

Cops call out for help in finding Jennifer

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As volunteers searched Staten Island's shoreline, detectives reviewing each step in the search for Jennifer Schweiger called out to anyone who can help them retrace the girl's movements the day she disappeared.

"It's hard to believe that nobody saw her that day," said Lt. Louis Fiori. "If someone who saw her has called us, they should call again. If they haven't spoken with us, they should definitely call."

Anyone with information concerning the missing 12-year-old Westerleigh girl can contact investigators at a 24-hour hotline number, 447-4168. Detectives Virginia Scarabino, Ralph Aquino and Robert Jenson of the Crimes Against Property Squad are handling the case and can be reached during the day at 390-8154.

"We are investigating a lot of things," Fiori said, "certainly more than has ever been done with this type of case before."

Jennifer was apparently making her way to a store near her Wardwell Avenue home when she vanished July 9 at about 2 p.m. A number of witnesses said they saw the girl walking with a mildly retarded man described as about 60 years old, 5 feet 11 inches tall

with a slim build and a bald spot on the back of his head.

Authorities earlier this week said the man, believed to be a transient who had been living in a makeshift campsite on the grounds of SIDC, may be linked to Jennifer's disappearance, as well as those of three other Staten Island children.

He was "somehow placed in the area" prior to the disappearance of 7-year-old Holly Ann Hughes of Port Richmond in July 1981 and 10-year-old Tiahease Jackson of Mariners Harbor two years later, according to officials. Police declined to discuss the third case, which occurred about 15 years ago.

Jennifer, her hair in pigtails, was carrying a bright yellow pocketbook and wearing a pink "Sesame Street" shirt and shorts with multicolored stripes the day she vanished.

A bloodhound brought in the next day followed the girl's trail to Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook, then apparently lost it because of heat and humidity.

"We feel that the girl was on the SIDC property, that is why the search there was so intense," Fiori said.

Investigators yesterday were

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