

Manhattan accountant probed as possible 'Sam' link

Last of a series
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information tying him to key "events and situations" connected to the killings "cannot be summarily disregarded."

Authorities linked the Nassau County man as the leader of a Queens-based Satanic cult that may be linked to a Yonkers cult suspected of being at the center of the killings.

The suspect — his name withheld here because he has not been charged with any crime — also was described as a suspect in the murders by Bronx police during their aborted, two-month probe into "Son of Sam" accomplice theories last year.

Gannett Westchester Newspapers has obtained confidential New York City police

department reports from that Bronx investigation.

The reports, written between August 31, 1979 and October 22, 1979, by New York City Police Capt. John W. Plansker, then commanding officer of the Seventh Detective Area, concluded by saying this about the suspect:

— He bears a "remarkable resemblance" to one of the sketches of the "Son of Sam" — a sketch "several witnesses and potential victims identified as a suspect in the shootings."

— "He owned a small green auto believed to be similar to the one which was observed near the site of the Christina Freund shooting in Forest Hills."

— "He lived near the scene of two of the shootings."

— His photograph has been identified by individuals associated with the late John Carr as being a friend who visited Carr in North Dakota on a number of occasions. Carr, who is also suspected of having been involved in the killings, kept a picture of the suspect in his wallet, his associates say. That picture was missing from the wallet when Carr was found dead in 1978, police say.

— He worked in the same building in lower Manhattan as Christina Freund, who was killed in the fourth "Son of Sam" shooting on Jan. 30, 1977.

The information contained in the reports

not only pinpoints a possible accomplice, but also raises the possibility that some of the "Son of Sam" victims may not have been selected at random, as Berkowitz said in confessing to the six murders, but rather were carefully chosen targets.

In addition to the accountant possibly being acquainted with at least one of the victims (Freund) and living near the scene of two shootings, the Bronx report states, "We have a statement that John Carr knew some of the victims." That statement has not been substantiated, according to a source close to the investigation.

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A Manhattan accountant is being investigated by Queens prosecutors as a possible accomplice in the "Son of Sam" murders. The suspect, described by authorities as an involved in witchcraft, has been linked to the case by his associations with y figures in the probe, including David Berkowitz and John Carr, and his strong resemblance to early police sketches of on of Sam."

While the evidence against this suspect mainly circumstantial, investigators say

Stolen goods ring gets 'stung' by county police

By M.J. ZUCKERMAN
Staff Writer

A classic, 11-month "sting" operation came to a climax in southern Westchester this morning with pre-dawn raids, in which police sought to arrest 43 people who sold \$1.25 million worth of stolen goods to detectives posing as gangsters.

Since opening their Pelham storefront offices in November 1979, seven Westchester County Police Department undercover detectives, posing as street hoodlums and high ranking members of La Cosa Nostra, succeeded in purchasing goods ranging from social security checks to tractor trailer trucks.

At any time during the operation, police officials said, as many as 50 officers may have been involved in "Operation Yellow Jacket," performing such tasks as tracing the identities of car thieves, running ballistics tests on stolen

guns or processing video tapes of the transactions.

The operation was at 153 Fifth Ave., Pelham, under the name of D.A.N. Distributing, electronic components, sales and services. The initials stood for the names of three detectives working on the case.

The operation was funded by a \$300,000 federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration grant won by the county in July, 1979. Only \$83,000 of the grant money was spent on purchasing stolen goods. Some of the money went to renting office space, preparing the offices for the "sting" and purchasing sophisticated video and tape recording equipment, but a "large portion" was not spent.

A team of 80 Westchester County Police officers gathered at the Westchester County Fire Training Center, at the

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The Sting

Charged with criminal possession of stolen property is Jeffery Whitney of Yonkers, left, shortly after his arrest this morning by

Westchester County Police who swooped in on 43 suspects in a predawn raid. —Staff Photo by Robert Deutsch.

Partial list of suspects

Here is a partial list of those arrested in the "sting" operation by Westchester County Police this morning and the charges placed against them:

Denise Johnson of 557 Schroeder St., Yonkers, criminal possession of stolen property.

William Lewis of the Yonkers Motor Inn, criminal possession of stolen property third degree, criminal possession of a weapon.

John Mason of 292 Riverdale Ave., Yonkers, criminal possession of stolen property, first and second degree.

Linda Ramy of the Windham Hotel,

Yonkers, criminal possession of stolen property, second degree.

