

Phone Call Gave Police Key Clue To Berkowitz

The following article was reported by David F. White, Leonard Buder and Ronald Smothers. It was written by Mr. Smothers.

Special to The New York Times

YONKERS, Aug. 15—A chance telephone encounter last Tuesday between a New York City detective and a police dispatcher here who is the daughter of Sam Carr—believed to be the "Sam" in "Son of Sam"—appears to have played the pivotal role in the search that led to the arrest the following day of David R. Berkowitz as the so-called .44-caliber killer.

The dispatcher was 26-year-old Wheat Carr. The telephone conversation alerted the detective—who was seeking a possible witness to the murder of Stacy Moskowitz—to the suspicions of two Yonkers policemen that a local man who had been acting strangely might be the Son of Sam.

The same two policemen had earlier given information on Mr. Berkowitz — five days and again three days before the arrest—to another New York detective. The city police, then receiving hundreds of tips daily in the case, did not act on that information immediately. This time, however, the New York detective

Continued on Page 22, Column 1

Phone Call to Yonkers Police Had Pivotal Role in Arrest of Berkowitz

Continued From Page 1

was so stunned that "he dropped the phone."

In interviews over the last few days with the police and with residents of Westchester County who played a part in the case, a clearer picture has emerged of the unrelated elements that finally came together on Aug. 9, the day before the capture of Mr. Berkowitz.

It appears that the initiatives of three county residents and two Yonkers policemen working outside the investigative framework produced the information that attracted police attention to Mr. Berkowitz.

Following are key developments in that process:

On April 21 two Yonkers patrolmen, Peter Intervallo and Thomas Chamberlain, linked the shooting of a dog belonging to Mr. Carr to the shooting of another dog in the same neighborhood the previous December. At that time Mr. Carr, the owner of a telephone answering service here, showed the officers two anonymous threatening letters he had received two days before the dog was shot.

On June 10, Nann and Jack Cassara of New Rochelle who had received an anonymous get-well card signed by a "Sam and Francis Carr," met and asked the Carr family, whom they did not know and asked for an explanation. The two families talked and the Cassaras learned of the threatening letters the Carrs had received about their dog. Mrs. Cassara's son recalled that they once rented a room to a tenant with an intense dislike of dogs. Mrs. Cassara, searching her records later that evening for the former tenant's name came up with David R. Berkowitz. She found in the Westchester telephone directory a listing for Mr. Berkowitz at 35 Pine Street in Yonkers—around the corner from the Cadd home at 316 Warburton Avenue. The Carrs passed the name on to Patrolmen Intervallo and Chamberlain on June 11. This is the first time, according to sources interviewed by The New York Times, that



The New York Times/Chester Higgins Jr.

Sam Carr with his daughter, Wheat, last week in Yonkers

the Yonkers police were given the name of Mr. Berkowitz.

During the first week of August, just days after the death of Stacy Moskowitz, Mrs. Cassara said that she called the Yonkers police to try to tell them that she believed David Berkowitz could be the Son of Sam. "With a man that crazy, you just couldn't tell," she said about her suspicions. She said that a detective she described as "rude" rebuffed her and she dropped the matter.

At the same time, Patrolmen Intervallo and Chamberlain who had conducted a background check on Mr. Berkowitz, based on information Mr. Carr had given them, were collecting a number of reports of strange behavior that led them to suspect Mr. Berkowitz could be the Son of Sam. He was, they reasoned, at

the very least a "good choice" for further investigation since New York City police announced on Aug. 2 that 12 leading suspects had been cleared in the Moskowitz killing. On Aug. 5, the Yonkers patrolmen gave their information to Detective Richard Salverson of the New York City Police Department's intelligence division. This appears to be the first time the name of David R. Berkowitz was brought to the attention of the New York police.

On Aug. 6, a Yonkers detective called Mrs. Cassara to check back with her. To her surprise, she said, he told her that the Yonkers Police Department was suspicious of Mr. Berkowitz. That same day, Patrolman Chamberlain was called to investigate a fire at 35 Pine Street at the

door of another apartment in the building where Mr. Berkowitz lived. The tenant was Craig Glassman, an auxiliary deputy sheriff, who had also received mysterious letters. Patrolman Intervallo, in examining the letters, noted a similarity in handwriting and wording to that in the notes received by the Carrs and Cassaras.

On the following Monday, Patrolman Chamberlain, convinced that Mr. Berkowitz should be investigated, again telephoned Detective Salverson in New York.

On Aug. 9, Detective James Justus of the 10th Homicide Zone in Brooklyn was checking on the parking summonses issued in that area the night Miss Moskowitz was fatally shot. He was hoping to find witnesses to the crimes. He called Yonkers to ask the police there to contact Mr. Berkowitz, who has received one of the summonses, and ask him to get in touch with them. His call was answered by Miss Carr, a full-time employee of the Yonkers Police Department.

Miss Carr reportedly made some comments about her suspicions concerning Mr. Berkowitz and put the detective in touch with the two patrolmen. The patrolmen related to the detective a series of circumstances that linked Mr. Berkowitz to the .44-caliber killings.

"The detective was so stunned he dropped the phone," a police source said later. "The next day they picked up Berkowitz."

Since the arrest of Mr. Berkowitz, officials of the Yonkers Police Department have prohibited Patrolmen Intervallo and Chamberlain from talking about their roles in the case. Last Friday Lieut. Thomas Kressman denied that Miss Carr worked for the Yonkers Police Department or had answered the telephone when the Brooklyn detective called.

At the same time, Mr. Carr and his daughter have said through their lawyer that they will not consent to an interview on the specifics of their involvement for less than \$15,000.