The Herald Journal

Covering Bridgerland - Northern Utah And Southern Idaho

VOL. 68, NO. 191 LOGAN, UTAH, THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1977 FIFTEEN CENTS

New York police arrest killer, Son of Sam

NEW YORK (UPI) — David Berkowitz, a 24-year-old postal worker, was charged today as "Son of Sam," the psychopath who killed six persons in a year-long reign of terror and reportedly planned to go out "in a blaze of glory" with a wholesale slaughter at a discotheque the night of his arrest.

"Okay, you got me," Berkowitz said with an air of resignation as police closed in on him at the end of the largest manhunt in New York history, eclipsing the search for London's 19th Century Jack the Ripper and the Boston Strangler of the 1960s.

In the end, "Son of Sam" was tripped up by a dispute with a neighbor and by a $25-ticket for parking in front of a fire hydrant on the night of his last murder July 31.

"We have him," said First Deputy Police Commissioner James Taylor.

"He made statements of admission" after his arrest, added Chief of Detectives John Keenan. "He seemed to be resigned to what appeared to be his fate."

At a 15-minute arraignment proceeding in Brooklyn, Berkowitz was charged with second degree murder in the July 31 death of Stacy Moskowitz, and attempted murder and assault for the shooting of Robert Violante, 20.

Criminal Court Judge Richard Brown ordered Berkowitz held in maximum security without bail and remanded him to Kings County Hospital for psychiatric tests.

"It is my personal opinion that the defendant may be incapacitated mentally," Brown said. He urged that Berkowitz be isolated from other prisoners and watched continuously.

Philip Peltz, retained as Berkowitz' attorney, requested that his client "not be at liberty" and did not ask for bail.

"You have here before you the .44 caliber killer known as Son of Sam," Assistant Brooklyn District Attorney Ronald Aiello told Brown.

Berkowitz, flanked by seven detectives, remained silent except to say "Yes," when Brown called him by name.

Armed court guards scanned the packed courtroom and reporters and spectators had to submit to body searches before being admitted.

New Yorkers breathed easy for the first time in 13 months.

The suspect, according to a newspaper columnist, told police he killed on the orders of a dog named Sam and planned to shoot up a Long Island nightspot "and kill everybody" the night of his arrest.

Berkowitz, a stocky mail sorter who served in Korea with the Army's 2nd Division, was arrested as he sat at the wheel of his car outside his Yonkers, N.Y., home about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, one year and 13 days after his first lovers' lane killing July 29, 1976.

In the car were a fully loaded .44 caliber revolver, the traffic ticket traced to him, and a submachine gun he reportedly planned to use to mow down dancers Wednesday night at a Long Island discotheque.

The revolver, which gave "Son of Sam" his other monicker of ".44-caliber killer," was identified by ballistics experts as the weapon used in all of the ambush attacks.

"Son of Sam" killed five women and one man, and wounded seven other persons, most of them as couples parked in lovers' lanes in widely scattered areas of the city.

A task force of 75 officers — hundreds more worked on their own time — stalked Sam. On the last day of the manhunt they received more than 1,800 calls an hour from persons trying to aid in the search.

A widely circulated sketch of the killer — drawn from the recollections of seven of Sam's targets who survived the killer's bullets — was credited with aiding the successful manhunt.

After his arrest, Berkowitz was rushed in a police motorcade to New York where he was interrogated for several hours and then booked on charges of murder, attempted murder and assault stemming from the latest killing July 31.

Newspaper columnist Jimmy Breslin, to whom "Son of Sam" wrote a taunting note in May after his fifth killing, wrote today that Berkowitz told police he killed at the command of a dog named "Sam" owned by a neighbor.

The latest command, according to Breslin, was to enter a dance hall in the Hamptons section of Long Island with a .45-caliber submachine gun and "kill everybody."

"He said he was 'going out in a blaze of glory,'" Breslin quoted a policeman who questioned Berkowitz as saying. "Do you know what he would have done? A machine gun in a discotheque?"

Berkowitz, who went to Columbus High School in the Bronx and attended Bronx Community College, was described as a quiet loner by many of his neighbors. But one, Westchester County deputy sheriff Craig Glassman, said he had recently received four threatening notes from Berkowitz and accused the suspect of setting a fire at his apartment door and throwing bullets into the blaze.

Glassman said he contacted police because the threatening notes appeared to be written in the style and hand of "Son of Sam."

A letter also was found among Berkowitz' arsenal in his 1971 cream-colored Ford Galaxie and seemed to have the same handwriting.

In the middle of the letter, which was addressed to Suffolk County police, was a cross straddled by male and female sex symbols and a large letter "S".

Charles Lomino, father of 18-year-old Joanne, who was temporarily paralyzed by one of the gunman's first bullets, was relieved to hear of Berkowitz' arrest.



