

SUNDAY NEWS, NOVEMBER 17, 1974

## Gun Dealer Killing Baffles Cops

Suffolk County police said yesterday they were without suspects in the killing of an ex-cen machine-gun dealer, who was gunned down at the front door of his Southampton home on Friday night.

Dr. Howard Adelman, deputy chief medical examiner, said an autopsy on the body confirmed that the victim, Arthur Needles, 66, of Noyac Road, died of gunshot wounds in the chest and neck. Adelman recovered one slug from the victim's chest.

There was no evidence of a struggle, Adelman said, although police said Needles had answered the door shortly before 6:30 p.m. with a .45-caliber automatic in his hand. Needles' gun had not been fired, police indicated.

### No Reports on Gunshots

His body was found slumped on the door threshold by his brother-in-law, George Solms, police said, after Solms drove by Needles' house and noticed the front door open but no lights on.

Needles was divorced and lived alone in a \$45,000 one-story ranch on two and a half acres of wooded property. His mother, Rose, lived next door.

Police said there had been no reports of gunshots, nor had there been any witnesses to the shootings.

Needles had worked as a handyman in Southampton since his release a year ago from federal prison.

### Home Raided

He served three years after pleading guilty to possession of an automatic weapon, following an arrest in 1969.

Agents of the United States Treasury Department's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division raided his home in the summer of that year, seizing two machine guns, 13 rifles, 11 handguns, seven silencers and 10,000 rounds of various types of ammunition.

At the time of his arrest, federal authorities said Needles was the only manufacturer of a silencer for a .45-caliber Thompson submachine gun.