

# **Another Shooting Laid to Suspect In the 'Sam' Case**

## **He Is Said to Confess Wounding of Woman**

By **HOWARD BLUM**

David R. Berkowitz, the man the police have identified as the .44-caliber killer, said after his arrest that he was also responsible for the wounding of an elderly Yonkers woman with a .45-caliber rifle found in his apartment, according to court documents presented to the Brooklyn grand jury.

New York City police officials confirmed yesterday that a search was under way in identify the Yonkers woman. The Yonkers police refused to discuss any aspect of the case.

Mr. Berkowitz was indicted yesterday in State Supreme Court in Brooklyn in the murder of Stacy Moskowitz and the attempted murder of her escort, Robert Violante. Mr. Berkowitz is to be arraigned today.

The Moskowitz and Violante shootings were the last two attributed to the man known as "Son of Sam," who is believed to have murdered six people and wounded seven in a spree of terror across New York that lasted nearly 13 months.

### **New Statements Disclosed**

The papers presented to the 23-member grand jury by the Brooklyn District Attorney's office, also disclosed the following new statements about Mr. Berkowitz:

¶ On the night of July 30, before the shooting of Miss Moskowitz and Mr. Violante, Mr. Berkowitz ate dinner in a Manhattan diner and then drove to Huntington, L. I. He returned from Long Island by the Belt Parkway, stopping to search for possible victims in Howard Beach and

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Canarsie, before encountering the victims in Bensonhurst.

Following the shootings, Mr. Berkowitz drove for two hours through Brooklyn before he parked at Sunset Park, two miles from the scene of the crime. He sat on a bench in the park reading the Sunday newspapers until 8 A.M. Then he crossed the Williamsburg Bridge into Manhattan, arriving in Yonkers at 10:30 Sunday morning.

His escape by car across the city was accomplished despite the "Code 44" alert

the police used to supposedly block all exit routes from Brooklyn.

Mr. Berkowitz observed police ticketing his car while it was parked in front of a fire hydrant on Bay 17th Street on the night of the shootings. He was walking toward Shore Parkway and Bay 17th Street when he saw the police ticket his car, drive off and then return to inspect the car for 10 minutes. After the police left for the second time, Mr. Berkowitz returned to his car and removed the parking ticket from the windshield and placed it on the front seat.

It was this parking ticket that helped

Brooklyn homicide detectives trace Mr. Berkowitz.

The .44-caliber Charter Arms Bulldog revolver was purchased in Houston along with 100 rounds of ammunition in May or June 1976 (on July 29, 1976, the first .44-caliber murder occurred in the Bronx) for about \$130. He bought the revolver, Mr. Berkowitz said, with the purpose of returning to New York and committing murders. "I had to get a gun... for my job," Mr. Berkowitz said. He then explained that his job was "killing people."

On the night of the Moskowitz and Violante shootings, Mr. Berkowitz sat

on a bench in the Bay Shore Park, his .44-caliber revolver in his coat pocket, while he watched Miss Moskowitz and Mr. Violante on the swings. He then watched the couple return to their car and waited 10 minutes before he approached and fired four shots. Mr. Berkowitz said he "sprayed" the vehicle with gunfire.

There was no particular reason for his firing four shots from a revolver that was loaded with five bullets. Mr. Berkowitz reportedly denied previous speculation by the police that he kept one bullet in the gun to kill himself if he were spotted. Mr. Berkowitz said that he always carried approximately a dozen rounds of .44-caliber ammunition in his pants pockets.

Miss Moskowitz was the target, not Mr. Violante. "I wanted her more than anything," official sources quoted Mr. Berkowitz as having said.

Mr. Berkowitz, after the shooting in the park, escaped through a hole in a fence and returned to his car parked on Bay 17th Street. He then drove north on 18th Avenue, through the Flatbush section of Brooklyn toward Eastern Parkway. His inclination was to drive to the East River, but he stopped at Sunset Park, 42 blocks away from where the shootings had occurred.

Mr. Berkowitz said that he had visited the park where the young couple was shot prior to the actual attack. On each of these scouting missions, Mr. Berkowitz was armed with his .44-caliber revolver. "I always take that out at night," he said.

In other disclosures surrounding the man accused of being the .44-caliber killer, The New York Post and The Daily News published letters yesterday that Mr. Berkowitz had written while he was in the Army to his teen-age sweetheart, Iris Gerhardt.

The letters, written to Miss Gerhardt in 1971 and 1972 from Army bases in the United States and in Korea, detail what Mr. Berkowitz called in one letter his "distorted, messed up mind."

Spokesmen for both newspapers said they had paid for the rights to publish these letters. Peter Michelmore of The Post said the paper "met" the \$500 fee Miss Gerhardt had asked. An editor at The News, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "We sent the woman \$200."

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