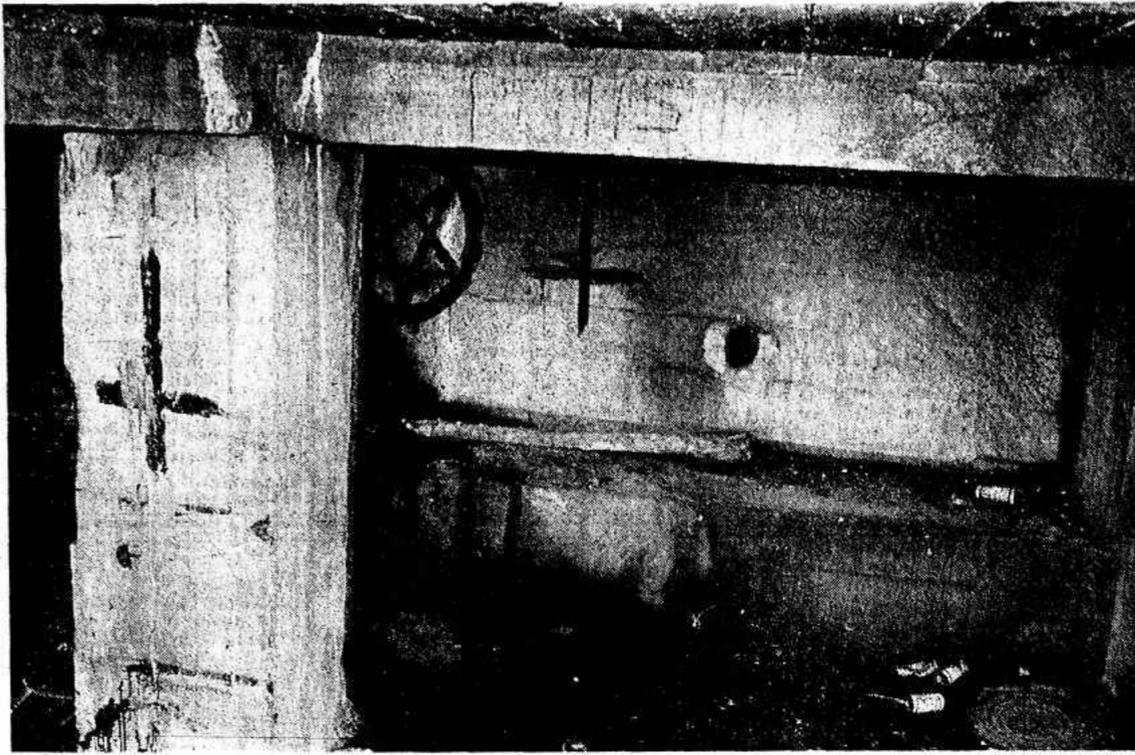


# Satanic cult at Untermyer linked to 'Son of Sam'



'Devil's Cave,' with Satanic markings, in Untermyer Park

By MAURY TERRY and  
JAMES MITTEAGER  
Copyright, 1979, Gannett Westchester  
Newspapers  
A Satanic cult that operated in north-  
west Yonkers was apparently linked to  
David Berkowitz and the "Son of Sam"  
killings.

Sources have told Gannett Westchester  
Newspapers that cult members may have  
aided Berkowitz, the self-confessed "Son  
of Sam" killer, in the murder spree that left  
six dead and seven wounded in 1976-77.  
The apparent link between Berkowitz  
and the devil worshippers is a primary  
focus of the newly re-opened probe by the  
Queens District Attorney's Office into the  
"Son of Sam" killings.  
In addition to Berkowitz, the late John  
Carr — the real life son of Sam Carr and  
Berkowitz' neighbor — was also apparently  
linked to the Yonkers cult. Investigators  
believe John Carr, whose 1978 death in  
North Dakota is now being investigated as  
a possible homicide, may have been in-  
volved with Berkowitz in the "Son of Sam"  
killings.  
Cult members — witnesses say there  
may have been 20 members or more — re-  
portedly staged ritualistic "Black  
Masses," sacrificing dogs and drinking  
their blood.  
The cult conducted its rituals just a  
mile from Berkowitz' home at a location  
that was referred to in the "Son of Sam"  
letter to New York Daily News columnist  
Jimmy Breslin in June 1977.  
The letter's first sentence apparently  
referred both to the cult's meeting location  
and the rituals it held.

The apparent link between  
David Berkowitz and the devil  
worshippers is the primary  
focus of the Queens DA's new  
probe.

The letter, which contained a number of  
occult references, began: "Hello from the  
gutters of NYC which are filled with dog  
manure, vomit, stale wine, urine and  
blood."

Meeting at midnights in the wooded,  
abandoned recesses of Untermyer Park,  
the cult held its rites on and near the old  
Croton Aqueduct, known to some neighbor-  
hood youths as "the gutters" and the "sew-  
ers." The next line in the Breslin letter be-  
gan: "Hello from the sewers."

"We always called it 'the gutters,'" said  
a local teenager named Vince, who asked  
that his last name be withheld. "That sign  
you see spray-painted (graffiti at the site)  
'NGP' — we always said meant 'near gut-  
ters path.'"

An aqueduct, as a conduit of water, is  
by definition a "gutter" or "sewer."

The Croton Aqueduct, no longer in use,  
is an underground tunnel about eight feet  
in diameter that winds some 25 miles from  
Croton Reservoir in northern Westchester  
to New York City. A wide path on top of it  
follows its course through wooded areas  
and residential neighborhoods.

New York City's drinking water once  
flowed through the aqueduct, making it, lit-  
erally, "the gutters of NYC."

Please turn to SAM  
on page A8

## Murder case copied script of last decade

By ED TRAPASSO  
Staff Writer

There is an eerie series of coincidences  
between the recent shooting murder of an  
elderly Yonkers woman and a similar  
crime that shocked Yonkers several years  
ago.

While there is no connection between  
the two crimes, the eye-opening similari-  
ties could have been borrowed from the  
plot of a paperback mystery novel.

It is almost as if the recent homicide of  
a 74-year-old grandmother was a reincar-  
nation of another murder that occurred a  
decade ago, also in October, and also al-  
legedly by a young door-to-door magazine  
salesman from Brooklyn.

The elderly woman, Mary Maduras,  
was found inside the kitchen of her private  
home at 58 Vineyard Ave. last Friday night  
with a small caliber bullet hole in her  
stomach and several lacerations on her  
scalp. She was the apparent victim of a  
robbery.

The police probe pointed to a door-to-  
door magazine salesman who neighbors  
reported seeing cavassing the west Yonkers  
neighborhood. And shortly before midnight  
Saturday, Angello Williams, 19, was in cus-  
tody, charged with second-degree murder.

It was at 1 p.m. on Oct. 7, 1969 that Pat-  
rick Wallace, 45, a father of eight, was  
seen by his stunned wife and daughter  
stumbling into his southwest Yonkers  
apartment at 145 Hawthorne Ave., with a  
mortal knife wound in his neck.

Please turn to MURDER  
on back page of section

## McLean Avenue incident

# Sniper suspect surrenders

By STEVE CLARK  
Staff Writer

Police arrested a 29-year-old sniper  
suspect in his South Yonkers apartment  
Tuesday night, after the man fired repeated  
rounds from a .22 caliber rifle at police,  
pedestrians, vehicles and buildings.

Myron Taller, who lives on the first  
floor of a 3 1/2 room co-op at 385 McLean

Ave., was charged with attempted murder  
and reckless endangerment. Police said  
Taller, who was scheduled to be arraigned  
today in Yonkers Special Sessions Court,  
has a history of mental illness and drug  
use.

He was previously arrested twice on  
selling marijuana to youths in Yonkers last  
winter and in Fayetteville, N.C. in Decem-  
ber, 1978. The Yonkers offense resulted in

a \$250 fine and a conditional discharge.

