

The kidnap of Jennifer Schweiger: A chronology

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The disappearance of Jennifer Schweiger, the friendly, trusting 12-year-old girl with Down's syndrome on July 9, 1987 touched off the greatest search for a missing person in Staten Island history. Yesterday's decision marked the end of one the island's most publicized and dramatic trials.

The following is a chronology of the events of that case.

July 9, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger, 12, of Wardwell Avenue, Westerlo, is reported missing by her parents. She was last seen at 2 p.m. walking on a street near her home with what witnesses said was a slim man with a bald spot on his head.

July 10-Aug. 3, 1987: The search for the missing girl grows to the point where it includes hundreds of police and volunteers combing the grounds of the former Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) in Willowbrook and parts of the Fresh Kills landfill, fibers with the girl's picture, asking "Have you seen Jennifer?" being taped to doors of commercial establishments, and police helicopters and dogs being used to search for her. Numerous searchers organize as "The Friends of Jennifer." On July 21, family members and friends offer a \$5,000 reward for information leading to Jennifer's return. On Aug. 3, the New York Yankees circulate pictures of the missing girl, who had Down's syndrome, at stadium concession stands and flash her picture on the scoreboard several times.

Aug. 4, 1987: Andre Rand, 43, a homeless man with a history of crimes against children, is arrested and charged with kidnaping and unlawfully imprisoning Jennifer. Police believe Rand was walking with the girl the day she disappeared from the street near her home.

Rand was convicted four years earlier of loading 11 West Brighton children into a van and taking them to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Volunteers continue to comb SIDC.

Sept. 8, 1987: Heidi Evans, the Daily Without Ball on Rikers Island murder, that Rand had nothing to do with. Jennifer on the day she disappeared, and a drier was not the person seen with Jerome Giovannazzo, claims that the girl disappeared.

Sept. 4, 1987: Rand's defense lawyer, Rand being in the area from which each girl disappeared, including cases due to intruding similarities surrounding each disappearance, including of 30 people, including 4 Staten Island girls. Investigators singled out the girl becomes a suspect in the disappearances of sources close to the case. Rand jury against Rand, according to unidentified sources close to the case. Rand sentencing evidence to a Staten Island grand jury against Rand, according to unidentified sources close to the case. Rand sentencing evidence to a Staten Island grand jury against Rand, according to unidentified sources close to the case. Rand sentencing evidence to a Staten Island grand jury against Rand, according to unidentified sources close to the case.

Aug. 27, 1987: Prosecutors begin pre-a collection of children's toys and dolls be used by Rand. Among things found are campsite in woods near SIDC thought to Aug. 25, 1987: Police search a second did not kill Jennifer.

Brooklyn, tells a Daily News reporter he atic tests at Kings County Hospital. Aug. 16, 1987: Rand, undergoing psychiatric tests at Kings County Hospital. Aug. 14, 1987: The Friends of Jennifer say they will not disband until they learn of the whereabouts of 7-year-old Holly Ann Hughes of Port Richmond and 10-year-old Tiahease Jackson of Mariners Harbor. Authorities were investigating a possible link to Rand in those disappearances.

Aug. 13, 1987: The naked body found in the shallow grave at SIDC is identified as Jennifer Schweiger. A specialized team of police officers prowl the SIDC grounds looking for clues to the murder. The body was discovered some 500 feet from a campsite once used by Rand.

Aug. 12, 1987: Retired firefighter George Kramer starts digging at a suspicious-looking area of woods on the grounds of the SIDC and finds a body.

Aug. 8, 1987: Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, visits Jennifer's parents in Westerlo, "A child like Jennifer has a very special place in my heart," he said. Also helping with the search is a contingent of jungle-seasoned Vietnam veterans.

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Aug. 5, 1987: In Stapleton Criminal Court, Rand is held without bail and ordered to undergo psychiatric testing to determine if he is fit to stand trial on charges he kidnaped and unlawfully imprisoned Jennifer. He was subsequently found competent to stand trial.