

Body found on S.I.

But skeleton isn't missing girl

By RUTH LANDA

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Searchers looking for missing 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger found the skeleton of a missing elderly woman yesterday in a swampy area of Staten Island.

The skeleton, found opposite 3915 Richmond Terrace, was that of a 73-year-old woman reported missing from the Cosmas Damian Nursing Home on Forest Ave. in Staten Island on July 23, said police spokesman Sgt. Raymond O'Donnell.

The woman, whose name was withheld, was found lying face up in the wooded swamp. O'Donnell said she was identified from the clothing she was wearing—a blue T-shirt, blue pants, white sneakers and a yellow metal watch.

He said the skeleton was brought to the morgue, where the medical examiner's office will determine the cause of death. He said there was no immediate explanation of why the body had decomposed so much since July 23.

The skeleton was found at 1:15 p.m. by an off-duty police

sergeant who had volunteered to look for Jennifer, the Staten Island girl with Down's syndrome who has been missing since July 9.

Scores of volunteers have joined police in searching for the missing girl, combing woods near her home, including the Staten Island Devel-

opmental Center, formerly known as Willowbrook.

Last week, Andre Rand, a 43-year-old convicted sex offender, was arrested and charged with abducting Jennifer. Police sources said five witnesses identified Rand as the man seen walking hand-in-hand with the girl the day she disappeared.