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Rand convicted, but mysteries remain

By DEAN C. BALSAMINI ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

12 year-old Jennifer Schweiger may close the book on that case, but questions remain about his possible role in the disapearance of three other Staten Island The conviction of Andre Rand of the abduction of

and Tiahese Jackson? disappearances of Holly Ann Hughes, Alice Pereira Was the 43-year-old drifter also responsible for the

Detectives are puzzling over more than two dozen cases of murdered or missing persons, which include those of the three Island girls.

them," said a police detective, who asked to remain nonymous. "That may sound like a cliche, but it's "Those cases are active. They will never close

cases due to the common thread running through each disappearance: Rand's name has turned up in each case, and he was somehow placed in the area at the time each girl disappeared. Investigators have singled out the three girls'

Many of the connections may be coincidental or circumstantial, but one mother said Rand's conviction will "allow her to sleep at night."

Missing: Alice Pereira

Alice Pereira has been missing for 16 years. Alice was 5 when she vanished from a park near her New

with friends in from the reference at 675 Tysens Lane, New Dorp. She disappeared minutes later. Police spoke to Alice's friends, but the the children gave contradictory accounts of which direction Alice had gone.

investigatiom that included the FBI and stretched to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. The Perciras have relatives in Puerto with family. Rico and authorities believed Alice might be living Her disappearance touched off an extensive police

Police found nothing.

Dorp home in 1972. Rand worked as a painter in the Tysens Park Apartments, the girl's residence at the from prison after serving approximately 17 months time of her disappearance.

The afternoon she disappeared, Alice was playing sexually attacking a 9-year-old girl in May 1969.

Missing: Holly Ann Hughes
The "beautiful-little girl" from Port
sexually attacking a 9-year-old girl in May 1969.

(See UNSOLVED, Page A 2)

Alice vanished July 7, 1972.

Following her disappearance police questioned the Tysens Park maintenance crew. Rand was

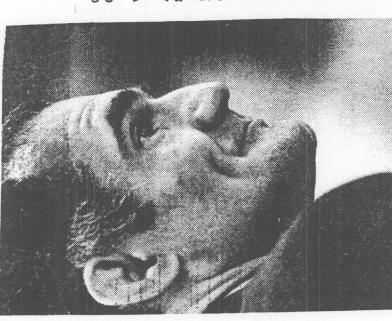
among those questioned.

"It was if the ground had opened up and swallowed her," a veteran detective said during the investiga-

pigtails once lived. The telephone number remains the same. Mrs. Dendariarena still waits for a call grandmother, Frances Dendariarena, still resides in the Tysens Park apartment where the little girl with Alice's parents are divorced, but 16 years later her

Missing: Holly Ann Hughes
The "beautiful-little girl" from Port Richmond

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Questions remain **Andre Rand**

lisappeared July 15, 1981, nearly nine years to the day that Alice Periera vanished.

way to a delicatessen near her home at 90 Park Ave. Rand reportedly visited his aunt on the day Holly Ann disappeared. The aunt lived in a building that Holly Ann disappeared at 9:30 p.m. while on her shared an entrance way with Holly Ann's home.

Detectives brought up Rand's name early in the investigation, according to Holly Ann's grandparents, Helen and Sven Cederholm.

seen talking with the child earlier in the day. Police reported the girl had been spotted speaking with a man in a Volkswagen that day. Rand was reportedly A member of the girl's family had said Rand was seen driving a green Volkswagen that same day.

garding the girl's disappearance, but they released Police said Rand was questioned extensively rehim for lack of evidence.

The girl's mother, also named Holly Ann Hughes, attended the Rand trial every day, except for the day of the verdict. She has no doubt who took her child

Fran Auriti, a member of the Friends of Jennifer, the Schweiger's body. "If he (Rand) was convicted, she "Holly Ann's the reason why she was there," said volunteer group that eventually found Jennifer

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would feel Holly Ann, along with Jennifer, can now dis rest in peace."

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Missing: Tiahese Jackson

Tiahese has not been seen or heard from since 1983, after leaving her home, the Conca D'Oro Hotel Early that year, Rand was arrested and convicted for another child-related crime. On Jan. 10 he took 11 children on an unauthorized bus trip to Newark in Mariners Harbor.

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Island five hours later.

Two months later Rand was convicted of unlawful He was released from prison Aug. 1 after serving imprisonment, charges resulting from the bus trip. five months of a 10-month sentence.

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> On the night of Aug. 13, less than two weeks after Rand had been released, 10-year-old Tiahese Jackson disappeared while running an errand. She was on her way to the Crown Supermarket at 933 Richmond

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During a published interview last year, Tiahese's mother Gwendolyn said she had seen a man matching Rand's description "who used to hang around the hotel and the lot across the street.

Police questioned Rand three days after the girl's

disappearance. The drifter was spotted by detectives while he was walking out of the Baron Hirsch Cemetery, where Rand had been known to have a campsite. The Conca D'Oro Hotel is located less than a half mile from the cemetery.

Again, due to lack of evidence and witnesses in Tiahese's case, police were unable to file charges against Band

against Rand.

If the intense manhunt for Jennifer Schweiger's abductor opened old wounds for the families of the other missing children, the arrest and subsequent conviction of Rand brought some consolation.

"I think the families all got a certain amount of satisfaction (from the verdict)," said Donna Cutugno of the Friends of Jennifer. "Holly Ann's mother thinks he did it. This conviction really helped ease the nain."

"We all feel that it took a Down's syndrome child to catch up to Andre Rand," Mrs. Auriti said, in reference to the exhaustive search that followed.

"Although we may never find the other children, I hope their families are all resting comfortably now. If he did harm these other kids, I hope he does feel remorse enough for these other parents (to talk). All they want to do is put these other fears to rest."