

Phone call leads police to patient abducted from Willowbrook bed

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they went to awaken the ward residents. "We wouldn't have heard anything unusual," said one of the attendants, Mrs. Shirley Haynes. "The ward was very noisy. One girl was screaming at the top of her lungs, and she does that all the time."

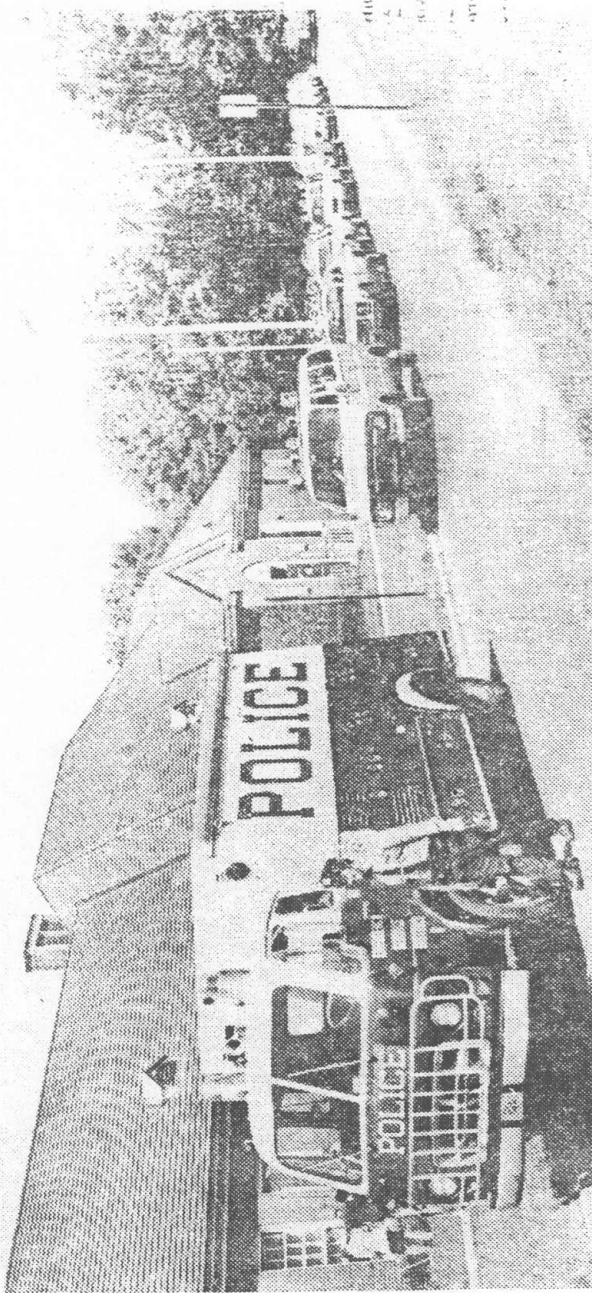
Mrs. Haynes added that Miss Diaz' bed is located in a rear area of the ward — a good distance from the attendants' station in the lobby of the building.

Police and Willowbrook officials launched a massive search effort to find the missing woman. A Department of Mental Hygiene helicopter whirled over the Willowbrook rooftops and ground.

A state police German shepherd dog was flown in from Poughkeepsie by a city police helicopter. After sampling Miss Diaz' scent from bed sheets and a diaper, the dog, named Jicky, led police through the wooded areas around Building 25 but turned up nothing.

"If she were here, Jicky would have found her," the dog's master, State Trooper Arthur Krug, said as he was about to leave Willowbrook with the animal.

In addition, about 30 Staten Island police officers and detectives and scores of Willowbrook employees combed the grounds and searched every building at the institution from "attic to basement. Several maintenance men were even sent through the steam tunnels around the building.



Police vehicles line a street on the center's grounds during the search for the kidnaped patient.

"The ducts were secured, but we can't leave any stone unturned," Detective Sgt. William Bracken said from a temporary headquarters set up in the building for the investigation.

After looking in vain for Miss Diaz for several hours, some detectives speculated that her abductor may have driven her off the Willowbrook campus in a car. They said the kidnaper may have been familiar with the ward and known the bed check routine.

The law officers also said they were

investigating reports that a prowler was seen walking through Miss Diaz' ward over the weekend. It was not immediately clear whether Willowbrook security guards were called when the man was spotted.

Willowbrook officials said Miss Diaz' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raphael Diaz, brought her to the institution in 1953. The father has since moved to Puerto Rico and the mother lives in Connecticut, according to the officials.

The officials said the woman a "total care" case and could neither talk nor walk. "The only way she could have gotten out of here would have been if someone picked her up and lifted her out," Mrs. Haynes said.

She also said that Miss Diaz, who was wearing only a white smock when abducted yesterday, spent most of her time either in bed or in a wheelchair. "She used to sit on her legs," Mrs. Haynes added. "She really couldn't move much at all."