

Fellow-Patient Held In Slaying at School

A 22-year-old resident of Willowbrook State School, with an IQ of 54 and a record of "assaultive" behavior, was arraigned yesterday on a homicide charge in a special session of Criminal Court conducted at the state institution.

The young man, Donald Conway, who came to Willowbrook from his home in Manhattan 10 years ago, is accused of strangling 15-year-old Clement Scarpone. The slain youth's body was discovered by an attendant early Monday in a dormitory ward containing about 90 mentally retarded boys.

Judge Edward D. Caiazzo appointed Anthony Crecca as defense counsel for Conway at the start of the arraignment in the upstairs lounge of the dormitory building. Also present were hospital officials, Assistant District Attorney Ralph DiIorio and court personnel.

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CRECCA requested that the young man be given psychiatric
(Continued on Page 15)

(From Page 1)

tests, saying that a brief conversation with Conway revealed that the defendant didn't understand the nature of the charge or of the proceedings.

Before granting the request, Judge Caiazzo questioned Dr. Henry Shancer, the staff official responsible for Conway.

Dr. Shancer testified that the young man had been noted on the most recent staff evaluation as being "assaultive, uncooperative, given to throwing temper tantrums and had been placed on tranquilizing drugs."

When questioned by DiIorio as to Conway's intelligence level, Dr. Shancer characterized the young man as a low grade moron whose mental level was that of a 7-year-old.

THE STRANGLING for which Conway is charged apparently was witnessed by some of the youngsters, ranging in age from about 14 to the early 20s.

Dr. Jack Hammond, Willowbrook director, said that interrogations of the boys produced one clear accusation of Conway, who reportedly admitted throttling the other boy.

After the admission, Conway had been placed in a "seclusion" room and locked in, Dr. Hammond said, "for his own protection and that of the others."

The assistant district attorney offered no objections to waiving the usual procedure of fingerprinting and photographing the defendant.

Conway was later taken to Bellevue Hospital, Manhattan, for mental tests.