

# Woman says Rand raped her as a child

By GLENN CHAPMAN  
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Detectives are investigating the claim of a Bronx woman who reportedly told police she recognized Andre Rand as the man who kidnapped and raped her, then left her tied to a tree about six years ago.

Police said the woman recognized Rand from press coverage last week during his arrest on charges he kidnapped 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger of Wardwell Avenue in Westerleigh July 9.

Officers from the police public information division said the ongoing investigation concerning Rand prohibited them from discussing the Bronx woman's report.

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ance, Rand was reportedly seen visiting his aunt, who lived on Park Avenue near the Hughes family, authorities said.

Police have also cited the case of missing Alice Pereira, who was 5 years old on July 7, 1972 when she left her Tysens Lane home to go play in what is now Dugan Park on Mill Road. She was never seen after that time. According to police, Rand worked as a painter in the Pereira's apartment complex at that time.

Investigators also said they were looking into a possible link between Rand and the disappearance of Tiahease Jackson. The 10-year-old Mariners Harbor girl vanished from her home community in 1983.

Rand has a criminal record of incidents involving children. He was arrested on May 25, 1969 in the South Bronx and charged with the kidnapping and attempted rape of a 9-year-old girl, according to Capt. Michael Julian. Rand

Detective George Reich of the 40th Precinct in the South Bronx is handling the complaint. When contacted last night by the Advance, he refused to talk about the case, saying "I really can't discuss Police Department business," before hanging up the telephone.

Other police sources, however, said the South Bronx woman became very distraught upon seeing Rand's picture, then went on to identify him as the man who kidnapped her when she was 12-years-old. The kidnaper reportedly took the girl to Long Island, where he raped her and left her tied to a tree, authorities said.

Rand reportedly has a relative who lives in Islip, L.I., according to police.

The girl was taken to a hospital where examination revealed she had been raped, officials reported.

Early in the search for Jennifer Schweiger, Island police said they had also targeted Rand as a suspect in the disappearances of several children in this borough.

He was taken in for questioning after 7-year-old Holly Ann Hughes vanished from the street near her Port Richmond home in 1981. On the day of Holly Ann's disappear-

pleaded guilty to a sexual abuse charge and spent a year and four months in jail, police said. He was released in January 1972.

On Jan. 9, 1983, Rand loaded 11 Staten Island children into a van and, without their parents' knowledge, took them to a fast-food restaurant in New Jersey and to Newark Airport, where they watched planes take off and land. He was arrested when he returned to the Island with the children after five hours. Rand was convicted of unlawful imprisonment and sentenced to 10 months in prison.

In between those convictions, Rand was reportedly arrested for three minor crimes, including burglary.

Rand is currently undergoing psychiatric evaluation in Kings County Hospital to determine if he is capable of aiding in his own defense against the charges he kidnapped and unlawfully imprisoned Jennifer Schweiger.

Specially trained Emergency Services Unit officers and hundreds of volunteers continued yes-

terday to prowl through parks, woodlands, lots and cemeteries on the Island in an effort to turn up some trace of Jennifer. By day's end, no sign of the girl had been found.

Detectives hunting for Jennifer "went back 30 years on Andre," authorities said. Rand was reportedly 14 years old when his father's death caused his mother to suffer a nervous breakdown.

Authorities said Rand lived with an aunt until he joined the Army in December 1962. After completing basic and advanced basic training at Fort Dix, N.J., Rand spent less than two months in an airborne unit before being assigned to a service battalion in Fort Bragg, N.C., officials reported.

After two years in the Army, Rand came to Staten Island to join his mother and aunt, authorities said.

He has held a variety of jobs, which included painting, working as a physical therapy aid at Staten Island Developmental Center, and repairing bicycles.