

Witnesses trace Jennifer's walk

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A teen-age former neighbor of 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger testified yesterday he saw her walking 10 feet behind an "older man" about a block from her home in Westerleigh on the afternoon of July 9, 1987.

But under cross-examination by an attorney for Andre Rand, the 44-year-old drifter charged with the girl's kidnap-murder, the witness, David Sheehy, 15, admitted he could not be sure that the man was actually walking with Jennifer.

Sheehy was one of seven prosecution witnesses to testify at the second day of Rand's Supreme Court trial. The case is before Justice Norman J. Felig and a jury.

Sheehy, on a bicycle, said he saw Jennifer and the man who he thought might have been her grandfather walking toward Jewett Avenue about 2 or 2:30 p.m. on Markham Place at Deems Avenue. The man was walking a bicycle on the sidewalk, the youth said.

Sheehy is believed to have been the first of a number of prosecution witnesses who observed Jennifer walking with a man from near her home and continuing along different streets, with the last witnesses seeing them on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook.

Sheehy viewed the defendant in two police lineups, but in each instance he was unable to identify Rand as the man he saw with

Jennifer.

Jennifer's disappearance on July 9 sparked the largest search ever carried out on Staten Island for a missing person, with nearly 1,000 volunteers taking part. Her decomposed body was found Aug. 12 in a grave a short distance from a campsite that Rand maintained near Building 23 at the developmental center. Rand was a one-time employee of the center.

Police, acting on a description provided by Sheehy, questioned Rand at different times and had him under observation for almost a month before arresting him on a kidnaping charge Aug. 4.

Detective Robert Jensen testified that upon being furnished with a description of the man seen with Jennifer he believed it fit the

description of Rand, whom he knew from a part-time job he held at a New Springville supermarket. He also knew that Rand rode a bicycle.

Lt. Louis Fiori, commanding officer of the Crimes Against Property Squad, admitted that Rand, although not under arrest, remained 30 consecutive hours in the 120th Precinct stationhouse in St. George as police questioned him about the disappearance of Jennifer three days earlier.

Fiori and other detectives told Rand on at least three occasions he was free to leave, but he chose to remain, sleeping overnight on the floor of the interview room in the squad office, the detectives said.

Defense attorney Jerome V.

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