

# Missing girl's family watches SIDC search

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Holly Ann Hughes has been missing for six years.

Members of her family continued hoping she was still alive for years after the formal police search for the girl ended.

Now, three days after Jennifer Schweiger's body was discovered buried on the grounds of Staten Island Developmental Center, Holly Ann's grandparents nervously await reports of progress made by police specialists digging on the grounds for clues to the murder, and other buried bodies.

"I definitely feel that they will (find Holly Ann's body)," the girl's grandmother, Helen Cederholm, said during an interview with the Advance yesterday. "I'm dreading the thought of going through the trauma."

Andre Rand, the man charged with kidnapping Jennifer Schweiger, had been interviewed by detectives trying to track down Holly Ann. Police have also identified Rand as a suspect in the disappearances of at least two other Staten Island children and a woman.

"Rand's name came up repeatedly during the case," Mrs. Cederholm said while recalling the investigation into her granddaughter's disappearance. "It's always been on my mind."

According to authorities, Rand was visiting his aunt, whose home neighbored Holly Ann's in Port Richmond, the day the 7-year-old girl vanished.

"We followed up all kinds of leads," Mrs. Cederholm explained. "But, Rand's name came up in the very beginning."

The family's search continued, going from the police, to the family, to a private investigator. Although there were times when false leads would send the family's hopes soaring, no trace of Holly Ann was ever found.

Mrs. Cederholm and her husband, Sven, remained in Eltingville, while the girl's mother, Holly, later moved to Manhattan. Holly Ann's father, Peter, still lives on Staten Island, the grandmother said.

Family members had been left with only questions concerning Holly Ann's disappearance, until the disappearance of Jennifer Schweiger brought to light a possible pattern of kidnapping and murder by someone targeting vulnerable children.

According to police, detectives in Manhattan have called upon their computer files for information concerning children under 16 years old with emotional prob-

lems, physical, or mental handicaps while looking into the case against Rand.

Jennifer Schweiger's body was found in a shallow grave about 50 yards from a campsite recently used by Rand on the SIDC grounds. Medical Examiner Elliot Gross has ruled that the girl was murdered.

Alice Periera was 5 years old when she disappeared out of a park near her home in a Tysens Lane apartment in 1972. Rand worked as a painter in the girl's apartment complex at the time, and authorities have conceded that detectives have been looking into a possible link between Rand and the disappearance.

Investigators early in the search for Jennifer said Rand also was seen as a possible suspect in the disappearance of 10-year-old Tiahease Jackson in 1983. Tiahease vanished from the street near her home in the Conca D'Oro Hotel.

The girl's mother moved back to Georgia about three months after Tiahease disappeared. Police yesterday said the case was being considered in the Rand investigation because it fit a theoretical mold investigators have developed.

The girl vanished with no trace; lived in an area within the bounds of Rand's routine travels; was a young female, and had a physical impairment. Tiahease was apparently cross-eyed. All of the children apparently had reasons they might be vulnerable to someone who offered to be their friend. Some came from broken homes.

"I don't want to think it's

(Rand), but we feel it has to be," Mrs. Cederholm said. "Who wants to believe someone like this could get a hold of Holly Ann, but you're forced to believe it. I have a terrible fear they have the right man."

Holly Ann's aunt, Patricia Lonzello, had been actively involved in the search for Jennifer. According to Mrs. Cederholm, Ms. Lonzello is taking a break, rebuilding her strength just in case it becomes necessary for volunteers to once again take over where the police leave off.

"If we hear (police) have stopped searching, it will be a definite disappointment to think they have given up," Mrs. Cederholm said yesterday. "I'm sure the volunteers will go on searching for Holly Ann and Tiahease, they said they would."

Donna Cutugno, leader of the volunteer group The Friends of Jennifer, last night explained that members of the group planned to continue hunting for Jennifer's clothing, which has yet to be found, as well as traces of the other missing girls.

Meanwhile, the Cederholms continue to hang on to news reports and read through the Advance, waiting for some word of another small body found near the spot Jennifer had been buried. Sven Cederholm feels the strain, according to his wife, but "keeps himself moving" to deal with the trauma.

Mrs. Cederholm said she speaks with her daughter at least three times a day.

"She is trying to keep herself on an even keel, but it's getting rough now," the grandmother noted.

Mrs. Cederholm recalled the day her granddaughter vanished, how the girl had been out rollerskating with a babysitter, watched television in the sitter's home, they stopped back at her own apartment. Holly Ann went back out, and was never seen again.

"It's hard to believe it happened on Staten Island," the grandmother concluded.

Police have not limited their focus to children victims, a case involving a missing woman and one involving an unsolved murder have also been looked at anew, authorities said.

On August 6, 1978, the decomposed body of Shin Lee, a 44-year-old nurse, was found in a shallow grave near where Rand's latest campsite had been, officials reported. The woman had been the subject of an intense police and volunteer search since disappearing July 20 of that year while walking from building 11 on the SIDC grounds on her way to her home in Sea View. A medical examiner's report revealed she had been strangled, but the murder case was never solved.

Two months later, Ethel Atwell, 46, of Newark, was on her way to work at SIDC, when she was vanished from a parking lot at the facility. An employee at the sprawling complex told the Advance at that time she heard screams coming from the parking lot near building 47-B at about 6:30 a.m. Someone spotted a purse, shoe and false teeth next to the missing woman's car. Mrs. Atwell's keys were later found in a pile of leaves about 20 feet behind the lot.

An intensive search of the grounds was conducted, but no trace of the woman was ever found.