

Calls on .44 Killer Deluge Police, But Few Substantial Clues Result

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By **PETER KIHSS**

A deluge of 1,000 telephone calls overflowed a dozen police lines yesterday at headquarters of the manhunt for the so-called "Son of Sam," whose .44-caliber revolver has killed six persons and wounded seven in New York City.

But Deputy Police Commissioner Francis J. McLoughlin renewed appeals for witnesses to come forward and for persistence in telephoning 844-0999 because, he said: "We have nothing more substantial than a general description [of] the killer]—and possibly a yellow Volkswagen."

There are more than 1,000 such cars in New York City and nearby suburbs, he said, noting some suggestions that one may have been in the Bath Beach area of Brooklyn last Sunday at 2:50 A.M. when Stacy Moskowitz, a 20-year-old secretary, was fatally shot and Robert Violante, her 20-year-old companion, was wounded. Both had been sitting in his parked Buick.

The police frustration had been described by Commissioner Michael J. Codd after a young woman and man were wounded in Bayside, Queens, last June

Continued on Page A13, Col. 1



The New York Times

Neysa Moskowitz, mother of slain woman, entering funeral home.

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Continued From Page A1

28 as "worse than looking for a needle in a haystack," when a haystack's location was at least known.

A man who was in a parked car at the scene of the Sunday shooting has reported seeing the gunman in his rear-view mirror, and has described him as wearing blue denim trousers and a gray shirt or jacket with rolled-up sleeves.

Seek March 8 Witness

But Commissioner McLoughlin said that "some neighbors thought they saw more than one car." He urged anyone who might have been in the area to come forward, no matter how slim he considered his information.

The spokesman also said the police would like to talk to a man in his late teens or early 20's who was believed to have seen the gunman shoot down a 19-year-old woman walking to her Forest Hills, Queens, home from a subway station last March 8.

The potential witness had been described as wearing a black watch cap.

There were also people the investigators would like to meet who had been in the Elephas discothèque with the Bayside victims before they were shot outside, Mr. McLoughlin said.

Of 5,000 letters and telephone calls in four months, the deputy commissioner said, investigators have followed up 1,500 higher-priority reports so far—and will check everyone in time.

Yesterday the Metropolitan Police Conference, representing 65,000 officers in New York City, Long Island and Westchester and Rockland Counties, offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the .44-caliber killer.

Roland Russell, first vice president, said that "the bringing to justice of this depraved individual is a responsibility which must be shared "by everyone in the metropolitan area, "any one of whom could become his next target."

Rewards Offered

A \$1,000 reward was offered in Brooklyn by the Bensonhurst Board of Trade, whose president, Stan Roher, said its 300 merchants "share in the anxiety and grief that the .44 killer has inflicted in our area." Earlier rewards of \$10,000 each had been offered by The Daily News and by WABC-TV. The latter reward is administered by the Citizens Union.

Matthew Bonora, retired commander of Nassau County's homicide detectives, proposed that state and city officials enlist the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the ground there had been violations of victims' civil rights by "this killer that has terrorized the city."

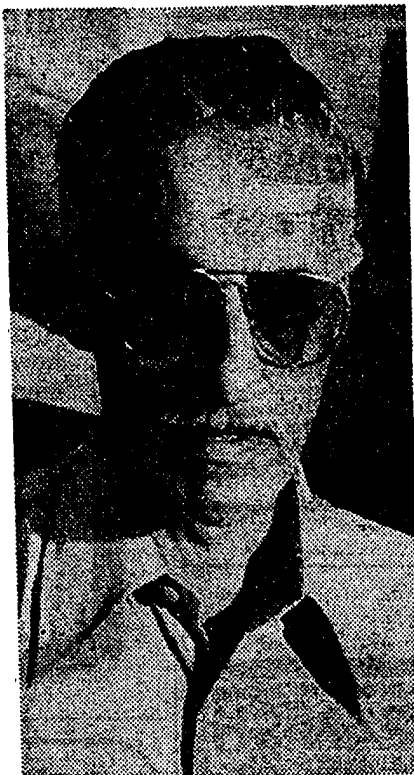
Pasquale Violante, father of the young man who was shot Sunday and who has lost his left eye, yesterday urged that the killer "give himself up to save innocent people."

Talking to newsmen at Kings County Hospital, Mr. Violante said: "My son is more of a man than I could ever be. I told him the news about his eyes yesterday and he accepted it like a man." The doctors are trying to save the sight of his other eye.

Mr. Violante said his son had told him that he and Miss Moskowitz had stopped at the 17th Avenue Park in Bath Beach early Saturday evening before going to a movie.

"When they decided to leave," the father went on, "he saw this fellow in the park, and he noticed he was looking at him."

Commissioner McLoughlin said the



The New York Times

Pasquale Violante during news conference at Kings County Hospital.

young couple had left the movie theater about 12:30 A.M. Sunday, and had thought about going to the Jasmin Discothèque. Instead, he said, they drove around and parked next to the park for nearly an hour before the shooting.

Asked about a report by a hospital ophthalmologist that Mr. Violante had seen the man who shot him, Mr. McLoughlin would only say "he gave a description of something."

Frank Violante, a cousin of the victim, told newsmen he had noted police theories that the killer might have worn a wig. He said that he was a National Guard reservist, and that some military men required to keep their hair short on duty wore long-haired wigs at other times.

He suggested that National Guardsmen might start thinking about "a guy who wears wigs and talks about weapons."

At the home of the latest young woman killed, her mother, Neysa Moskowitz, yesterday wept and said "parents and children should love each other . . . kiss each other while they can . . . work to understand each other."

"Don't go to bed angry at each other," Mrs. Moskowitz said, tears brimming. "You never know what's going to come, and you can't live with that."

Commissioner McLoughlin, questioned yesterday about the killer's weapon, said .44 caliber ammunition was available in boxes of 50 bullets, selling at about 12 to 14 cents a bullet. Investigators seeking to trace all 28,000 Bulldog revolvers, manufactured by the Charter Arms Corporation since 1972, have been told that 600 have been stolen from their owners.