

BERKOWITZ

Continued from page one

Prompted by reports from Det. Henry Cinotti, a 17-year police veteran who began investigating the accountant's ties to the "Son of Sam" murders on his own time in August 1979, Capt. Plansker wrote to his superiors on Aug. 31, 1979, seeking authorization to proceed with an official, confidential probe of the "Son of Sam" case.

His memo to the commanding officer of the Bronx Detective Area states:

"(It) appears that we will be able to draw an association with (the suspect), Berkowitz and Carr... This would raise the possibility that Berkowitz did not act independently or operate alone as previously believed.

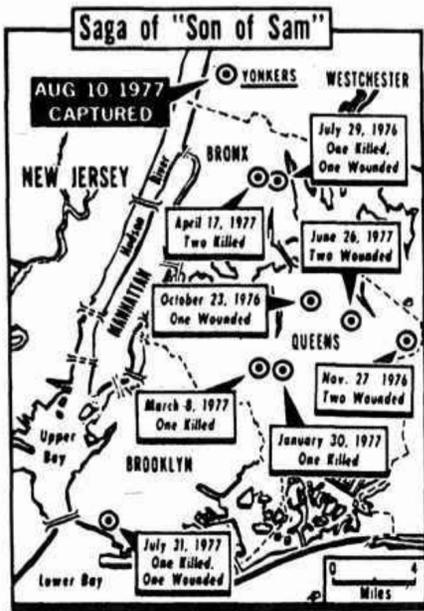
"I fully realize the implications and ramifications of this report and I also understand the need for discretion in this matter. However, I do believe that we must pursue this investigation to the point where we have eliminated any element of conjecture."

Capt. Plansker quickly won temporary approval to proceed with the confidential investigation.

However, seven weeks later, the investigation was floundering after it was revealed that the probe had been predicated on information provided by a woman police deemed an "unreliable source."

On Oct. 22, 1979, Plansker, wrote to his superiors, telling them that Cinotti's original source — who had identified the suspect as being in Queens with Berkowitz on Aug. 8, 1977, two days before Berkowitz's arrest — lacked credibility.

However, Plansker emphasized that the probe had borne fruit independent of the tainted source and should continue.



"Despite this reversal, we have developed information and circumstances that almost demand resolution. I believe that this investigation should be continued if only for the sake of being able to say the Department has never ignored or overlooked any information connected with the 'Son of Sam' killings.

"... To date, we have no hard evidence to support the (claims of Carr's friends and associates) and I am not completely comfortable with statements obtained by police officers in North Dakota... However, I do believe that a thorough investigation by members of this department could either prove or disprove the possibility that (the suspect), John Carr and Berkowitz were associates," in the "Son of Sam" case.

But despite his urgings, Capt. Plansker's last request was denied. The officially sanctioned investigation was terminated after eight weeks of work.

Det. Cinotti was shortly brought up on disciplinary charges stemming from his refusal to divulge the name of his original source and for working with a newspaper reporter during the investigation.

The charges against Cinotti were heard before a department trial officer this past spring. At the hearing, Cinotti's original source, identified as Veronica Leunken of Queens, was described as a religious fanatic.

Cinotti said he resisted revealing her name to his superiors for fear of discrediting the probe. And, he said, he worked with the newspaper reporter because the reporter was a source of valuable information.

Plansker has said he can not comment on the probe at least until a final determination is reached in the case. A ruling is expected within a week, according to a police department spokesman.

At almost the same time that the Bronx investigation was being terminated, the Queens District Attorney's office re-opened a probe of the "Son of Sam" case. In beginning the probe, spokesmen for Queens District Attorney John Santucci cited a series of articles by Gannett Westchester Newspapers that detailed the probability that Berkowitz was not the lone "Son of Sam" killer. Queens authorities have limited their official

comments to saying "the case remains open and active."

However, sources close to the investigation have confirmed that among the major subjects of that probe are: the possible involvement of the Manhattan accountant and as many as 10 other people in the murders; the possibility that the victims were specifically targeted for death; and the claim that Berkowitz may have been set up to appear as a lone killer.

Most significantly, although the investigation is active, there has not been sufficient evidence established to empanel a grand jury.

Investigators believe they have gone as far as they can with the information they have uncovered to date and now are involved in what amounts to a waiting game, hoping a witness will come forward with evidence substantiating their theories about accomplices.

Immediately after re-opening his investigation, Santucci appointed two assistant district attorneys and six investigators to work full-time on the probe. During their first few months, investigators concentrated their efforts in Yonkers, where Berkowitz had lived, but the probe quickly spread throughout the country.

Towns of little notoriety, such as Minot, N.D. and Beaumont, Texas — where Carr's ex-wife lives, several miles from where Berkowitz obtained his .44-caliber revolver — have come under close examination.

Extensive coast-to-coast telephone interviews have been conducted and investigators have flown around the country as connections between Berkowitz, satanic cults and West Coast murders have surfaced.

Having compiled hundreds of reports, interviewed and re-interviewed suspects and the families of suspects, the probe is now being directed by an assistant district attorney, who is carrying the probe as a high priority in his caseload. Four investigators continue to work on the case full-time, following up new leads as they develop.

Unanswered questions...

When discussing the "Son of Sam" case, investigators close to probes repeatedly strike an analogy between the 1976-1977 murder spree and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

As in the case of Lee Harvey Oswald, investigators say, there are too many contradictions of fact and too many unanswered questions in the case of David R. Berkowitz, suggesting there was more than one triggerman.

And, as was the case when investigators began seeking out Oswald's associates, many of those directly or indirectly related to the Berkowitz case have turned up dead.

