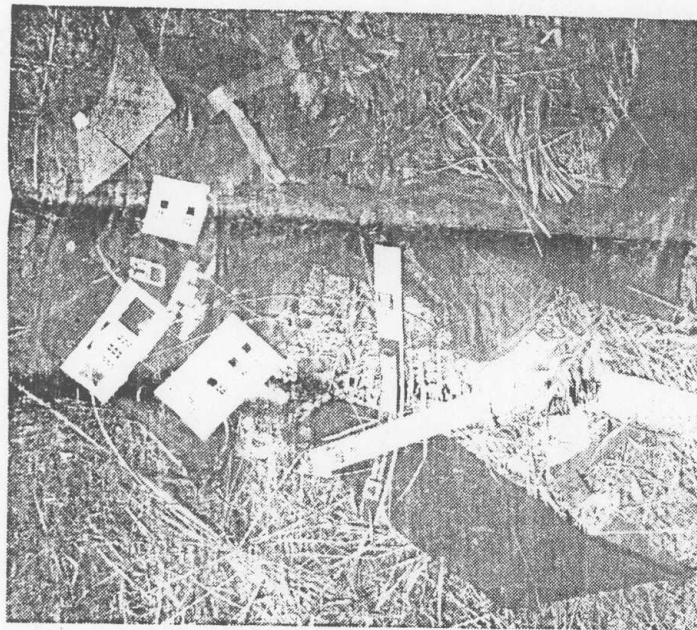


Staten Island Advance

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Children's toys and empty, torn suitcase are strewn at a campsite believed to have been used by Andre Rand.

ADVANCE PHOTO/TONY CARANNANTE

Children's toys found at 2nd Rand campsite

By GLENN CHAPMAN
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Police were set today to comb through a second campsite, found in woods near the Staten Island Developmental Center grounds, thought to be used by Andre Rand. Among things found at the site are a collection of children's toys and dolls.

Rand, the 43-year-old transient charged with kidnapping a 12-year-old Westerleigh girl who a month later was found murdered, has bounced from campsite to campsite and boarded house to boarding house during his years on Staten Island.

As Rand's Sept. 4 court date draws closer, detectives have widened their search for evidence to include an abandoned car owned by the man, rooms he has stayed in, and a number of his former campsites.

Detective Vito Peragine from the Crimes Against Property Squad last night joined a band of searchers from the Friends of Jennifer

to look for traces of Rand's clothing or other possessions in an abandoned campsite on the grounds of the former Farm Colony in Sea View.

Peragine and the team were forced to call off the hunt with the onset of darkness, but detectives planned to return to the site off Colonial Avenue today, authorities reported.

Investigators last night had discussed the possibility of bringing in a team of Emergency Service Unit (ESU) officers to dig up parts of the run-down campsite.

The campsite was encircled with metal rods stuck in the ground, an apparent defense system. Sections of metal grille barred certain avenues of approach to the campsite.

The overturned remains of a shack were bordered by a collection of children's toys and dolls, as well as a discarded St. Sylvester Catholic parish school bookbag. A large cross and a crudely inscribed tombstone were also found at the campsite.

A worn, broken park bench stood inside the perimeter of the campsite.

Plaid shirts, the type commonly worn by Rand, also were found. Authorities said that a pattern of twigs layed about the inside of the campsite, as well as the metal rods designed as booby traps, fit in with Rand's usual campsite layout.

In 1985, Rand reportedly worked as a painter for a private contractor. According to authorities, several other men who worked for the contractor claimed to remember several times when they dropped Rand off near a baseball field at Rockland Avenue and Forest Hill Road, just opposite the woods harboring the campsite.

Several times, Rand was reportedly toting plywood or other construction material when he was dropped off.

(See CAMPSITE, Page A 2)

Page
1
of
3
Pages