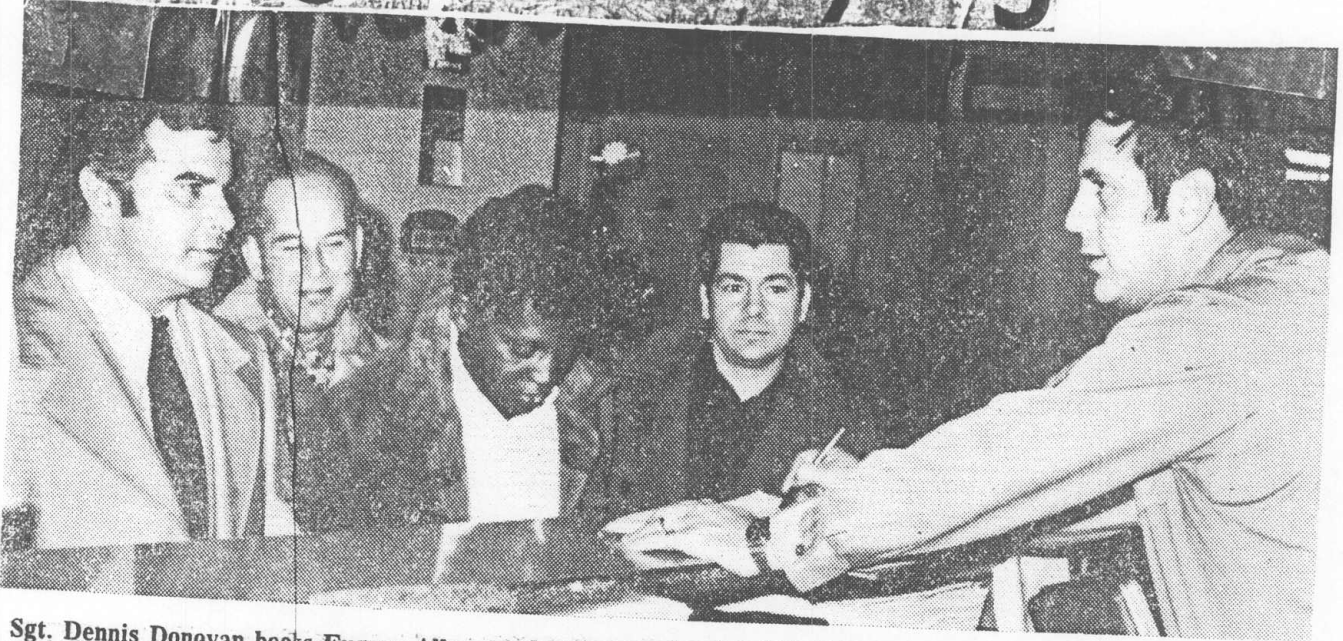


Suspect held in New Brighton slaying



Sgt. Dennis Donovan books Eugene Allen, center, in the New Dorp stationhouse for the murder of a Willowbrook Developmental Center patient. Allen is surrounded by, from left, Detectives Alfred Siragusa, George Siersema and George Capuano. S.I. Advance Photo by Irving Silverstein

By LEONARD BALDASSANO

A kitchen employe at Willowbrook Developmental Center will be arraigned on a homicide charge today for the bludgeon murder of a 30-year-old patient who was slain following a New Year's Eve party in New Brighton.

Eugene Allen, 24, of 444 Jersey St., a former patient at the center, was arrested at work yesterday afternoon in Building 18 for the murder of Raul Cordero, a co-worker in the kitchen.

Cordero, who resides at the institution, was an "unrestricted patient" who was allowed temporary leave from Willowbrook and was reported missing late Wednesday after he failed to return by a 10 p.m. curfew.

His body was found lying face down in the snow in the back yard of 250 Corson Ave. by an occupant, Mrs. Grover Dale. Police said he apparently had been savagely beaten over the head with an automobile bumper jack that was found nearby.

