

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, Tuesday, October 24, 1978

Woman missing at center

Police were searching the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center this morning for an employee of the facility who they believe may have been abducted shortly before she was scheduled to report for work.

An employee of the sprawling state-run facility told the Advance this morning that she heard screams coming from the parking lot near Building 47-B about 6:30 a.m. and someone spotted a purse,

shoe and false teeth next to the missing woman's car.

Police set up temporary headquarters on the grounds of the center to search for Ethel L. Atwell, 46, of Newark, N.J.

Police in the 122nd Precinct station-house, New Dorp, said Ms. Atwell lives with her mother in Newark, and she is now listed as a missing person.

On Aug. 6, friends of a center nurse, Shin Lee, 44, discovered her body on the

grounds of the Institute for Basic Research, which is adjacent to the developmental center.

Mrs. Lee had been last seen alive July 20 and was spotted walking home from Building 11 toward her Sea View home.

Police said Mrs. Lee always walked home through a wooded area after her 3-to-11:45 p.m. shift.

An autopsy showed that Mrs. Lee was strangled and police have arrested no

suspects in connection with her death.

About 30 friends of the Korean immigrant searched the woods around the center's main building on that Sunday afternoon before one of them found Mrs. Lee's body in a shallow grave at 4 p.m.

Mrs. Lee reportedly had received death threats several months before her death from a co-worker in her building who had been fired after Mrs. Lee gave her a negative work evaluation.