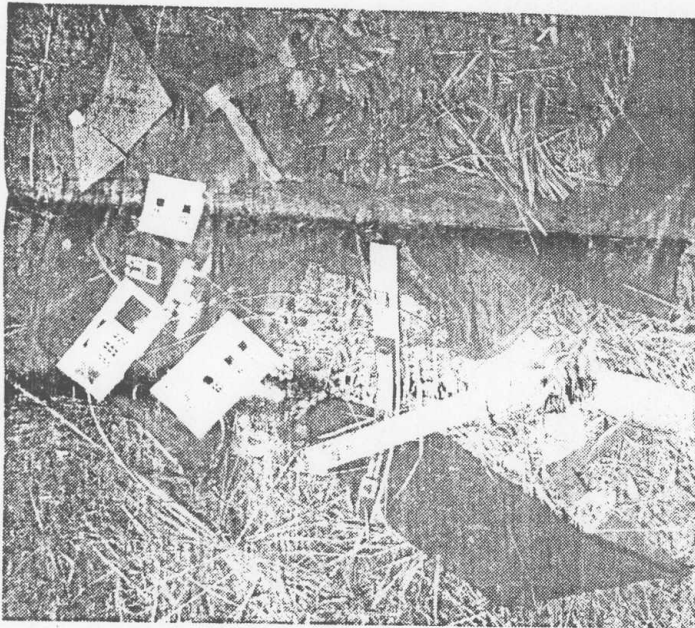


Staten Island Advance

Wednesday, August 26, 1987



ADVANCE PHOTO/TONY CARANNANTE

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

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 Westchester girl who a month later was found murdered, has bounced from campsite to campsite and boarding 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

Campsite

(From Page 1)

Volunteer searchers came across a suitcase filled with tattered blue workpants and other clothes when they originally found the site on Sunday. Police have been searching for a spot where Rand may have secreted his winter clothing and other personal items.

After searching through the campsite Sunday and finding no trace of Jennifer Schweiger's clothing, the girl who was murdered, the volunteers moved on without reporting it to authorities.

When detectives this week told searchers to be on the lookout for signs of Rand's clothing, volunteers alerted them to the find at the campsite. Peragine found the suitcase last night. It was empty.

Investigators and volunteers had no clues as to what may have happened to the contents of the suitcase.

Volunteers dug about a foot down into the ground beneath the cross, tombstone and overturned shack, coming up with nothing but dry soil. Authorities estimated the campsite had not been used for more than a year.

Detectives returning to the campsite today will determine if further digging is warranted.

Rand has been known to live in campsites near Baron Hirsch and Moravian cemeteries, on the Mariners Harbor coastline, and on the grounds of Staten Island Developmental Center.

Jennifer Schweiger's body was found earlier this month buried in a shallow grave near Rand's most recent campsite behind Building 27 on the grounds of SIDC. Jennifer was last seen walking with Rand on the SIDC grounds when she vanished July 9.

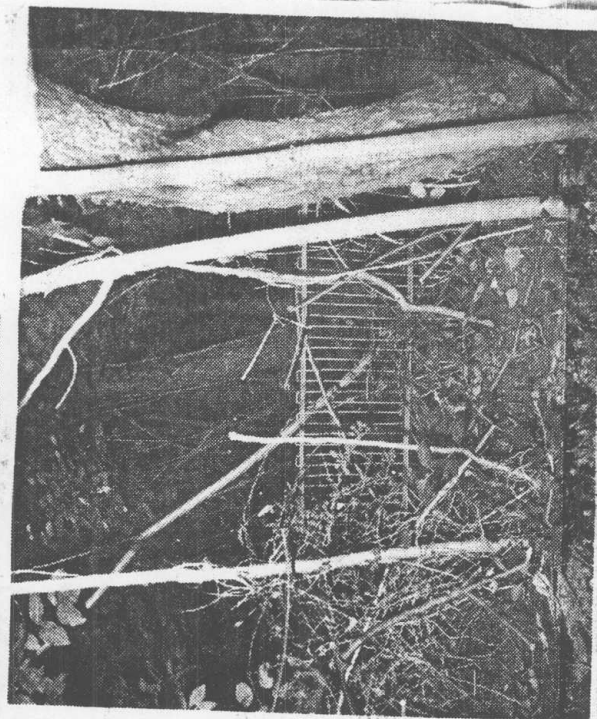
Detectives last week executed a warrant to search the room Rand lived in when he stayed with Rev. Charles Muskett on Castleton Avenue in West Brighton after being forced from his campsite during the search for Jennifer. Police cited a need to conform with rules of evidence, and not lack of cooperation on Muskett's part, in explaining the need for the warrant.

