

SAM

Continued from page one

tantly today at your request. But I know you've spent a great deal of time on this investigation. Some of the things you've written I've agreed with; others I've had some reservations on. But very frankly, it's mainly because of your efforts in the case that I've agreed to speak to you."

Following are some of the highlights of the interview:

Q. Except for you, the rest of New York City's law enforcement establishment looked the other way when evidence of a conspiracy began appearing. Why did you decide to pursue this case?

A. When David Berkowitz was arrested I was at Police Plaza (New York City police headquarters) and I was involved in the taking of his statements and thereafter in the court negotiations. Throughout, I indicated I had some reservations in the matter. Not in regard to the guilt or innocence of David Berkowitz. I was absolutely convinced that he was guilty of the crimes charged. My question was from the outset and remains today whether or not Berkowitz acted alone.

Q. The other district attorneys and the police were hoping that Berkowitz would plead guilty, so that a trial could be avoided. But again, you alone wanted to see a trial. Why?

A. There was a question as to Berkowitz' sanity at the outset, and the very early reports from the psychiatrists were that he was not capable of standing trial. I opposed those. I went into court personally and said the findings were totally out of focus. I insisted on new reports and thereaf-

ter the examinations provided a different result.

I did want to see a trial because I wanted to determine whether some of these (conspiracy) questions in my mind—and certainly I think in the minds of others—could not be resolved. And I think they should be resolved.

Q. What is the current status of your investigation?

A. I have an assistant district attorney assigned to the case. I have a research man looking into the background of the case and all the facts that surrounded these occurrences; and I have two detectives who are at their disposal to see what they can compile for us.

Q. After nearly two years now of your new investigation, do you personally believe David Berkowitz was not alone in the Son of Sam murders?

A. I believe that David Berkowitz did not act alone—that in fact others did cooperate, aid, and abet him in the commission of these crimes. In fact, it has crossed my mind that this .44-caliber pistol, which was the weapon used in the shootings we witnessed, was passed around among a number of people.

Q. Regarding some specific crime scene evidence, there are composite sketches that look nothing like Berkowitz, and there are strong reports of two people and two cars at some of the scenes. Are these among the reasons you believe he wasn't alone?

A. What you're pointing out is exactly what caused the concern in my mind. We've had a number of murders in recent years of some very prominent people and following the killings there were theories advanced



Queens D.A. John Santucci

that the individual who committed the crime was not acting alone. I'm talking about John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and others. The questions were left unanswered.

In this case, the sketches of the individuals—the composites—were at wide divergence from (Berkowitz). That was one problem. Allegations that there was more than one vehicle involved (and) the time frame in (the killer) getting from one place to another gave us serious questions.

I think that no matter how these issues are resolved—they should be resolved. I think it's in the public interest that we

know. If there are people out there who were involved with Berkowitz, they may be doing the same thing today...and I think part of my function is to prevent things from happening—and this is the way I have to do it. And so I've been involved in looking into this case and having people spend time on it.

Q. Not to compromise any progress you may have made, but there have been some possible suspects identified. Do you have any particular people in mind?

A. I have ideas as to who would be most valuable to me to talk to. I have independent suspicions. Whether I'll be successful in talking to them, or accumulating...any further evidence, I don't know at this point. There are also people I would like to talk to who are no longer available to me. Where each of them is at the present time, I don't know. I also have some people in mind whose whereabouts I know—but who wouldn't be helpful to me.

Q. Has the unusual number of deaths involving people now known to have been connected to Berkowitz in some way hindered your probe?

A. We've looked into some of these incidents you've talked about and yes, there are an unusual number of people who are no longer living. The probe certainly would have been easier if all the principals, or all the people involved peripherally or directly, were still alive. But unfortunately, many are not.

Q. Berkowitz has named the late John Carr as one of his accomplices. Would you care to comment on Carr's role in the case?

A. I don't think it would be appropriate to comment because John Carr is dead, and I think any comment by me would serve no purpose.

Q. I know the Stacy Moskowitz murder

in Brooklyn is not in your jurisdiction. But as an observer, do you think that in light of all the evidence that's been uncovered since Berkowitz' arrest, he actually pulled the trigger that night?

A. I would not even speculate on something that happened outside my jurisdiction.

Q. Well, put another way, based on the evidence, does there appear to be one scene in particular where it is apparent Berkowitz was not alone?

A. In the context of the preceding question, I don't dare answer this question.

Q. In our investigation, we've found that contrary to some myths circulating after Berkowitz' arrest, he was not the lunatic and the loner he was made out to be by others. Have you arrived at the same conclusion?

A. It is my understanding, and the evidence I have available to me indicates that he was perfectly sane, knew exactly what he was doing, and that he did have a circle of friends he was involved with.

Q. At this point in time, do you feel you have a reasonable chance of solving this case?

A. I think an answer may be found as to whether or not other people did act in concert with Berkowitz...Whether or not it would lead to indictments, whether or not it would be hard evidence is very debatable...But my principal goal is to find out...to settle the issue. To know whether or not others were involved. Whether or not in fact the gun passed around. Whether or not (Berkowitz) was aided and abetted by others. Should I be able to certify any one of those incidents—any one of those probabilities—then of course I would try to get enough evidence to prosecute. But that's a little more difficult than just settling the question.

