

# Arraign Five Lowell Persons in Cambridge

## Four Men and a Woman Indicted Earlier This Week

(Special to The Sun)

EAST CAMBRIDGE, April 9.—Five Lowell persons, indicted earlier this week by the Middlesex county grand jury, were arraigned before Judge Edward J. Hanly in Middlesex county superior criminal court here today.

John S. Trant, 17, of 91 Weed street, Lowell, pleaded guilty to counts of breaking and entering the night-time and larceny; larceny and uttering, and larceny from a Lowell bank, a Boston bank, and department stores Lowell.

Trant was arrested with Florence M. Buckley, 18, of 17 Blossom street, and Edward J. Travass, 17, of 58 Corbett street, both Lowell, in connection with the theft, forgery and uttering of checks from the C. H. Hobson Umbrella company, 489 Cocham street, Lowell.

Judge Hanly continued the case for sentence. The other

case Continued

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# Reserve Cops Seek Vacation With Pay

## Twenty File Petition in Superior Court for Status Clarification

(Special to The Sun)

EAST CAMBRIDGE, April 9.—Petition for declaratory judgment was filed in superior court today, through the state department of labor and industries,

20 reserve officers of the Lowell police department who seek annual vacations with pay. The officers contend that they have been working more or less regularly as policemen, and that they are entitled to vacations with pay. Only permanent officers on the department are now given paid vacations.

City Solicitor P. Harold Ready contends that the reserve officers are not permanent civil service employees, that they are a group separate and distinct from the permanent officers, and as such are not entitled to paid vacations. The petitioners are asking the court to clarify their status and to determine whether or not they are permanent civil service employees. George Thomas Dowd has set a hearing date for April 26.

# "Missing Link", 47 Years at Tewksbury Hospital, Dies

## "Johnnie," Circus Freak of Gay Nineties, Medical Marvel, Succumbs to Old Age

LOWELL.—On a spring day, 47 years ago, "Johnnie" was placed in the Tewksbury almshouse, now known as the Tewksbury State hospital.

History has it that "Johnnie," as he was known to everybody at the hospital, was picked up on the streets of Boston by a police officer whose curiosity was aroused by a large tag affixed to his suit lapel.

The tag merely identified "Johnnie." It gave his name.

The legend of "Johnnie" is that for years before his commitment to Tewksbury, he had been exploited by the circus as "the missing link." Circus posters advertised him as the "Ape Man."

Old timers remember him. They paid their way into the big tent to see him, the marvel of his age. A freak of the "Gay Nineties."

### Was Microcephale

"Johnnie" was a microcephale. In medical terms that means "pin-head." His head was not much bigger than a good-sized apple. It was perched on a frame that was a little over four feet in height and extremely wide.

A look at him would convince you, for sure, that the antecedents of man were apes.

For 20 years or more, "Johnnie" was exploited by the circus as the freak of the age. