

Cops find body in hunt for missing girl on S.I.

SEARCHERS looking for missing 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger found a body in a shallow grave on the grounds of Staten Island's abandoned Willowbrook mental institution last night, police said.

Chief Medical Examiner Elliot Gross was immediately called to the scene to determine the body's identity.

The gruesome discovery was made at 8 p.m. by a retired Staten Island firefighter and an off-duty police sergeant.

Fireman George Kramer was digging in a wooded area behind Building No. 27 at 3 p.m. when he thought he found some plastic.

He called over a friend, police Sgt. Agency Services Sgt. Ronald Jacobs, who

By GENE RUFFINI and PAT WILKS

brought along fellow officers with searchlights.

They continued digging and discovered a two-foot-deep grave, uncovering part of a hand and a foot.

"What was thought to be plastic turned



JENNIFER SCHWEIGER
Disappeared July 9.

out to be flesh," said Deputy Police Commissioner Richard Condon.

"They've been searching in this area time and time again," said Condon. "We've had dogs in here.

We've dug in here before."

Kramer and Jacobs are among scores of volunteers who have been tirelessly combing the 50 abandoned brick buildings on the 382-acre grounds since Jennifer's disappearance.

Condon said the grave was found only 50 feet away from the campsite of Andre Rand.

Rand, a 43-year-old former Willowbrook worker who lived in the woods of the sprawling hospital grounds, was charged with Jennifer's kidnapping on Aug. 5, but her body was never found.