

'Facts' About Colombo's Dead Attacker Vary Greatly

By LESLIE OELSNER

Jerome A. Johnson, the man who was killed after he shot Joseph A. Colombo Sr. yesterday, was the center of myriad conflicting accounts last night as the police and neighbors tried to pull together the few known facts of his 24-year-old life.

According to the New York City police, Johnson had a record of seven arrests, including peddling, attempted rape and burglary, between mid-1966 and three weeks ago. Only once was he convicted, they said—on the peddling charge, in Los Angeles, in 1966. He was sentenced to three months probation.

According to the police in New Brunswick, N. J., he had been arrested three times there—each time, apparently, by the campus patrol of Rutgers University, on charges of entering dormitories illegally.

But to his neighbors on Throop Avenue in New Brunswick, a largely black area, where he grew up with two younger brothers, the police accounts were hard to believe.

To them, he was "quiet," "nice" and "the kind of kid who never got into trouble."

Johnson was felled by multiple gunshot wounds from an unknown gunman who shot him seconds after he fired three bullets into Colombo.

Johnson had not actually spent much time, in the last two years, at his mother's home on the second floor of 88 Throop Avenue. The last time he had been seen there, for only one day, neighbors said yester-

day, was about two weeks ago.

The police said that Johnson had been spending far more time lately at Rutgers, as a "hanger-on," and in New York City, where he had friends.

So, as a result, much of what the people on Throop Avenue

were recalling yesterday were moments from his childhood.

"He was a nice friendly guy," said Bob Macalow, now of Lakewood, N. J., but who had returned to Throop Avenue for the day. Mr. Macalow said that Johnson was a class-

mate at New Brunswick High school and that his school activities had been mostly athletic, including participation in track and football.

Mr. Macalow's remark was typical of other acquaintances of the dead man.

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of Chaos and Efficiency After Shooting