Reggie Allums of 413 Prescott St., Yonkers, criminal possession first and second degree.

Terry Allums of 168 Stanley Ave., Yonkers, criminal possession first and second degree.

Jeffery Whitney of 284 Riverdale Ave., Yonkers, criminal possession, first degree.

Kenneth Whitney, no address avail-

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Iraqis extend ring around big oil refinery

BASRA, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi forces extended their siege ring north and east of Abadan, leaving only one highway open into the Iranian oil refinery city, and an Iraqi field commander said his advancing troops and armor were only three or four miles from the city overlooking the Shatt al-Arab estuary.

A lieutenant colonel commanding the Iraqi troops north of Abadan told Western reporters touring the front Tuesday the infantry and armored forces that crossed the Karun River last weekend had advanced 11 to 15 miles, pushing and cutting its highways, railroads and pipelines to most of oil-rich Khuzistan Province and to Tehran, the Iranian capital 360 miles to the northwest.

Only one road was reported still open into Abadan, the highway on the east to the oil fields on the northeast coast of the Persian Gulf. There were unconfirmed reports that Iran was sending in reinforcements including heavy artillery over this route. But no heavy or effective Iranian shelling was seen Tuesday by the reporters touring the Iraqi side of the battlefield.

An Iraqi communique late Tuesday night claimed Iraqi forces had cut the pipeline between the eastern fields and Abadan. The pipeline presumably was already shut down since Iraqi shelling and air attacks set the Abadan refinery afire and stopped its operations early in the 24-day-old war for control of the

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Abscam tapes make TV drama



FBI agent discusses payment with Myers, Errichetti and Weinberg

Police arrest suspect in slaying of lawyer

By PETER JOHNSON
Staff Writer

A 52-year-old Brooklyn man was arrested Tuesday and charged with savagely beating a "no-frills" divorce lawyer to death in a toilet stall in a White Plains office building 13 months ago.

Edward Gaweda, of 459 40th St., was charged with second-degree murder in

connection with the death of 68-year-old Frank Melville who, at midday on Sept. 19, 1979, was repeatedly beaten on the head in his second-floor office lavatory at 2 Williams St. He died six days after the attack.

Gaweda, who is employed as a me-

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By TONY MAURO
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — The picture quality was poor, and the camera positions static, but as realistic drama, it couldn't be beaten.

The FBI's Abscam videotapes debuted on network television Tuesday night, revealing to the public what jurors saw before they found Congressman Michael Myers and three others guilty on federal bribery charges in the so-called Abscam sting operation.

Sitting in a plush room in Philadelphia's Barclay Hotel, Myers is seen boasting about his influence and arguing for more bribe money with men he believed to be representatives of an Arab sheik but who in actuality were FBI agents. A single, fixed, hidden camera, captured the conversation.

With the swaggering self-confidence of a Marlon Brando, Myers tells his audience about his powers with members of the Philadelphia City Council. "Those we can't handle, we can buy," he says. And to deal with the Mafia, he says, "Take my advice ... keep it very quiet."

In another setting, he utters his most famous line, as the agents nod in agreement. "Money talks in this business, bull — walks. It works the same way down in Washington."

The fuzzy excerpts from the 3½ hours of trial tapes represented the first — and probably not the last — time in history that videotapes used in evidence in a federal trial were released for broadcast.

Inside

Lifestyles I Some kinds of soup must be cooked slowly to bring out all the flavor of their ingredients, but many good-tasting, nourishing soups can be prepared easily and quickly at the last minute. See page B1.

Lifestyles II The classic, conservative tradition has resurfaced in men's clothing, and now every man can have the look of success. Focus on Fashion looks at the fall and winter men's clothing scene. See page D1.

World/Nation Hoping to defuse criticism of his opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment, Ronald Reagan pledged flatly Tuesday to appoint a woman to the Supreme Court if he is elected president. See page A8.

Sports The New York Knicks embarrassed the Philadelphia 76ers Tuesday night to continue their successful start in the 1980-81 NBA season. In the National Hockey League, the New York Islanders and St. Louis Blues tied, 5-5. See page C6.

Weather Considerable cloudiness today through Thursday and Thursday, high 55 to 60. Milder tonight and Thursday, low tonight in the mid 40s, high Thursday 60 to 65. Partly cloudy and mild Friday. Details on page A2.

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