Investigators scour second Rand camp

BY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Searchers returned yesterday to a Sea View campsite thought to have been used by Andre Rand but found nothing that could be linked directly to the suspected kidnapper.

A band of searchers from the Friends of Jennifer scoured the site on the grounds of the former Farm Colony for nearly three hours, looking for traces of Rand's clothing or other possessions.

Tuesday night, volunteers canvassed the grounds off Colonial Avenue and discovered a collection of children's toys and dolls.

Metal rods and sections of metal grills encircled the campsite, which was littered with pots and plastic containers, as well as a discarded St. Sylvester School

Monsignor Daniel Sullivan, the pastor of the Concord Roman Catholic parish, said the bag was about 10 years old and no longer used by school students. The priest also said no parish children have been reported missing.

Yesterday, the searchers dug

around the overturned remains of a shack and near a tombstone that was found Tuesday night, but they found nothing.

Rand, the 43-year-old transient charged with kidnapping 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger of Westerleigh, who was found murdered two weeks ago, was known to live in boarding houses and makeshift campsites.

Plaid shirts, the type commonly worn by Rand, also were found Tuesday. Authorities said the formation of twigs at the campsite, as well as the metal rods designed as booby traps, fit Rand's usual camp layout.

Two years ago, Rand reportedly worked as a painter for a private contractor. According to police, several men who worked for the contractor said they remember dropping the drifter off

near a baseball field at Rockland Avenue and Forest Hill Road, just opposite woods near the campsite.

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 stored his winter clothing and other personal items.

A special team of ESU officers continued yesterday to dig their way across sections of the SIDC grounds behind Building 27 in a search for evidence or more bodies.

Rand is currently undergoing psychiatric evaluation in Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn and is scheduled to return to Stapleton Criminal Court Sept. 4 to face the charge he kidnapped Jennifer Schweiger.