At approximately 7:45 p.m., an elderly  
woman reported to police that she was  
walking her dog on McLean Avenue when  
two shots — BBshots, she thought —  
whizzed past her head. Shortly thereafter,  
gunfire shattered window panes on a  
parked car and a nearby apartment.

Uniformed and plainclothes police sur-  
rounded the building in an attempt to  
prevent Taller's escape. Traffic was im-  
mediately cut off once police spotted the suspect,  
sitting on his bed and clothed in an orange  
robe.

"It was something out of a movie," said  
one resident of the building. "I thought at  
first it was the noise from a car, but then  
my son said he saw police cars surround-  
ing the place."

Police officers William Korwatch and  
Louis Ferrara of the emergency squad en-  
tered the building in an attempt to con-  
vince Taller to surrender. As they ap-  
proached his doorway, Taller swore at  
them and fired several rounds as he exited  
from the apartment. Korwatch and Fer-  
rara fired back as Taller returned to the  
apartment and bolted the door.

Dr. Herman Taller, a medical doctor  
who lives in the Bronx, was summoned to  
talk to his son. The father, however, was  
not allowed to enter the apartment because  
there was fear for his safety.

After fire was repeated several times  
between Taller and Korwatch and Ferrara.

Please turn to SNIPER  
on back page of section

## Mother held in abuse

By PHIL WAGA  
and ED TRAPASSO  
Staff Writers

A 23-year-old Yonkers woman was ar-  
rested Tuesday evening on charges that  
she physically abused and beat her 9-  
year-old son.

Carleen Baff, of 135 Stanley Ave., was  
charged with endangering the welfare of  
her child, Timothy, and assault, third de-  
gree. She was scheduled for arraignment  
early today in Yonkers court.

Ms. Baff, whose son was born when she  
was 14, was arrested at her home Tuesday  
at 7:30 p.m. by Kenneth Ellman and Wal-  
ter Burger, two detectives with the Society  
for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Ellman said that his unit received a tip  
that Timothy may have been physically  
abused so investigators went to his Yonkers  
school last Friday. They then took him to  
St. Joseph's Hospital, where doctors said

he required hospitalization.  
Ellman said that Timothy had numer-  
ous bruises, including a severe eye bruise.  
Ellman also said that it appeared that the  
boy was beaten with a coat hanger and a  
belt.

Timothy, Ellman added, seems to be  
suffering from emotional problems and  
will be taken to the Westchester County  
Medical Center in Valhalla for treatment.

While at St. Joseph's, Timothy reported-  
ly tried to commit suicide by leaping out of  
a window and a doctor stopped him, a  
source said.

Ellman and Burger arrested Ms. Baff  
without incident at her home, which she  
shared with her two other children, her fa-  
ther and her brothers and sisters.

The detectives from the prevention of  
cruelty to children unit investigated the  
matter in conjunction with the Domestic  
Violence Bureau of the Westchester Dis-  
trict Attorney's office.

## Dispute grows over landlord-tenant panel

By JIM CAVANAUGH  
Staff Writer

A way for tenants and landlords to iron out  
disputes, or just another layer of bureaucracy  
that won't help anybody?

The Yonkers City Council appointed five mem-  
bers to the new Landlord Tenant Council Tuesday  
night amid opposing viewpoints as to whether it will  
work.

The City Council first authorized the Landlord-  
Tenant Council early this year. According to the  
provisions of a state law spelling out just what such  
councils can do, it can mediate disputes between  
landlords and tenants. It has no statutory power of  
its own, and, if it cannot bring two parties together,  
can only refer them to the provisions of state hous-  
ing law. Nonetheless the City Council, which ap-  
proved formation of the council by a unanimous  
vote, thought it might cool tempers plus act as an  
advisor on landlord-tenant issues. The council would  
have no power over the county Rent Guidelines  
Board.

But from the start things began to go sour.  
First no one wanted to be on the council, which  
was supposed to have three tenant representatives,  
three landlord representatives, and one impartial  
member.