PERRY

Continued from page one

leads we've had since the inception of the investigation."

"Well, the guy just ran chills up and down my spine," Kahn said of the interview.

"A detailed description (of the murder) had been released in one newspaper article (summer of 1979). But, we could never substantiate whether Berkowitz had access to that article and it seems unlikely that he could have."

Up until that one detailed news account was released, he said, "We kept it pretty much a deep dark secret as to the location and type of wound. Somehow Berkowitz seems to have found that information out."

Ultimately, Kahn said, "Berkowitz indicated he had been at a cult meeting (in New York) where an individual got up and told about killing Arlis Perry. He told us he knew who killed Arlis and why. He said the answer was in Bismarck, not in California and that a cult had killed her. He wouldn't tell us who did it."

Berkowitz told Kahn that Mrs. Perry had been "followed to California... hunted, stalked and slain." He said the murder was linked to Mrs. Perry's efforts, as a deeply religious young woman, to convert satan worshippers in North Dakota to Christianity.

At the 1979 interview and in letters written from his prison cell — the same letters that were forwarded to Kahn in November 1979 — Berkowitz described the man at the cult meeting as someone he "looked up to and admired," a leader of a satanic cult who "killed often," and the one who had "openly bragged" about the brutal murder of Mrs. Perry.

Berkowitz's information indicated that the Perry case was not a random local sex murder, as some police had originally theorized.

"I really don't know much more about the particulars. I know who did it and why. I wasn't there when it happened. I was here in New York," he wrote.

Bismarck is a short distance south of Minot, N.D., the part-time residence of the late John Carr, who Berkowitz says participated in the .44-caliber killings.

Although Berkowitz says John Carr was not directly responsible for the Perry murder, he links her death to the Dakota cult underground, in which Carr was reportedly active.

"Bismarck, as you know, is only a little south of Minot," Berkowitz wrote. "Minot happens to be the second most important point of the new (Son of Sam) investigation, next to Yonkers. Why did I write about Mrs. Perry? Simply because I had already known where she once lived and I also knew it (the murder) was done by a cult. It was not a sex killing. How did I know? You figure it out," Berkowitz wrote.

Kahn, who is in charge of the Perry case, said, "We have no reason to disbelieve Berkowitz. It's been some of the best, most solid leads we've had since the inception of the investigation."

"After being in law enforcement for 18 1/2 years you go with an intuitive feeling now and then. I have nothing to substantiate it nor do I have anything to disprove it. Somewhere along the line he heard about the murder from a reliable source. It's just an intuitive feeling that there is more there and if he would just loosen up and tell us about it we might be able to solve the case."

"There is a lot of information that is consistent with what Berkowitz is telling us and it seems to fit into a logical pattern that may all soon, one day, come to light," Kahn said.

The California statements coincide with others by Queens District Attorney John Santucci, who said he believes Berkowitz did not act alone in the .44-caliber killings.

Earlier this year, in letters to this reporter, Berkowitz said the Son of Sam murders were carried out by members of a satanic cult to which he and John Carr belonged. Berkowitz's statements on the Perry killing would suggest the existence of a network of cult groups somehow linked to each other.

