

# Jury Hears 9 Witnesses In State School Death

Evidence in connection with the death of a 26-year-old resident at Willowbrook State School last July 19 was taken under consideration by a grand jury investigating conditions at the institution yesterday.

Nine witnesses testified before the grand jury in the death of Thomas Cochrane, a resident of the school since 1949, but the jury did not take any action.

Another Willowbrook resident, Benito Santiago 17, was arrested for Cochrane's death and has been committed to the Eastern Correctional Institute at Napanoch, N.Y.

Police said Santiago struck Cochrane in the neck with a broom handle as the victim sat on a bench. The medical examiner's office said Cochrane died of suffocation caused by a shattered larynx.

Santiago was said to have struck Cochrane after Cochrane threatened to report him to school authorities for teasing him.

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JOHN CARLISLE, a consulting engineer retained as an expert on buildings by District Attorney John M. Braisted Jr.,

also testified yesterday. He was said to have reported on the school's plumbing, water and steam systems.

Two of four deaths at the institution this year have been attributed to burns suffered as a result of patients being scalded while showering.

The grand jury has been investigating the deaths and conditions at the school since last June.

# New York World-Telegram

The Sun Thursday, November 11, 1965  
Next Stop

Touring Staten Island, Gov. Rockefeller uncorked two pieces of reassuring news.

He announced the state's contribution of \$900,000 toward purchase of the Girl Scouts former camp site as a municipal park—thus saving the tract from the bulldozers of commercial invaders.

The Governor also disclosed that temporary buildings will be erected to relieve overcrowding of Willowbrook State School until additional permanent accom-

modations can be built for mentally retarded patients.

Next on Rockefeller's itinerary should be a visit to the obsolete, once-abandoned Gouverneur Hospital on Manhattan's Lower East Side, housing an overflow from Willowbrook.

Let the Governor take a look at the place and then answer whether it should be speedily closed down—or continue in use, as some of his aides have indicated for another 10 years.