The following incidents have occurred involving those linked to the case:

— John Carr, a friend of Berkowitz and a suspect in the killings, was found dead in his Minot, N.D., apartment on Feb. 16, 1978, a .30-30 rifle bullet in his head. His death was initially ruled a suicide but is now being probed as a possible murder.

Police say Carr's actions during the days before his death conflict with those of a man contemplating suicide (he opened bank accounts and rented a post office box) and say a reconstruction of the shooting scene revealed several important discrepancies (his body should have landed on the bed, not on the floor, and the rifle should have been underneath him, not lying on top of his legs).

As North Dakota police investigator Lt. Terry Gardner says, "We have a motive for both murder and suicide. Murder to silence him and suicide because important discrepancies (his body should have landed on the bed, not on the floor, and the rifle should have been underneath him, not lying on top of his legs).

As North Dakota police investigator Lt. Terry Gardner says, "We have a motive for both murder and suicide. Murder to silence him and suicide because he knew he was wanted (by New York authorities) for questioning."

— Michael Carr, the other son of Sam Carr, died in an auto wreck in Manhattan last fall. Although Carr was known to abstain from alcohol, an autopsy found he was drunk at the time of the accident. He had recently received word that a new "Son of Sam" investigation was under way and that he was a subject of that investigation.

— Howard Weiss, a now-known acquaintance of Berkowitz and suspected of being involved in the cult that apparently was at the center of the "Son of Sam" killings, was murdered in New York City. Weiss was friendly with a former Yonkers police officer who was acquainted with John and Michael Carr's sister, Wheat. The former Yonkers officer is also suspected of having ties to the cult, and provides, through Weiss, a direct link between Berkowitz and the Carr family. The ex-policeman also owned a .44-Caliber Bulldog revolver — as did Berkowitz.

— John "T," a close friend of John Carr with connections to the North Dakota cult, attempted suicide shortly after being questioned by police when the case was reopened. He left a note that read, in part, "Believe in God."

— Jerry Berg, a close friend of John Carr in North Dakota and an occult devotee, was crushed to death by a falling tree while chopping wood last winter. At this time, his death is officially termed "accidental," yet authorities suspect foul play.

— Marlene "C," a young woman with ties to John Carr and the North Dakota cult, escaped injury when her car was run off the road shortly after she was questioned by police at the time the "Son of Sam" case was re-opened. The incident occurred the same day Michael Carr died.

— Terry Gardner, a North Dakota police lieutenant working the Carr case, was unhurt by sniper fire just days after interrogating acquaintances of John Carr when the case was re-opened last fall.

— Jack Graham, a reporter for the Minot, N.D., Daily News probing John Carr's occult activities in North Dakota, was killed in a car crash last month. His death has been termed an "apparent accident."

STATIONERY • BOOKS • BIKES • PARTY GOODS • TOYS AND GAMES • SMOKE SHOP • SPORTS
TOYS AND GAMES • SMOKE SHOP • SPORTS • PARTY GOODS • TOYS AND GAMES • SMOKE SHOP • SPORTS

We Are The Toy Store

Our Price Is Always Right

SALE STARTS TODAY THRU SAT. OCT. 18TH

head head FOOTBALL
3288

Play against the computer or an opponent.

Barbie MOTOR HOME
2688

3 ft. long ultra-deluxe scenic cruiser will take you and Barbie cross-country.

STAR WARS MILLENIUM FALCON SPACESHIP
2488

Dramatic working play environment loaded with many action features.

STAR WARS IMPERIAL TROOP TRANSPORT
1388

A thrill packed working replica of the Hov'er-craft vehicle.

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE SNAIL CART
888

Play set vehicle for the dolls.

CRAYOLA CADDY
777

A sturdy revolving tray loaded with art supplies. Ideal for the little artist.

Barbie Beauty Secrets
679

Young girls like to comb hair, change costumes. This doll combines both. Also features poseable wrists bendable elbows and more.

Team America SUPER STUNT DIRT BIKE
1488

All the excitement of motocross racing.

PUFFI-FUZZI 3-D SHRINK DINKS
299

Your creations shrink & puff when baked.

RIBIKS CUBE
699

Over 3 billion combinations and only 1 solution. Give it a try.

STROLLING BOWLING
499

The portable bowling alley you can carry around.

4x4 STOMPERS
499

Real four wheel drive climbing power. Choose from five different trucks.

Giggly Jiggles
597

The soft and huggable doll just a hug or a jiggle makes her chuckle and giggle.

TSW TOY & SPORTS WAREHOUSE

YONKERS 600 Tuckahoe Rd. 779-9696	SCARSDALE 832 Scarsdale Ave. 725-4450	BEDFORD HILLS-MT. KISCO 719 N. Bedford Rd. 666-7558	NANUET Rt. 59 Korvette Shop. Ctr. 623-6680
RYE RIDGE Rye Ridge Shop. Ctr. 937-2511	YORKTOWN HGTS. Rts. 118-35 & 202 962-5794	HARTSDALE Dalewood Shop Ctr. 319 N. Central Ave. 761-5542	KRUGERS WHITE PLAINS 107 Mamaroneck Ave. 949-9085

New TSW Store **BIG TOP**

MAMARONECK 300 W. Boston Post Rd. 698-7110	TARRYTOWN 21 N. Broadway 631-2616
BRONXVILLE 94 Kraft Ave. 337-4746	BIG TOP STORES OPEN SUNDAY 8:30 TO 4

ALL STORES OPEN DAILY • CALL FOR SUNDAY & EVENING HOURS ALL STORES OPEN DAILY & SUNDAY