

August 25, 1952

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Assault Action Awaits Report On 'Prints'

Willowbrook School Case Over until Tomorrow at Request of Prosecutor

Action on a felonious assault charge against Ralph J. Tuccillo, an ex-convict whose employment by Willowbrook State School authorities is being investigated by District Attorney Sidney O. Simonson, was delayed until tomorrow because of a request made yesterday in Magistrate's Court by the prosecutor.

Simonson stated that he hoped to have some reply by then from Albany to his request for photostats of the fingerprints submitted to state authorities for checking when Tuccillo was hired. The prosecutor has stated that a "stand-in" might have been used for Tuccillo when the prints were taken.

There was no objection to Simonson's request by Philip J. Levine, acting in behalf of Louis Baron, the defendant's attorney.

Uses Alias on Job

Tuccillo's record as an ex-convict and former inmate of the Matteawan Hospital for the Criminal Insane came to the attention of hospital authorities when he was arrested Wednesday and accused of striking two boy patients at the hospital with a broom handle.

The defendant, who is 47 and lives at 298 Bay street, Tompkinsville, worked at the hospital seven months under the alias John J. Martini. Because of previous record he is being held without bail.

D. A. Requests Fingerprints In Beatings

'Stand-in' Possibility To Be Probed; Mental Test May be Asked for Prisoner

District Attorney Sidney O. Simonson has requested that photostats of fingerprints taken when Ralph J. Tuccillo, 47, ex-convict and former Matteawan inmate, was hired by the Willowbrook State School be sent him from Albany, it was learned today.

Tuccillo, accused of beating with a broom handle two boys who are patients in the school, is in City Prison, Richmond. He is slated to appear today in Magistrate's Court.

It is reported that the district attorney will request that Tuccillo, who lives at 298 Bay street, Tompkinsville, be committed to Bellevue Hospital, Manhattan, for a mental examination.

Record Given

The man has served time in Elmira Reformatory and Sing Sing on charges of burglary and robbery. In 1946 he escaped from Kings County Hospital while undergoing mental tests. Four years later he was re-arrested, adjudged insane, and sent to Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminal Insane at Beacon, N. Y. After six months' treatment, he was released as sane.

Because fingerprints are taken of all new employes and checked with authorities in Albany, the district attorney is investigating the possibility of a "stand-in" being used when Tuccillo's prints were taken.

The man had been working at the institution for seven months under the alias of John J. Martini, it is charged.