Page 2
of
3 Pages

A St. Sylvester School bag sits among the rubble at a campsite believed to have been used by Andre Rand.

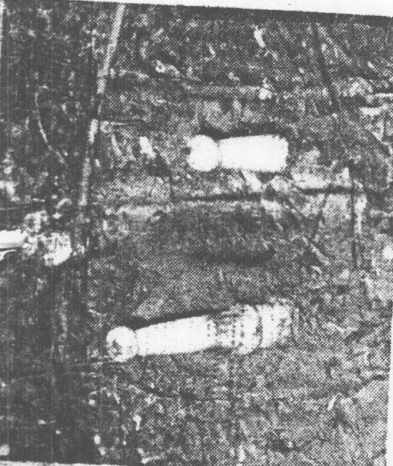


Old milk crates and pieces of plywood litter the campsite.

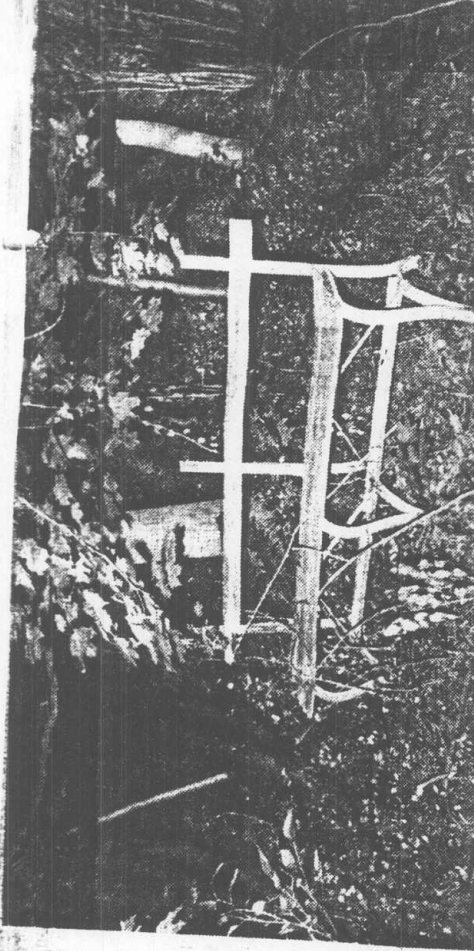


A gate and several branches form a man-made barrier.

for evidence in the...
 blocks on the North Shore...
 Authorities said that the search turns up a
 number of items, but nothing that seems
 related to Jennifer's disappearance. The
 items were forwarded to a police lab for
 forensic study.



The campsite is encircled with metal rods
 stuck in the ground, an apparent defense system.



