

September 16, 1952

EX-CONVICT TO BE TRIED IN BEATINGS AT SCHOOL

**Declared Sane, Tuccillo
Must Answer Complaint
He Hit Willowbrook Boys**

Ralph Tuccillo, Tompkinsville ex-convict and former mental patient whose employment at Willowbrook State School touched off a probe by the district attorney's office, will face two assault charges Monday in Magistrate's Court.

Declared sane after undergoing mental tests in Bellevue Hospital, Tuccillo was returned to court yesterday, but the delay was granted because his lawyer could not be present.

Tuccillo, who is being held without bail because of his police record, is accused of beating two boys at the Willowbrook institution. His arrest Aug. 20 prompted an investigation by District Attorney Sidney O. Simonson when it was learned that Tuccillo had used a fictitious name on his application for an attendant's job.

Simonson Asked Test

Simonson himself brought about the Bellevue tests for Tuccillo two weeks ago when he argued successfully over objections by the defense attorney, Louis Baron. Baron had described Tuccillo as "a loving father, a hard worker."

The charges against Tuccillo, who is 47 and lives at 298 Bay street, accuse him of using a broom handle to beat the young patients. The complaints are made by Dr. Frank Glasser, assistant superintendent of the school.

Simonson's investigation disclosed that Tuccillo's true identity was not discovered at Albany because Tuccillo had marked the wrong race on his job application blank.

The probe also disclosed that Tuccillo had given his weight as 100 pounds lighter than he actually is and, during the processing at Willowbrook, had been allowed to carry his own papers from building to building without supervision.

Willowbrook Hearing Off To Next Week

Because a prosecution witness could not appear, the state yesterday asked and received an adjournment in its case against Ralph Tuccillo, former employe at the Willowbrook State School who is accused of beating two boy patients with a broom handle.

The postponement was requested by Assistant District Attorney Kermit J. Casscells in Magistrate's Court and the case was adjourned until a week from today.

Tuccillo, an ex-convict whose employment at the state school under an assumed name has touched off a probe by the district attorney's office, was represented by Louis Baron.

The defendant, who is 47 and lives at 298 Bay street, was released Saturday in \$2,500 bail by County Judge Thomas J. Walsh. Previously Tuccillo had been held without bail because of his previous record.

Since his arrest Aug. 20, Tuccillo has undergone mental examination at Bellevue Hospital and has been declared sane.

In 1946, he escaped from Kings County Hospital while undergoing mental tests and was adjudged insane following his arrest four years later. He subsequently was sent to Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminal Insane but was released as sane after six months' treatment.

District Attorney Sidney Simonson's probe into Tuccillo's hiring so far has revealed that the wrong race was marked on his application blank and for this reason his true identity was not discovered. Tuccillo worked at the hospital seven months as John J. Martini.