

# Homicide, Willowbrook Deaths on Jury Slates

Evidence against Russell Walton, accused of the July 18 sniper-slaying of a Tompkinsville youth, will be submitted to the grand jury Tuesday, District Attorney John M. Braisted Jr. said yesterday.

The following day, another grand jury will resume its investigations into the deaths of three residents at Willowbrook State School and into a possible shakedown racket by city building inspectors in connection with the construction of three Roman Catholic high schools on Staten Island.

A number of witnesses are

expected to testify before the grand jury considering the Walton case.

Walton, 20, of 21 Brook St., Tompkinsville, is accused of fatally wounding Peter Gordzelewski, 19, of 63 New St., Port Richmond, with one of three bullets allegedly fired from a .22 caliber rifle. Walton assertedly fired the shots from in front of his home in an attempt to frighten Gordzelewski and a companion as they walked nearby on Westervelt Ave.

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THE GRAND JURY investigating Willowbrook State School is expected to turn from the

death of 10-year-old John K. Taylor to the death of 42-year-old Frank Harber. Harber died last February and the boy May 14.

The mentally retarded residents were fatally scalded while taking showers. A third death, involving the strangulation of a 12-year-old girl, also is being investigated.

Among the witnesses due to testify in connection with Harber's death are Dr. Gertrude Wilber, assistant medical examiner, and various school personnel, including doctors and attendants.

At least three witnesses will

testify when the building probe resumes. The grand jury is seeking to determine if there were any demands for payoffs or other irregularities during construction of the schools, built by the White Construction Co., Manhattan.

## School Articles Merit Praise

I would like to thank The Advance and Mark Wiesner for presenting the series of four articles on Willowbrook State School.

The recent deaths that have occurred at Willowbrook caused me, as well as many other readers, I am sure, to query the policies of the school.

After reading these articles, I was able to see what the school has to overcome, namely — over-crowdedness, an inadequate staff and unqualified personnel (in some cases).

Although I was shocked to read of the three fatal accidents, perhaps Dr. Hammond should be praised for his efforts in view of the situation.

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