

A Year Later 'Son of Sam' Still On Loose

The psychopathic killer, a staple of Hollywood melodramas, is equally fascinating—and frightening—in real life. Such a killer has roamed New York City for almost a year, leaving five persons dead and six wounded, and warning in bizarre notes of his obsession to murder again.

Last weekend, the person who called himself "Son of Sam" in those notes struck again, wounding two. The shootings conformed to a pattern established with the first attack last July 29. The victims were a young man and woman sitting in a car parked on a Queens street; the gun was the same .44-caliber "bulldog" revolver used every time before. All the shootings have been in Queens or the Bronx, all but one on weekends, most involving women with long brown hair, walking alone or sitting in cars with their boy-friends.

The result has been an intensive, if frustrating, manhunt that was broadened last week to include tracing all 28,000 .44-caliber bulldogs ever made. Eyewitnesses have given varying descriptions of the killer, but the police believe they are looking for a white man, 25 to 30 years old.

A "psychological profile," drawn mainly from Son of Sam's notes, is a familiar one: a shy loner, dangerously schizophrenic, presumed to have trouble forming relationships, especially with young women. However, the police—mindful that it took two years to catch the "Boston Strangler," who killed 13 women in the 1960's—cannot be sure this is the sort of man they want. They also disagree among themselves whether the note-writing means the killer wants to be caught. There seemed only one certainty: that Son of Sam will be heard from again if not caught.