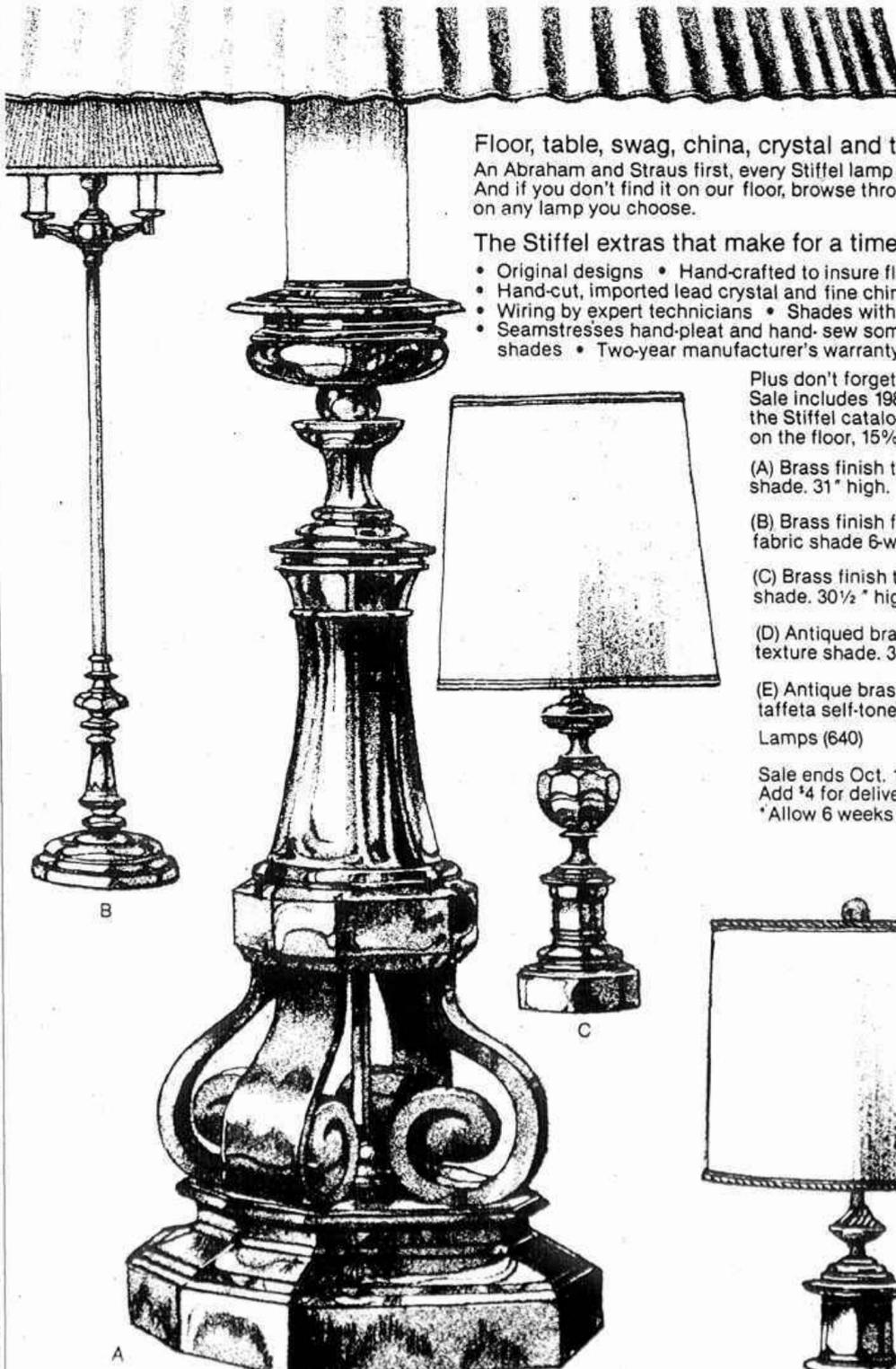
Santucci, while not specifically mentioning the Perry case, said he feared that people connected with Berkowitz might have committed other crimes around the country, and that one of the purposes of his investigation was to try to prevent any other killings.

Kahn said that after Mrs. Perry's death, "A rumor in Bismarck had it that she and a girlfriend had gone across the river to a neighboring town, Mandan, to try to convert some cult group to Christianity. We were never able to substantiate it. But with what Berkowitz came up with, there may be something to the story."

Kahn added that, "A few weeks after her death, her temporary grave marker in Bismarck was stolen. It may have been routine vandalism, or it may have been someone taking a particular 'trophy.' We don't know. But we are satisfied Berkowitz has knowledge of the case."

A law enforcement source close to the New York Son of Sam investigation said that, "If Berkowitz wasn't serious he'd have been risking exposure as a fraud — the last thing he wants. If he was making it all up, he'd have no way of knowing if the police had some evidence that would have definitely made it a local crime and showed him to be a liar," the source said. "But that hasn't been the case, and he was right on the wound, her description, and the church's description."

Every Stiffel Lamp 15% to 30% off Ready to go



Floor, table, swag, china, crystal and the famous Stiffel metal lamps. An Abraham and Straus first, every Stiffel lamp on sale including our 1982 exclusives. And if you don't find it on our floor, browse through the Stiffel catalog* and save 15% on any lamp you choose.

The Stiffel extras that make for a timeless, lasting investment

- Original designs • Hand-crafted to insure flawless fit and appearance
- Hand-cut, imported lead crystal and fine china for some bases
- Wiring by expert technicians • Shades with only the finest fabrics
- Seamstresses hand-pleat and hand-sew some of the more exquisite stretched shades • Two-year manufacturer's warranty

Plus don't forget... Sale includes 1982 exclusives, 15% off. Any style in the Stiffel catalog* 15% off. Any Stiffel lamp shown on the floor, 15% to 30% off

- (A) Brass finish table lamp with beige pleated linen shade. 31" high. *224 reg. *280
- (B) Brass finish floor lamp with ivory knife pleated fabric shade 6-way switch. 59 1/2" high. *236 reg. *295
- (C) Brass finish table lamp with ivory slub texture shade. 30 1/2" high. *126 reg. *180
- (D) Antiqued brass finish table lamp with ivory slub texture shade. 32" high. *188 reg. *235
- (E) Antique brass finish table lamp with stretched taffeta self-toned stripe shade. 38 1/2" high. *152 reg. *190

Lamps (640)

Sale ends Oct. 17th. Add \$4 for delivery. Sorry no mail and phone. *Allow 6 weeks delivery on catalog sales.

Abraham and Straus

Brooklyn Queens Hempstead Manhasset Babylon Huntington Smith Haven Monmouth Paramus Woodbridge White Plains Short Hills King of Prussia

Please see ARLIS on page A7

