

Missing woman found by guards

By STUART SCHUB

Security guards at the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, this morning found a 29-year-old retarded woman who had been missing since Saturday.

The discovery of the woman, Helen Lever, a resident of the center for 16 years, ended a search by about 100 police officers and dozens of center officials who had been combing the grounds of the 382-acre state institution for clues to the woman's disappearance.

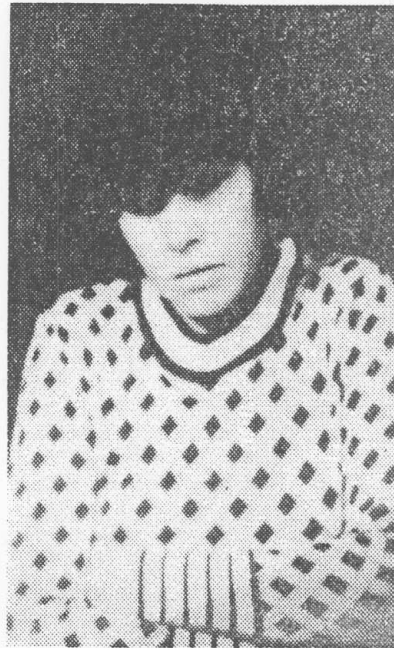
Until she was found shortly after 5 a.m. on the grounds of the center by security guards Burton Parker and Norman Donegan, police had been operating on the theory that she had been abducted.

Miss Lever, who is blind and deaf, had been reported missing from her residence, Building 23, shortly before 5 a.m. Saturday.

The abduction theory was based on a report by the supervisor of Miss Lever's ward that a man had been peering through a window of the ward about the time the woman's absence was discovered. Police said the window was open and a screen that covered it was slashed.

Miss Lever was to be taken today to the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Clifton, for a physical examination. Authorities said she appeared to be unharmed.

Asked if security, long criticized as lacking at the institution, was adequate the night of the disappearance, Fran Ryan, a deputy director, said: "Recently there were additional people hired on security. . . We don't have security for



Helen Lever

each building — we have security for the entire grounds."

She said Miss Lever's ward was staffed adequately during the shift the woman was reported missing.

But a ward supervisor, who declined to be identified, expressed dissatisfaction with security at the facility despite state efforts in recent months to increase the number of guards.

"For the dimensions of the grounds, there should be a security officer for every building — or at least every two

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