects, including \$100,000 to Eastchester for flood control; \$20,000 to Mamaroneck for flood control and \$15,000 to Cortlandt for a Lake Mohegan playground. Another \$301,000 was allocated for rehabilitation loans in Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, Mamaroneck Village, Pelham, Tarrytown, Ossining Village, Larchmont, Yorktown, Elmsford, Cortlandt, Mount Pleasant and Buchanan.

### Grant to New Rochelle

Federal grants totaling \$1.2 million were awarded to New Rochelle this week to build Library Plaza on Lawton Street and to landscape and improve Division Street. The grants are part of the second phase of the federal Public Works Act.

# macy's 3-day sale

SUNDAY  
MONDAY  
TUESDAY

save 20% on raincoats  
with zip-out liners

sale \$48

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Don't miss our beautiful sale on canvas raincoats with plaid zip out liners. There are three fashionably tailored styles, for 8 to 18 sizes in tan, rust and green, all cotton/polyester canvas with wool/nylon plaid zip out liners. Not all styles, sizes and colors in every store, so come in early for best selection.

A. Trench coat with loose back yoke, inverted back pleats.

B. Scarf coat with fly front, open back yoke, and plaid scarf to match zip out liner

C. Not shown: coat with detachable hood, pleated back and slash pockets.



Rainwear (D.169) Macy's. We regret, no mail or phone. Macy's open Sunday 12 to 5