Following advertisements in newspapers placed  
by City Hall, five people did apply. But when it be-  
came time to make the appointments official at  
Tuesday's Council meeting Mayor Angelo Martinelli,  
II, decided it was no longer a good idea.

An unnecessary and dangerous level of bu-  
reaucracy which could very well impede efforts  
aimed at enhancing and protecting the rights of ten-

Please turn to DISPUTE  
on back page of section

## Inside Mayoral debate

Is Yonkers on the move, as Republican Mayor  
Angelo Martinelli claims? Or is it really not, as  
Democratic challenger Councilman Gerald Loehr  
claims?

Read their answers for yourself as the transcript of  
The Herald Statesman's mayoral debate begins  
today on page A-14.

## World/Nation Prime Minister Menachem

Begin won his first test in the winter session of the  
Israeli Parliament as predicted, defeating a parcel  
of five no-confidence motions by a 12-vote margin.

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# Upstate town may be county utility model

Fourth in a series

By MICHAEL RODDY  
Staff Writer

SYRACUSE — The town of Massena,  
along the St. Lawrence River at the border  
of New York and Canada, is blazing the  
trail for Westchester on the road to municipal  
power.

But along with the legal precedents it is  
setting, the Massena case is proving that  
the journey to municipal power can be haz-  
ardous and expensive.

The town is attempting to do much the  
same thing that Westchester is proposing,  
which is to condemn property of its local  
power company, the Niagara Mohawk  
Power Co., based in Syracuse. The purpose  
is to establish a municipally owned power  
system that would get its electricity from  
the state Power Authority, which generates  
inexpensive hydroelectric current at the  
Robert Moses Dam in Massena.

The distance from Massena's homes  
and businesses to the dam is short, but it is  
taking Massena a long time to get its mu-  
nicipal power system going.

Massena, like Westchester, was offered  
the option to set up a public utility agency  
in a referendum on May 30, 1974. This  
Election Day, Nov. 5, Westchester voters  
will decide whether to set up a county  
agency that could eventually replace Con  
Edison.

The Niagara Mohawk Co., like Con Ed-  
ison, spent a large amount of money to de-  
feat the referendum. A utility spokesman  
confirmed that about \$300,000 was spent on  
newspaper advertising door-to-door can-  
vassing of voters and other publicity.

The referendum passed by a three-to-  
two majority of the voters in the town,  
whose population is 14,000. But more than  
five years later, Massena has yet to have  
one lightbulb burning with the municipal

company's power. The reason is litigation.  
At the federal court here, Massena's at-  
torneys have lodged an antitrust action,  
charging Niagara Mohawk with restraint  
of trade for declining to deliver the elec-  
tricity Massena is supposed to get from the  
Power Authority of the State of New York  
(PASNY).

Massena's attorneys are making a simi-  
lar case before the Federal Energy Regu-  
latory Commission in Washington concern-  
ing the obligation of Niagara Mohawk to  
"wheel" the PASNY power to the town.

And in Albany, the town is embroiled in  
a condemnation hearing to determine the  
value of the utility properties the town  
needs for its system.

While the attorneys argue the fine  
points of antitrust and utility law, the  
lights remain on in Massena because Ni-  
agara Mohawk has obtained an injunction  
blocking the town from taking over the

equipment.  
"We did not anticipate the delays and  
the enormous effort to protect one half of  
one percent of their business," attorney  
Wallace Duncan, who represents the town,  
said in a recent interview outside the fed-  
eral courtroom in Syracuse.

His Washington firm of Duncan, Wein-  
berg, Palmer and Miller also has acted as  
Westchester's legal consultants on munici-  
pal power.

A spokesman for Niagara Mohawk said  
Massena actually represents one tenth of a  
percent of the company's business. Niaga-  
ra Mohawk is the state's largest utility in  
terms of the area it covers, 24,000 square  
miles in 37 upstate counties.

Please see UPSTATE  
on page A15

