

Jury picked in trial of man charged in Schweiger slaying

BY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Selection of a jury of eight men and four women was completed yesterday for the Supreme Court trial of Andre Rand, charged with the kidnap-murder of 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger.

Justice Norman J. Felig, after charging the jury on its duty, put the case over to Wednesday when Assistant District Attorney John Loughrey will make his opening statement, as will defense attorney Jerome V. Giovinazzo, if he chooses.

Initially, it was believed that opening statements would be made today. At Loughrey's request, however, Felig put the case over to next week. Wednesday was the next available date for the trial to resume since the judge will not be available on Monday and Tuesday due to Jewish holy days.

There also will not be any sessions on Fridays throughout the trial. The judge sets aside Fridays for matrimonial cases.

Felig has indicated that the prosecution intends to call about 50 persons as witnesses. A number of the witnesses will testify they saw the girl, who had Down's

syndrome, smiling and walking hand-in-hand July 9, 1987, with the defendant, a 43-year-old drifter, from a point near her home in Westerleigh and continuing along a route of more than a mile that took them onto the grounds of the former Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook.

The girl was never again seen alive. Her body was discovered the following Aug. 12 buried in a shallow grave on the grounds of the center, a short distance from where Rand, a one-time physical therapy aide at the center, maintained a crude campsite.

The prosecution's case is expected to rely heavily on circumstantial evidence.

The jurors were selected over a four-day period. Seven are married and four are unmarried. The 12th is a widow. Among the jurors are two Transit Authority employees, one of whom is a supervisor; two engineers; a Sanitation Department heavy-equipment operator; a budget analyst, and a stock exchange worker.

Two women and a man also will sit as alternate jurors, replacing any of the regular jurors should they be unable to serve.