NEW YORK POLICE today charged David Berkowitz is "Son of Sam," psychopathic killer of six persons. Berkowitz was arrested Thursday night, and is shown being taken into police headquarters.

Wholesale prices score back-to-back decrease

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Another drop in food costs pushed wholesale prices down 0.1 per cent in July for the first back-to-back monthly declines in two and one-half years, the Labor Department reported today.

Prices declined both for raw food at the farm and in various stages of preparation on the way to supermarkets, the department said. The drops began showing up in grocery stores in late July and early August.

Based on a seasonally-adjusted compound annual rate, farm prices have dropped 20 per cent since April, the department said.

The important sector of industrial commodities — metals, machinery, lumber and electric power — also contributed to the good economic news, although the moderate 0.5 per cent increase was faster than June's.

The 0.7 per cent decline in wholesale prices during June broke the back of a nine-month inflation spiral. That drop along with the July drop marked the first consecutive declines since February and March, 1975.

The July Wholesale Price Index stood at 194.8 in July from the 1967 base of 100. That means wholesale buyers paid $194.80 for goods last month that would have cost $100 a decade earlier.

The WPI measures average changes in prices of commodities sold in large quantities by producers. The survey covers 9,000 firms dealing in 2,700 products.

The new data on inflation showed wholesale prices rose 5.6 per cent in the past 12 months, the Labor Department said.

This is a distinct improvement from the rate of increase that exceeded 7 per cent last spring. And, thus far, it falls in line with administration assessments that inflation would moderate between June and December of this year.

July was the third consecutive month in which prices of farm products fell. Prices for processed foods such as baked, canned and packaged goods dropped for the second month in a row.

The report said lower prices for poultry, oilseeds, raw cotton, grains, tea, roasted coffee, fish and dairy products accounted for most of the drop.

Prices for metals, lumber, textiles, machinery and hides put upward pressure on industrial commodities. But the department said this was partially offset by a slower rate of increase for fuels, transportation equipment and minerals and declines for chemicals, furniture and household durables.

Panels agree on new canal treaty

PANAMA CITY, Panama (UPI) — U.S. and Panamanian negotiators have agreed on a new Panama Canal treaty that will end American control of the waterway by the year 2000, and Panama declared a national holiday today to celebrate.

Chief U.S. negotiators Ellsworth Bunker and Sol Linowitz left early today for Washington to discuss details of the agreement with President Carter.

Panamnian sources said Carter may travel to Panama for a joint announcement of the points of the treaty.

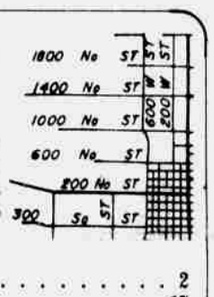
"I think it's a fair treaty," Linowitz said before boarding a U.S. Air Force plane for Washington. "We're pleased we've been able to arrive at these principles of agreement, and we think it ushers in a new chapter of relations between our two countries.

Bunker said he believed the treaty, agreed upon after 13 years of sporadic talks, would lead to "good relations with Panama and all of Latin America."

Panmanian strongman Gen. Omar Torrijos today declared a national holiday. Schools, shops, factories and offices closed as Panmanians took off for the beaches and countryside to celebrate the agreement.

The treaty was expected to face a tough ratification fight in the U.S. Senate.

Inside today



Should Logan's west side be reserved for manufacturing development or low cost housing? 5

About Cache 2
Agriculture 17
Jack Anderson 15
Classified ads 25
Comics 22
Crossword 23
Horoscope 28
Dr. Lamb 23
Obituaries 4
People 9
Sports 6
Theatres 23
Utah roundup 3
Weather 4

Dry air continues to hover over Utah, but the weatherman says the chance of scattered late-day thunderstorms is increasing. The extended outlook, through Monday, was for mostly pleasant weather. 4

Dry conditions fire threat

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — Less acreage in Utah has burned than last year but fire officials warn dry conditions could make the threat of blazes crucial in September.

"The season is not over by any means," Jim Soter, fire control officer in the Wasatch National Forest, said. "September could be the worst month unless we get some moisture."

He said the fire situation in southern Utah is worse than in previous years but in the north it is about normal.

Wastach National Forest, which includes all forest lands in northern Utah, has had 39 fires so far this year, which is about equal to last year. The largest fire has been 50 acres.

George Casper of the Bureau of Land Management said the BLM has had 214 fires so far this year, compared with 156 at this time last year.

Vance touches three bases in swing through Middle East

ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT (UPI) — Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, in a marathon one-day swing through the Middle East, briefed Arab leaders in three capitals today on his talks with Israeli leaders in search of a Middle East peace.

In Amman, Jordan's King Hussein said he was "very pleased and encouraged" by what he heard from Vance despite the secretary's failure to achieve an agreed framework for Arab-Israeli peace talks on this tour which began Aug. 1.

