

Tuccillo Indicted By Jurors on Perjury Charge

Ex-Willowbrook Worker Surrenders At D.A.'s Office

Ralph Tuccillo, 48, who, it is charged, obtained a job at Willowbrook State School by giving false information under oath, surrendered this morning at the district attorney's office for arrest on a perjury indictment voted late yesterday by the grand jury.

The indictment charges that Tuccillo concealed, in a verified statement at the state school, that he had served time in state prison and also that he had been an inmate of a mental institution. It also alleges that he gave a false name when he applied for employment.

The indictment was presented to Judge Thomas J. Walsh in County Court after 5 P. M. yesterday, at the close of an all-day grand jury session. As the defendant was at large at the time, it was not made public until after his arrest this morning.

Arraignment Today

At that time his attorney, Louis Baron, surrendered the defendant to the district attorney's detectives. Tuccillo is being arraigned today before Judge Walsh and arrangements for his bail are being made.

The indictment contains two counts. One, a felony, charges perjury, alleging that statements which he made under oath on his Willowbrook application were false. The other, a misdemeanor, charges that, through these alleged false statements, he violated the State Civil Service Law.

There was no action by the grand jury on the felonious assault charge sent to the grand jurors by Magistrate's Court. This charge was not put before the grand jury.

Tuccillo, whose home is at 298 Bay street, Tompkinsville, made out his application for the state school job of attendant on Jan. 30 of this year. He attested to the application under oath.

Cites Crime Denial

When seeking the job, which he received the next day and held for seven months, he gave his name as John J. Martini. This the indictment cites as one of the perjurious statements.

It is charged also that he said he never had been convicted of a crime. The fact is that he served a sentence in prison in 1932 on a robbery charge.

Tuccillo also was committed to Matteawan State Hospital when he was adjudged insane in 1951, but was released later as cured. The indictment says that he swore falsely in his Willowbrook application that he never had been in a mental institution.

The fact that Tuccillo was working at Willowbrook came to light when he was arrested Aug. 20 on the charge that he had struck two boy patients in the school with a broom handle. Until his surrender he was at liberty under bail awaiting disposition of this charge.

Willowbrook State School records pertaining to Tuccillo's employment were subpoenaed for yesterday's

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grand jury hearing by District Attorney Sidney O. Simonson. It seemed certain that they were placed before the grand jury during its hearing of the case.

Witnesses who testified yesterday were examined by Assistant District Attorneys Daniel Cohen and Kermit J. Casscells. Among these were persons from the Willowbrook staff who were examined Sept. 10 at the district attorney's office in an effort to discover how Tuccillo came to be employed there without discovery of his true identity and his past record.

Among yesterday's witnesses was James Lindsay, a personnel assistant at the state school. He was able, it is believed, to identify before the grand jury the records signed by Tuccillo when he asked for the job and to give the statements made by the defendant under oath which the indictment charges were false.

The grand jury also heard Mrs. Theresa Sherman, a personnel clerk at Willowbrook. She was able to identify at the Sept. 10 investigation, when also she was questioned, fingerprint records of the defendant taken at the state school. She may likely have been asked about the same matters yesterday, as these prints were produced under subpoena.

These print records described Tuccillo as "colored." This, together with the false name he had given, permitted the prints to go through a civil service check at Albany without the discovery of his true identity.