



**GETTING THE FACTS**—Police Capt. Joseph Lutkenhouse Jr., center, questions Anthony Ripley, right, attendant at Willowbrook State School who says he was attacked, relieved of his keys and locked in a closet to pave the way for the escape of two 18-year-old boy patients. At left is Edward Krauss, attendant who freed Ripley.

## 2 Escape at Willowbrook; Driven Back by Storm

Two 18-year-old boys who escaped from Willowbrook State School after overpowering an attendant late yesterday trudged back meekly in the storm early this morning after wandering in the woods most of the night. The boys, Frank Vinci and Ira Elder,

ran from the grounds after Vinci seized the keys from an attendant and locked him in a clothes closet. School officials described the pair as chronic runaways.

An all-night search proved fruitless, but at 5:30 A. M. the youths returned, cold and wet, after tramping through the snow. School authorities gave them hot drinks and put them back in their rooms.

The attendant, Anthony Ripley, 48, of 76 Hendricks avenue, New Brighton, had remained shut in the closet until he was liberated by another attendant, Edward Krauss of 731 Bush avenue, Dongan Hills, after another patient spread the alarm.

Ripley suffered bruises of the shoulder and had his shirt torn by Vinci, who twisted his arm, forcing him to drop his keys. He declined medical treatment.

Five police cars and detectives were rushed to the school when the report was received at the Richmond Police Communications Bureau that a mass break of 26 patients was taking place from the fifth floor of Building 2.

**WHEN THE POLICE** arrived, in charge of Capt. Joseph Lutkenhouse Jr., emergency headquarters were set up. However, emergency measures were soon abandoned when it was learned the situation was under control. According to the police, Ripley

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## Willowbrook 'Break Out' Ends in Snow

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ley was escorting a nine-year-old boy, to the closet on the fifth floor of the building, known as the seclusion section, when the older boy jumped him and twisted his arm.

Vinci then picked up Ripley's keys and pushed him into the closet. He locked the door on the attendant and unlocked the door of the other youth. Both boys then ran out the fire exit.

**A 24-YEAR-OLD** patient, who saw Ripley being locked in the closet, ran to Mrs. Margaret Smith, the supervisor on a lower floor, who went to the fifth floor with Krauss while the latter freed the fifth floor attendant.

The police say that security measures in effect in the seclusion section make it almost im-

