

Woman, 44, missing since July 20 walk after getting off work

By BRUCE ALPERT

An investigation is continuing into the disappearance July 20 of Shin Lee, a 44-year-old registered nurse last seen walking toward her Sea View home from work in Building 11 at the Staten Island Developmental Center, police said yesterday.

According to police, Mrs. Lee, a resident of 7 Jasper St. for four years, had made it a habit to walk the one-third mile home from the Willowbrook institution after completing her 3-to-11:45 p.m. shift. Her route from work was through a wooded area behind the center, past the Institute for Basic Research into Mental Retardation and across Forest Hill Rd. to her home, they said.

"She left for home through the back door that night and nobody has seen her since," a co-worker in Building 11 said.

Police say they do not know if she ever reached her destination.

Mrs. Lee, a Staten Island Developmental Center employee for five years, had received a death threat several months ago from an employee in her building who had been fired after receiving a negative work appraisal from Mrs. Lee, said Mi-jong Lee, her 16-year-old daughter.



Shin Lee

But police say that so far they have uncovered no evidence to indicate that Mrs. Lee was the victim of foul play.

A search of the area July 24 by police and neighbors, aided by a police helicopter, failed to turn up any sign of the woman, Detective David Marshall of the Missing Persons Squad said.

Marshall said police are questioning Mrs. Lee's co-workers and friends, hoping to develop clues. He would not elaborate on his statement.

Persons with information that may help police find Mrs. Lee are urged to contact the Missing Person Squad at 374-6913 or their local police precinct. Jun-ho Lee has offered a \$1,000 reward to anyone providing information leading to the discovery of his wife, also known as Emma Lee.

Lee, through an interpreter, said that on the night of his wife's disappearance he and the couple's three children spent the night in Brooklyn near his grocery store. It wasn't until July 22, when they returned home, that they noticed the disappearance and contacted police, he said.

Neighbors said the Korean family is close knit and added that the entire community is upset at Mrs. Lee's disappearance.

"Everybody here participated in the search for Mrs. Lee and is concerned that she is missing," one neighbor said.

Mrs. Lee, according to a family description, is 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighs 120 pounds, has a fair complexion and black hair and brown eyes.