Vance left Israel this morning for Amman to see Hussein. The Secretary went on to Damascus where he met with President Hafez Assad for nearly two hours.

Vance then flew to Egypt, landing at a military airfield 50 miles southeast of Alexandria. He went into talks immediately with President Anwar Sadat at a nearby resthouse.

A smiling Sadat told Vance as they shook hands, "I am happy to see you again. You must be tired." Vance replied "I am happy to be here again."

Vance's return trip was the last stop on his Middle East peace-making tour, which was ending without the framework for peace he had sought.

Part of the talks in Damascus were attended by Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam.

"I briefed President Assad and Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam on what happened since we last met and particularly with respect to the meeting we had in Israel," Vance told reporters before boarding his white-and-blue special jet for the flight to Alexandria.

"We discussed these matters at length and I look forward to meet the (Syrian) foreign minister when he comes to the (U.N.) General Assembly in New york," Vance said.

Khaddam and other Arab foreign ministers will be attending the next general assembly meeting and American officials said Vance hoped he would pursue his peace efforts in bilateral talks with them in New York.

In Tel Aviv, an official spokesman said after Vance's departure today that Israel is ready to go to the Geneva peace talks at any time and its refusal to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization is not a delaying tactic.

In his stop at Amman, official Jordanian sources said, agreement was reached to continue peace efforts during the U.N. General Assembly session in New York.

Vance, reporting to Arab leaders on his talks with Israeli officials, met with Hussein for just 22 minutes at the Hashinmiyah Palace 12 miles from the capital Amman.

"I am very pleased and encouraged with all that we have heard of recent developments," the Jordanian monarch told reporters. "I believe the future looks promising. It is still going to be a difficult process, but there is definite hope."

Aboard the Vance plane, a senior U.S. official flatly denied a report from Cairo that the American ambassador there, Herman Eiltes, had secretly conferred with an official of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Vance spent only 100 minutes in Jordan before flying on to Syria.



TRI-MILLER PACKING Company of Hyrum informed Hyrum City Council Wednesday night that decreasing water pressure may endanger its operation. The city's water usage is at an all-time high, according to Mayor Reece D. Nielsen.

Water concern expressed

By Steve Stout
staff writer

HYRUM — The increasing number of new hookups on Hyrum's pressurized water system is endangering the operation of Tri-Miller Packing Co., co-owner Max Miller told the Hyrum City Council Wednesday night.

Miller approached the council with concern for the water situation at Tri-Miller.

"We've tried everything to minimize our consumption of water." he said. "We've even had special 'how to' sessions for our cleanup people. But we're in real trouble. There are more and more homes allowed to hook up creating lower water pressure for us."

He pleaded with the council for action to help alleviate the problem.

In other action Wednesday, the council tabled a request by Hyrum Police Chief Ferrell Garr for appointment of an additional full-time police officer, tabled clarifications for the zoning and subdivision ordinance, unanimously approved a proposed change in apartment building size for Alan Nielsen, and the mayor signed a rezoning proposal submitted by Reed Conger.

The council also agreed to meet with the Board of Adjustments to clarify problems with Joe Nielsen and his request for two building permits at 355 North 6th East.

The Tri-Miller situation gave rise to the possibility of enforcing a mandatory watering schedule for the city, according to Mayor Reece D. Nielsen.

"For the month of June our water consumption was double what it was for a year ago," the mayor said. "We haven't really enforced the even and odd day watering schedules. We all know the water usage is at an all-time high."

The mayor said many Hyrum residents are watering lawns and gardens every day. The current "voluntary" schedule calls for all with even number addresses to water on the even number days of the month and odd number addresses to water on odd number days of the month.

"We don't have the pressure on our system," said the mayor. "We're at the mercy of one well and if the situation doesn't improve we will have to make a mandatory ordinance and begin to enforce the penalties."

Miller said the inadequate pressure does not meet federal inspection standards, and the company would have to close down each time the pressure drops and not resume operation until it can be built up.

Miller also complained that the company was not notified before the city began installation of a six-inch pipe leading to the sewage treatment plant.

"There was no coordination with Tri-Miller about the 6-inch line being put in," he said. "We had to shut down when the city shut the water off and you can figure we lost one hour per man for 120 men at $5 an hour average wage."

Councilman Willis McBride, who is in charge of the city's water, said the city only shut off the line for 15 minutes, but that it took more than an hour for the pressure to build back up at the plant.

Miller also stated that dirt and residue resulting from work on the pipeline left many sterilizer valves clogged.

"If we had a phone call from the city we could have had the men take an early lunch or something in order to shut down for that amount of time and we could have averted the dirt into the waste pit," Miller said.

Nielsen said he would make an appeal to the citizens of the city to abide by the watering schedule, or mandatory ordinance would have to go into effect.

(Continued on page 2)