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Missing S. I. Nurse Is Found Strangled

By WILLIAM FEDERICI and PAUL MESKIL

A nurse missing since July 20 was found by relatives and friends in a rain-washed shallow grave on the grounds of the Willowbrook Developmental Center on Sunday, and police said yesterday that she had been raped and strangled.

Detectives said Mrs. Shin Lee, 44, a registered nurse who had worked for five years at the Willowbrook facility for the mentally retarded on Staten Island, apparently was attacked on the night of her disappearance as she was walking along a path through woods on the Willowbrook property.

Mother of Three

When police failed to find out what had happened to her, 30 concerned friends and relatives searched the center grounds Sunday and found the nude body. An autopsy disclosed that she had been raped and strangled.

Mrs. Lee lived with her husband, Jun-Ho Lee, owner of a small Brooklyn

supermarket, and their three teenage children at 7 Jaspar St., Staten Island. The Lee home is about half a mile from the Willowbrook facility, and Mrs. Lee usually walked to and from work, taking a path that runs through the Willowbrook property.

She finished her work shift around midnight on July 20 and started the 15-minute walk home. She never got there. Shortly after she left the Willowbrook hospital, a supervisory nurse heard screams and alerted security guards, who searched the grounds but found nothing suspicious.

As she often worked double shifts, her husband wasn't worried when she

wasn't home on the morning of July 21. That afternoon, one of his children called him at the supermarket and told him she still wasn't home, so he notified police.

A missing-person alarm was sent out. Cops and guards combed the Willowbrook facility and the surrounding neighborhood. A police helicopter joined the hunt, but Mrs. Lee's whereabouts remained a mystery.

Then, on Sunday afternoon, a neighborhood search party spotted the partly exposed body on the side of a small hill about 75 feet from the path. Police said the body had been buried but heavy rains had washed some of the earth away over the weekend, enabling the searchers to find it.

The Lee family came here six years ago from South Korea, where Lee was an army officer.