

Suspect met widow at Port Richmond bus stop

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ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Two years ago, Andre Rand, smitten with a Port Richmond widow he met at a bus stop, wrote the woman a "love letter" that suggested they become a "financial team."

Rand, the accused kidnapper of 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger, courted Edith Kennedy, 60, for several months in 1985 and unsuccessfully tried to move in with her before disappearing.

Jennifer, who has from Down's syndrome, disappeared July 9 near her Wardwell Avenue home in Westleigh. Witnesses last saw the girl walking with Rand on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, on the day she vanished.

Rand was arrested Tuesday and charged with second-degree kidnapping and unlawful imprisonment.

The Advance obtained a copy of the letter from Mrs. Kennedy on Wednesday, and police Thursday confirmed it had been written by Rand.

When Mrs. Kennedy saw the drifter's picture splashed across the front page of the Advance on Wednesday, she was shocked.

"I looked at it (his picture) and

looked at it, and then looked at it with a magnifying glass and said, 'Oh yeah,'" she recalled. "That face — I'll never forget it."

Mrs. Kennedy did not know him as Andre Rand. To her, he was Daniel Fhy, a homeless man who ate baby food, bought his clothes through a catalog, hated cigarette smoke and animals and wanted her son to move out of her apartment — so he could move in.

Mrs. Kennedy was waiting at a Port Richmond bus stop in January 1985 when a man on a bicycle rode by.

"He said 'hi' and asked me for a room and I said, 'There's no apartments up here.'"

"The next day he kept bugging me and bugging me, every day, every day," the woman said. "Then he said, 'Would you please go out with me?' I said 'no.' I knew he was nuts."

But Mrs. Kennedy and her son Richard felt sorry for Rand and invited him upstairs.

"He told me he was lonely," Mrs. Kennedy said.

In a letter dated March 21, 1985, Rand said he believed he and Mrs. Kennedy could "very well wind up surviving as a financial team."

(See LETTER, Page A 10)

Love letter by accused kidnapper

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The shrill noise of the screeching tires of #4 ANDS VEHICLES CAUSED MY EYES TO DART IN THAT DIRECTION. ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY #3 VEHICLE CAME TO AN ABRUPT HALT, MAKING #1 VEHICLE NOT VISIBLY TO #2 VEHICLE* APPARENTLY UNTIL THE SEEMINGLY SHORT DISTANCE OF FIVE - EIGHT FEET APPROXIMATION BEFORE POINT OF IMPACT.

— PARKING LOT —

LEGAL DOCUMENTATION: ET AL

Affirmations And Contributing Factors HEREON MAY BE USED IN A COURT OF LAW AS AN EXHIBIT IN THE EVENT OF LEGAL ACTION. AND/OR FILED ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENTS!

MY AFFIDAVIT ATTESTING

Ge-

Signed: Andre Rand

This is an excerpt from Andre Rand's detailed description of an auto accident, which he sent to Mrs. Kennedy.

Letter

(From Page 1)

"What I am trying to say is that if worst does come to worst — not now — but in the future you may want to think it over," Rand wrote in neat penmanship.

"However should you decide to move into something more private and better area, supposing your son Richard decides to leave for whatever reasons he may have — then of course it would be customary manner for true friends to want to make living conditions bearable for each other. And so then I would be more than willing to contribute half my share and possibly even more than half! Except for two things — 'Animals/and Cigarette Smoke.'"

Rand wrote that it is "some-what hard to convey my thoughts into words without hurting one's feelings — and I'm sorry if I have done so. But likewise I am shocked to realize that there are some people who would much prefer the companionship of an animal over another 'Human Being.'"

The letter continued: "In examination of the Bible, so states that we should not idealize an animal because a 'dog' or 'cat' is not characteristic of a 'Human Being'... God created Humans in His own image/and the Bible strictly teaches that we should never put an animal before another 'Human Being,' under no circumstances, to my knowledge!"

He concluded: "I'm very sorry Edie — but it appears that the above mentioned will be the only (2) two things that should ever come between us!! Very Truly Yours Sincerely — Love — Daniel Fhy."



Andre Rand

"He couldn't stand animals," Mrs. Kennedy said. "We gave him a couple of meals and he said: 'Get rid of those animals. I can't stand cats, I can't stand dogs, I can't stand animals.'"

"If a cat would get one little hair on him, he would run out of the house," Richard Kennedy said.

"He ate baby food all the time. He couldn't eat in a restaurant. He was a clean freak and would only eat out of jars," Mrs. Kennedy said.

According to Richard Kennedy, Rand was also very particular about his clothing.

"He used to buy his clothes by catalog. He said he'd never buy his clothes from a store. 'Nothing is worth buying from a store,'" Mrs. Kennedy recalled Rand saying.

The animals were not the only thing to which Rand objected. He often suggested that Richard

should find another place to live, so he could move in.

"One minute he'd stay here and eat dinner. The next, he'd put his foot on the chair and stare in a trance for two hours," Richard Kennedy said. "One minute he was here. The next he was on Mars."

Enclosed in the same envelope with the letter was a detailed diagram drawn and signed by Rand after he witnessed a car accident in 1985. Mrs. Kennedy said she had no idea why Rand enclosed it with the letter.

"I thought it was a joke. I laughed at it," Mrs. Kennedy said.

The diagram, which describes a two-car accident along Forest Avenue, had neatly ruled lines and labels and a carefully worded eyewitness report.

Sgt. Richard Bracken of the Crimes Against Persons Squad said the document proves Rand "certainly isn't stupid."

Meanwhile, off-duty New Jersey state corrections officers trained to track down escaped prisoners and a determined group of union members from Local 342 of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters last night joined a group of almost 100 volunteers who rallied at Holy Family R.C. Church in Westleigh.

The volunteers targeted the Farm Colony in Sea View, abandoned North Shore cemeteries, and areas in the Greenbelt as they continued to search for some trace of Jennifer.

A massive rally/search will be held today at noon at the church, and more than 500 volunteers, including members of the National Guard and Vietnam veterans groups throughout the city, are expected to join in the hunt.