

Search pattern changed

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Volunteers continued searching the North Shore yesterday for traces of 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger, while police have narrowed the scope of their hunt to a more precise and calculated pattern.

"We are going to start something more systematic and specialized," said Inspector Richard McBride, commander of the Island's uniformed police force, "a search based on probability more than randomness."

Since the Westerleigh girl disappeared 13 days ago, hundreds of police officers, along with members of the National Guard, the American Red Cross, New York State Troopers and volunteers of Child Find, Richmond County R.E.A.C.T. and Telephone Co. employees, have scoured the community and surrounding areas in a hunt for the girl.

Bloodhounds, helicopters and psychics have been used during

the search for the girl, who has Down's Syndrome and congenital heart disease.

Part of the search centered on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook, where a transient believed to have been seen with Jennifer prior to her disappearance had been living. A bloodhound followed the girl's trail to the SIDC grounds before losing the scent.

"They have covered every square inch in Willowbrook and nothing turned up," said Sgt. Louis Marciano of the 120th Precinct.

The police effort will now be concentrated in special borough-wide units working out of the 122nd precinct, he said.

"It's a different kind of search pattern," Marciano said. "Not as many officers are involved."

According to McBride, police hope to employ more sophisticated equipment and techniques in the search and plan to focus manpower at sites determined from information gathered so far in the hunt.

The reduction of manpower does not correspond to a reduction in effort, according to McBride. Each Island patrol car has been equipped with a picture of Jennifer, and all officers on routine patrol have been told to be on the lookout for the girl.

Lt. Louis Fiori of the Crimes Against Property Squad, along with investigators from the Chief of Detectives Bureau in Manhattan, met with Assistant Police Chief Samuel Marino yesterday afternoon to review information about the case.

"The meeting was to check for things that may have gone undone and to review search areas," McBride said. "We are centering on the physical search for the girl."

The inspector said police units had been assigned to the search from "outside the borough" but declined to elaborate on the units or their specific assignments.

About 90 volunteers, working with Child Find-R.E.A.C.T. expanded the scope of their search and spent much of yesterday combing Richmond Terrace. Many of the volunteers are teenagers.

Marciano said the family asked that the Richmond Terrace area be searched after several psychics said they "saw" the girl being moved around in the Richmond Terrace area, he said.

"Psychics have mentioned water, dark places and wooded areas that could pertain to a waterfront," said Donna Catugna, a neighbor of the Schweigers who has been working with Child Find and the police to coordinate volunteer search parties.

Volunteers will meet again to-

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morrow at noon and 7 p.m. at the firehouse on Jewett Avenue to continue their search of Richmond Terrace.

Detectives last night were still waiting for the results of tests being conducted on what appeared to have been blood smeared on a wall in one of the buildings at SIDC.

Investigators yesterday declined to comment on a branch of their investigation that focused on a transient who authorities said had been a suspect in the disappearance of 7-year-old Holly Ann Hughes of Port Richmond in 1981. Police also said the transient was possibly linked to the disappearance of 10-year-old Tiahease Jackson in August 1983, and a third missing child who vanished about 15 years ago.

None of the children has been found.

The transient was interviewed by police for hours over a two-day period shortly after the start of the search. The man is currently back in the community, police said.

Family members and friends are offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to Jennifer's return. Police maintain that they have yet to come across evidence indicating that any crime has been involved with the child's disappearance.

"We have to assume that she is still alive," McBride said, "and there is a certain urgency attached to that."

A temporary police headquarters is being maintained in the 120th Precinct in St. George. The 24-hour phone number is 447-4168.

Teens asked to aid search

Borough President Ralph J. Lamberti yesterday joined the Advance in calling on Island youths to join in the hunt for the girl.

In an editorial Monday entitled "Help wanted desperately," the Advance asked teens to aid the search, saying that every minute could be critical.

The borough president explained that "... there comes a time when police officers must return to their beats and the manpower assigned to this investigation redeployed.

"Obviously during the summer months, our kids are home from school, especially our high school students. These kids could provide an invaluable service to their community in general and to Jennifer's parents in particular by helping their search for her."