

11, were seen with Rand on his late-night jaunts to the Pathmark Supermarket at 1351 Forest Ave., Port Richmond, in the weeks following Jennifer's disappearance.

David said last night that while in the vicinity of the supermarket, Rand would point to houses and say they reminded him of houses he lived in "on Long Island."

Mr. Muskett said detectives from the Staten Island Crimes Against Property Squad, which investigates missing persons, wanted the two boys to stay with Rand while investigators kept the man under 24-hour surveillance.

"They (Detectives Robert Jensen and Ralph Aquino of the Property Squad) assured me that they would take all safety precautions and (his sons) would be all right."

Mr. Muskett said he told David what was happening but did not tell Donald because he was too young and might accidentally reveal the plan to Rand. David readily agreed to help, his father said.

Mr. Muskett also said: "(Rand) hung around with and liked mentally retarded people. That's why he liked my son Chippy. He could lead people who were not as intelligent as he was."

Charles Muskett Jr., 17, nicknamed Chippy by his family, is mentally retarded and attends a special school in upstate New York, his father said, adding that Rand had met all his children with the exception of his eldest child, an 18-year-old daughter who is married and living on Long Island.

Mr. Muskett admitted that when police first approached him and his wife a few days after Jennifer disappeared, they were leery about cooperating with the detectives.

"I said I was afraid my family

he was very friendly, very intelligent," Mr. Muskett said. "I believe he has a high IQ.

"He seemed religious of a sort. He most liked to hear about (the book of) Revelations, about God's vengeance upon man for being evil."

Rand "seemed familiar with Revelations," but not the rest of the Bible, the clergyman said. "When I tried to steer him into other parts of the Bible, he only wanted to talk about Revelations."

Eventually, Mr. Muskett learned from Rand that he was "living in the woods," and the preacher offered to rent him a room in his home because "you felt sorry for him living out in the woods."

However, Mr. Muskett changed his mind about renting to Rand because the homeless man didn't get along with his youngest son Donald. "They fought all the time, like kids."

After that decision, Mr. Muskett continued to occasionally run into Rand around North Shore neighborhoods where Rand was often seen riding a bicycle.

The day after Jennifer's disappearance, police contacted Muskett at work and asked "if I knew about Matt Fae," he said. Mr. Muskett said Rand used that name; police came around later that day, showing him pictures of the suspect and asking if he knew where Rand was. Mr. Muskett said he didn't know, but that he had last seen Rand the day before Jennifer disappeared.

Police, who brought Rand in for questioning the day after Jennifer disappeared, asked Muskett to come in to try to get him to talk.

However, Rand would not even tell police where he was living, Muskett said. "I spent hours in

Crimes Against Property Squad said that although police knew Rand was in the military, he had not been in the Green Berets and had never been in Vietnam.

Rand knew police were following him, especially the last few days before his arrest Tuesday night, Mr. Muskett said.

"This guy was paranoid," he said. "Whenever I went to the phone, to the bathroom, he was right behind me."

Asked what he thought of Rand after living with him for nearly a month, Mr. Muskett said:

"The weight that came off us after it was over, you couldn't believe. He always tried to run things."

Page 7 of  
7 Pages