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

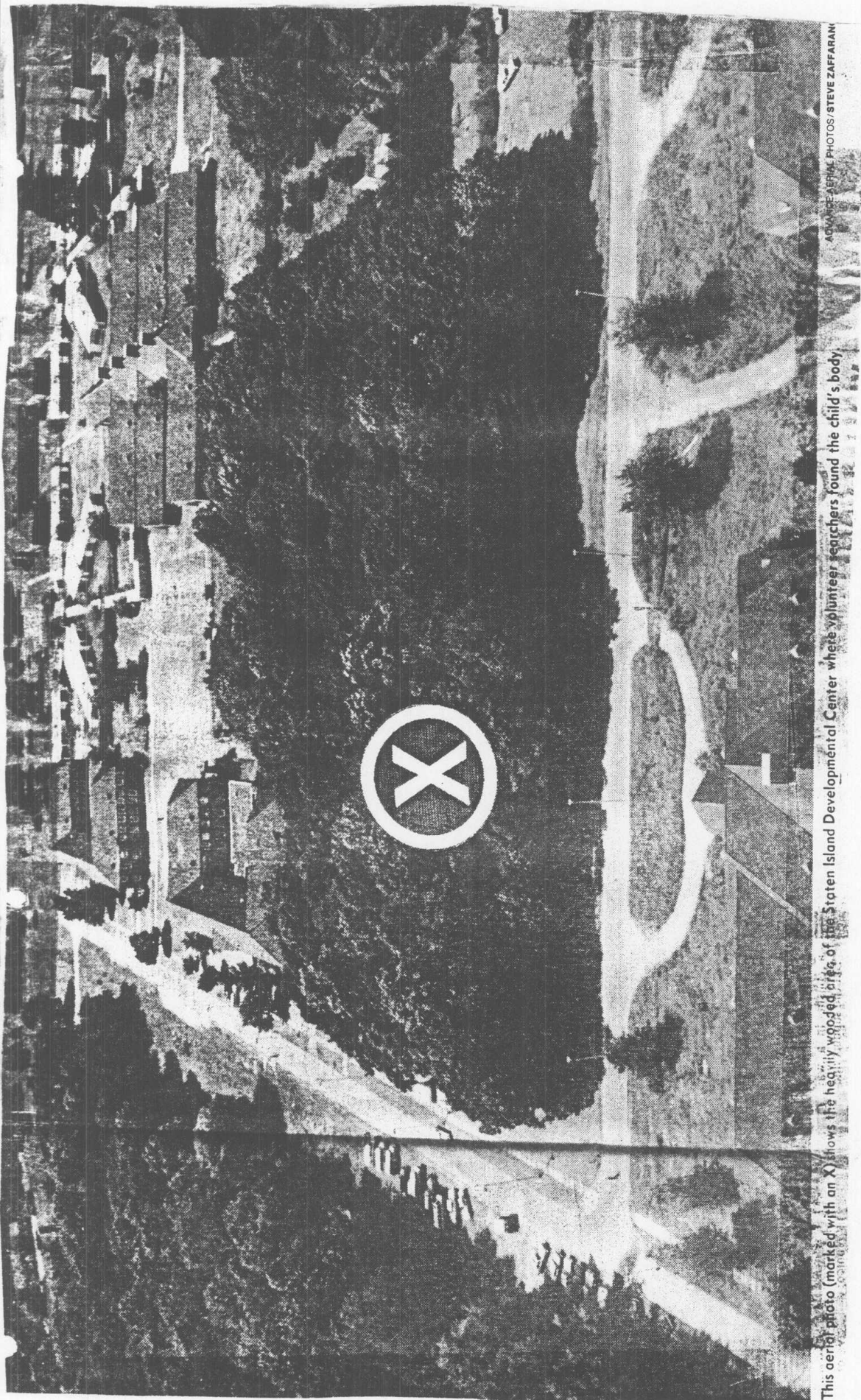
ADVANCE PHOTOS/TONY CAVALIARANTE



Broken toys and a flashlight were among the items found at the campsite.

A special team of ESU officers continued
 yesterday to dig their way across sections of
 the SIDC grounds behind Building 7 in a
 search for evidence or other bodies.
 Rand is currently undergoing psychiatric
 evaluation in Kings County Hospital in
 Brooklyn and is scheduled to return to Staple-
 ton Criminal Court on Sept. 4 to face the
 charge he kidnapped Jennifer Schwiager.
 Investigators working with District Attor-
 ney William Murphy hope to be able to
 present their case against Rand to a grand
 jury tomorrow.

Page 3 of 3 Pages



This aerial photo (marked with an X) shows the heavily wooded area of the Staten Island Development Center where volunteer searchers found the child's body. ADVANCE AERIAL PHOTOS/STEVE ZAFFRANO