

D. A. May Expand Willowbrook Probe

Record Unfolds

Tuccillo, whose home is at 238 Bay street, Tompkinsville, had been in the state school employ seven months when he was arrested Aug. 20. The pending charge alleges that he beat two boy inmates with a broom handle.

He has a criminal record dating back to 1932 and served time in Sing Sing on a robbery charge. He was adjudged insane in April of last year while a burglary charge was pending and was committed to Matteawan State Hospital. After six months he was released as cured.

In order to get the state school job, Tuccillo had to be cleared through the Criminal Investigation Bureau of state civil service in Albany, to which his fingerprints were sent. It has been said that his application denied he had a criminal record or had been in a mental institution.

Uses Fake Name

Tuccillo got the job under a false name, John J. Martini, and the question arose whether he had used the prints of a "standin" in his application. This does not seem likely from a preliminary check of the prints on file, Simonson said, but a further check is being made.

For a full determination, the district attorney is sending the fingerprints to Police Headquarters, Manhattan, where they will be examined by criminal identification experts. This will determine whether the prints submitted by Tuccillo were his own.

Even if this turns out to be a fact, however, there may be other angles of the Tuccillo hiring to be investigated, Simonson said. His first examination of the civil service records indicates, he stated, possible discrepancies.

As soon as the prints came back from Police Headquarters, the district attorney promised, these other angles will be checked. If the apparent discrepancies are confirmed, he said, he will want to know how they came about and why.

Simonson was questioned also about reports that his investigation might go beyond the Tuccillo employment at the state school.

He would not confirm this but it is known that he had given considerable thought, together with members of his staff, to what may be necessary to make the investigation complete.

CHECKUP LIKELY IN TUCCILLO INQUIRY

Simonson Seeks Answer To Riddle of How Ex-Con Got State School Job

Widened scope in the investigation of how Ralph J. Tuccillo, 43, ex-convict and former mental hospital inmate, came to be employed as an attendant at Willowbrook State School, was apparent yesterday when District Attorney Sidney O. Simonson received, after almost a week's wait, the fingerprints upon which Tuccillo's employment was approved.

Photostats of the prints were forwarded to the district attorney by the State Civil Service Commission at Simonson's request. But even these do not supply all the answers he is looking for, he said, and he is following up his investigation until the complete facts are unearthed.

District Attorney Simonson said he could not comment at this stage of the investigation upon the various angles which have come up since Tuccillo's arrest on a charge that he beat boys in the state school.