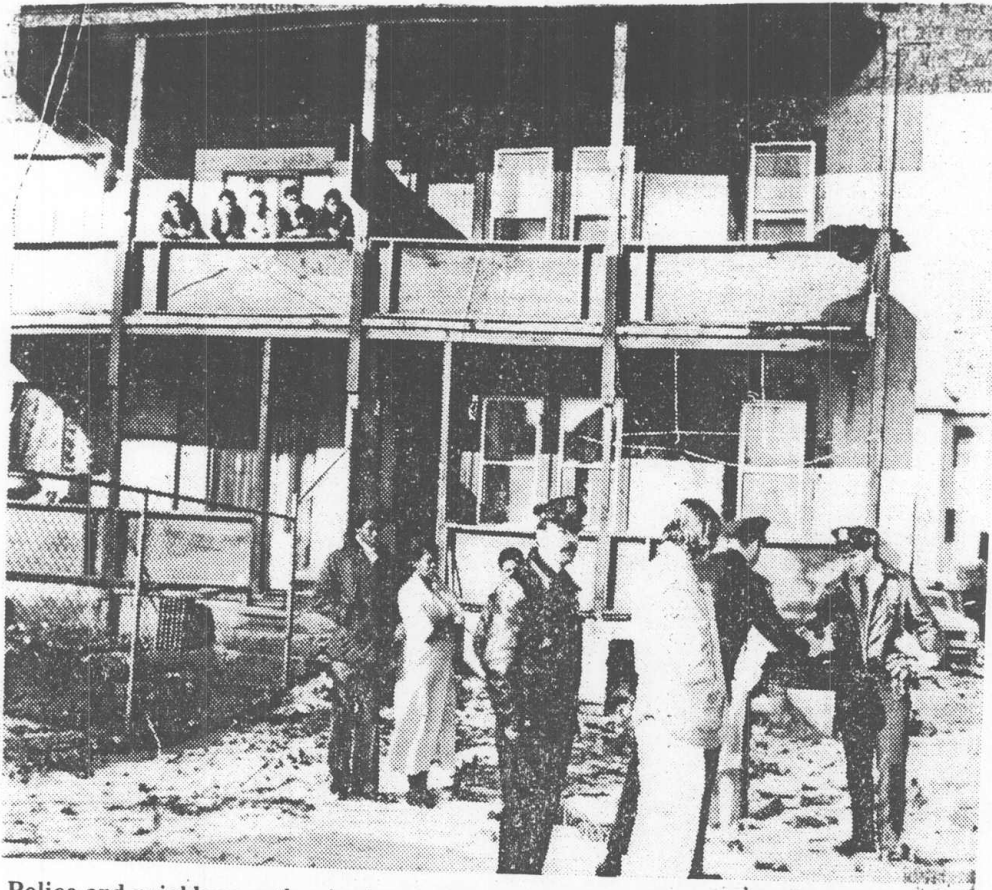
According to police, the two were driven to Allen's apartment about 6 p.m. Wednesday after work by another employe and were joined there for a party by the suspect's wife. The four were drinking for several hours when an argument began and a struggle followed.

Police did not elaborate but said that Allen, a stocky man weighing about 190 pounds, dragged Cordero down a flight of stairs and about 50 feet into the rear yard of 250 Corson Ave., where the killing took

place yesterday shortly after 2:30 a.m.

When the unidentified co-worker tried to stop Allen, police said that the suspect threatened the man with a jack he had taken from his apartment and struck Cordero about eight times over the head. Police said Allen returned to his house and the witness also went home.

About nine hours later, ac-



Police and neighbors gather in the rear yard of a New Brighton house where a Willowbrook Developmental Center patient was bludgeoned to death. Mrs. Grover Dale, in the rear with white bathrobe, discovered the body. *Times Advance Photo by Tony Coranante*

garage in the debris-littered yard; Nearby, police said they found a blue T-shirt which was ripped in the back and the victim's jacket.

The snow immediately surrounding the victim was spotted with blood, which police said indicated there had been a violent struggle. About four hours later, police said they discovered the murder weapon, a three-foot auto jack, buried under the snow.

Meanwhile, police said an extensive search by about 25 members of the Willowbrook staff and members of the Police Department was called off when they discovered the victim's identity through a bank book he was carrying.

Dr. Stanley Slawinski, acting director of Willowbrook, said the staff members had searched the sprawling Willowbrook area, where on

Christmas Eve the frozen body of another resident was found, as well as the New Brighton area where Cordero was known to visit friends.

From information accumulated from the search parties, police said Slawinski was able to provide them with "valuable information" helping with the investigation.

Allen's arrest followed an investigation by Detectives George Siersema, Alfred Siragusa, George Capuano and Raymond Taylor.

Under the supervision of Lt. William Juliano, they questioned dozens residents in the New Brighton area and persons at the center. They arrested Allen at the center without a struggle during his lunch break, according to detectives. He was taken to the New Dorp stationhouse, where he was booked on charges of homicide and possession of a

weapon, after questioning by Assistant District Attorney William Murphy.

According to Slawinski, Cordero was "mildly to moderately retarded" and a "high functioning" individual.

A resident of Willowbrook for 11 years, Cordero started work about three weeks ago as a kitchen aide as part of a "normalization" process leading to his eventual release.

Alexander Dale, an employe at a New Brighton delicatessen, described Cordero as being a quiet person.

"He didn't say too much. He would come into the store with two girls and a guy and buy groceries and beer," Dale said. "Who would want to kill him? He didn't hurt anybody."

Detectives said they ruled out robbery as a motive, although Cordero was found with only \$1.26 in his pocket out of nearly \$75 cash he had from a paycheck received earlier in the day. Police said he had deposited \$150 of the \$228 check in the bank before going to the suspect's house.