SAM

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It is the same aqueduct and path that passes between Berkowitz' apartment building and Sam Carr's house at the spot —a mile south — where a number of German Shepherd dogs have been found slain after what police believe may have been ritualistic sacrifices.

"Dog manure, vomit, stale wine, urine and blood," the conclusion of the Breslin letter's first sentence, are elements or variations of them, used in the Satanic "Black Mass," which is a desecration of the Catholic mass.

In a "Black Mass," the host is frequently smeared with excrement, blood is drunk, participants may vomit on the altar and urine is often substituted for sacramental wine. "Stale wine" refers to the use of urine instead of sacramental wine since one definition of the word "stale" is urine — particularly the urine of a domestic animal.

The opening of the Breslin letter apparently said that a cult activity such as the "Black Mass," symbolized by the five elements named in the letter, was taking place on the aqueduct, or "gutters," a mile from Berkowitz' home.

Berkowitz, in an extensive interview last year at which one of these writers was present, confirmed that a cult was operating in the neighborhood but would not say where it was located.

The late John Carr —the son of Sam Carr —who has been connected to Berkowitz and is now being investigated by police and the Queens District Attorney's office for possible invovlment in the "Son of Sam" murders, was involved in a Satanic cult in North Dakota, police there say.

The activities in North Dakota also included the drinking of blood and urine as well as the sacrifice of German Shepherds, police there have learned.

Also, German Shepherds' ears, apparently a unique symbol to both cults, connect the groups in Yonkers and North Dakota.

Berkowitz, in the interview, was asked if he liked John Carr and Michael Carr, John's brother, who was killed in an auto wreck in Manhattan early this month.

"How can you like anybody who worships the devil?" Berkowitz replied.

Sources recently informed these newspapers that they were told about a month after Berkowitz' August 1977 arrest that a cult in Berkowitz' neighborhood was tied to Berkowitz and assisted him in some of the shootings. The sources said an individual claiming to be a former member of the cult related the information to them.

The Yonkers cult was last known to be in Untermyer Park in October 1978, although there are unconfirmed reports of activity there this spring.

The group met in two laces, one of which was an abandoned pump house on the old Untermyer estate on a hill just above the aqueduct. The cult also met on the aqueduct itself, where an altar was erected between two trees and a chair placed in front of the altar.

Neighborhood youths, who asked not to be identified, told of seeing the hooded, torch-bearing cultists on several occasions and hearing animals scream in pain. One of the youths said he and a friend were once chased by two hooded figures, and two others said they found dead dogs in the vicinity, including at least one beheaded German shepherd.

Doctors and student nurses in nearby St. John's Hospital also heard the chanting and saw the torches last year. Hospital security guards entered the desolate woods, only to turn back and call the police instead. The cultists fled before the police arrived.

David Hartley, editor and general manager of The Herald Statesman in Yonkers, found two capes, or cowls, and one hood at the site at that time.

Farther down the aqueduct trail —about 15 minutes on foot — three dead German Shepherds were found on Christmas Day, 1976 behind Berkowitz' apartment and the Carr home.

That was the morning after a German Shepherd belonging to another Berkowitz neighbor, Joachim Neto, was shot and killed. Berkowitz claims he shot the Neto dog, but, in the interview, strongly denied killing the other three shepherds, which may have been dumped there after a ritual farther up the aqueduct trail.

Berkowitz, referring to the killing of the other shepherds, said, "It doesn't surprise me. I have a good idea who did it." He refused to discuss names.

After Berkowitz' arrest, on at least two occasions, three more German shepherds were found slain in virtually the same spot on the aqueduct as the others, had been either shot, strangled or poisoned.

Yonkers animal shelter manager Tony Catalano said the first shepherd had been shot to death and the second two, lying together on the same spot on the aqueduct as the others, had been either shot, strangled or poisoned.

The fourth shepherd was found nearby with its ear "sliced off."

"It wasn't chewed off, like in a dog fight," Catalano said. "It was a clean, even cut like it was done with a knife."

Significantly, in North Dakota, an associate of John Carr had a German Shepherd's ear mounted by a taxidermist on Aug. 9, 1977 — the day before Berkowitz's arrest. Authorities have a receipt documenting the transaction.

"It would seem obvious that the ear of a German Shepherd is of some special, common significance to both these groups," said a Midwestern occult expert who asked that his name be withheld. "I can't say what it is for sure. It's quite unusual, though."

Berkowitz, or someone using his name, had been one of two callers inquiring about a German Shepherd advertised for adoption just two days before his arrest. The other caller also mentioned Pine Street in Yonkers, saying he "fixed cars (or Carrs) behind Pine Street in Yonkers," according to Mrs. Florence Larsen, the volunteer animal placement worker who took both calls.

The next day two men showed up together to see the dog. One was identified as Berkowitz and the other was said to bear a strong resemblance to the police sketch that depicted a long-haired "Son of Sam."

The police said later that Berkowitz did not visit the kennel but they did not explain who called using his name and address to inquire about a German shepherd. The second caller was not explained, either.

"They (the police) just told me somebody must have used his name and address .... They had their man and that was it," Larsen says today.

These newspapers have been told that Berkowitz — in early 1977 — visited another dog shelter with a companion to try to adopt a German Shepherd.

The source of that information, who refused to give his name, said he worked with Berkowitz and the person who went with him to the kennel.

"The two of them went after work. They told me they

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Staff photo by Robert Deutsch

The roof of 'Devil's Cave' · St. John's nurses heard chanting

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