

# Jail Patient in Willowbrook Death

By LEONARD NOVARRO

A two-week investigation by the district attorney's office into the death of a 26-year-old patient at Willowbrook State School was climaxed yesterday with the arrest of another patient.

Charged with homicide was 17-year-old Benito Santiago, who police say hit the victim, Thomas Cochrane, in the neck with a broomstick handle and caused his death.

Cochrane, a Bronx resident

who had been in the mental institution since 1949, was struck as he sat on a bench in the day room of Ward 9C on July 19. At the time, police said Cochrane was hit in

For background on Willowbrook State School see Page 7.

the larynx by a patient he had attempted to report for teasing him.

According to a medical examiner's report, Cochrane

located after his larynx was shattered.

SANTIAGO was arraigned on the homicide charge yesterday before Criminal Court Judge Richard F. Daly in a small ante-room outside Ward C of Building 9, where both victim and suspect were housed with some 70 other patients.

Also present were Assistant District Attorney James J. Hasson; Detectives Joseph Fischer and Walter Putkowski, who conducted the investigation, and Legal Aid Society lawyer John

J. Quinn, who represented the defendant during the arraignment.

Santiago sat in a chair before the judge, smiling and holding his arms over his head.

Daly granted an application by Quinn to have the defendant committed to the Department of Hospitals for psychiatric examination. Hasson said that in all probability Santiago will be returned to Criminal Court in 10 days with a recommendation that he be sent to the Eastern

Following the brief arraignment, hospital officials conducted Daly and the others on a tour of Ward 9C and the day room where the killing occurred.

This Ward houses what doctors term "low-grade imbeciles."

Willowbrook State School, which has approximately 6,000 patients, is currently being investigated by a grand jury concerning three accidental deaths that occurred there recently.

COCHRANE'S DEATH