Lawyer: Was Jennifer reburied at campsite?

By RAYMOND A. WITTEK ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Andre Rand's lawyer yesterday raised for the first time the circumstances surrounding the discovery of Jennifer Schweiger's body almost a month after she vanished on July 9, 1987.

A retired firefighter, among hundreds of volunteers who took part in the massive search, found her decomposed body in a shallow grave about 100 yards south of a campsite which Rand, a 44-year-old drifter, maintained on the grounds of the former Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook.

Rand's lawyer, Jerome V. Giovinazzo, raised the question in cross-examining Detective Francis Callery, a hair and fiber expert at the police laboratory, at the fifth day of Rand's Supreme Court trial on charges of kidnapping and murder.

In response to Giovinazzo's questions, Callery said he had found "nothing of value" in examining samples of the graveside soil for hair and fibers and that he had not attempted to determine if the soil samples were different since that was not his job.

"Were you told that Jennifer may have been reburied at this site?" the lawyer asked.

"No, sir," replied the detective. Giovinazzo made no attempt to enlarge on his question. The issue had not been raised at any time during the first five days of testimony, but it is almost certain to figure in the testimony of future witnesses, including the man who said he discovered the body.

The area of the gravesite had been searched previously at least 12 times without success, according to a previous witness.



Witness Salvatore Scandura, identifies a photograph of Andre Rand's campsite on the grounds of the former Staten Island Developmental Center.

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