

● June 12, 1971 — Patricia Varon, a 16-year-old patient at Willowbrook, was reported missing. Less than four hours later, she was found dead in a steam tunnel in a building on the school grounds.

Walsh said her death was determined accidental. The cause probably was asphyxiation or the heat, if there was some reason for the steam to be on in the spring, he said. The medical records listing the cause will not be available until late this week.

● Oct. 18, 1972 — Jeanette Martin, 16, who disappeared in September from the former Start Center for juvenile delinquents, was reported still missing after six weeks.

Walsh had no record of the case, because the center was run by the state Division for Youth, which would not release any information on the matter. As of Friday night, the Police Department's Missing Persons unit was not able to find records of the case, but a spokesman said they should be able to locate the file by the end of the week.

● Dec. 24, 1972 — Tyrone Coruyo, a 13-year-old Willowbrook State School patient, died from extensive brain damage, possibly caused by a series of blows to the head, according to an autopsy.

Police at the time said the death did not seem "overtly suspicious" considering conditions in the school, but were investigating because of reports of assaults upon patients.

Though the Medical Examiner never sent the final report to the center, Walsh said there must not have been enough evidence to discipline a worker or press charges. As a matter of formality, he plans to request a copy of the report.

● May 1, 1975 — Early in the morning, Michael Romano, a 64-year-old mentally retarded resident of the Willowbrook Developmental Center, was found dead, sitting on a bench near Building 4. He was missing since dinnertime on the previous night.

Romano was described by a Willowbrook spokesman as a fairly self-sufficient resident who lived in an open ward and often went on walks around the grounds but "always came back for dinner."

Police at the time believed there was no indication of foul play in Romano's death. Walsh, who was present at the autopsy, said the patient died of a heart attack.

● Aug. 7, 1978 — A police autopsy reveals that 44-year-old Shun-ae (Emma) Lee of Sea View, whose body was discovered Aug. 3 in a shallow grave in the Willowbrook woods behind the Institute

for Basic Research, was strangled to death.

The nurse was last seen July 20 walking from Building 11 after completing her 3-to-11:45 p.m. shift.

A few months before her disappearance, the nurse had reportedly received a death threat from a co-worker who was fired after Mrs. Lee gave her a negative work evaluation. At the time, police said there was no indication that the fired worker had anything to do with the murder.

No arrest has ever been made.

● Nov. 1, 1978 — Detectives continued the search for Ethel Atwell, a 46-year-old Newark resident who worked as a mental-hygiene therapist at SIDC and disappeared from a center parking lot on Oct. 24.

An employee at the center reported hearing screams coming from the parking lot around 6:30 a.m. A purse, a shoe and false teeth were found next to Ms. Atwell's car.

The woman's disappearance is still unsolved.

● Oct. 7, 1979 — Officials never learned how 29-year-old Helen Lever, a blind and deaf resident of the Staten Island Developmental Center, disappeared on the morning of July 16. She was found two days later on the grounds of the center, "unharmed and in good physical condition."

● Nov. 27, 1979 — Louis Rodriguez, a Staten Island Developmental Center patient, was found dead in Building 27, not far from the grounds where searchers found the body of Jennifer Schweiger on Aug. 12, 1987.

Rodriguez was seen leaving another building around 7:45 a.m. He was found 10 hours later after Building 27 was searched a second time.

Walsh said no foul play was suspected, but the exact cause of death was not available last week.

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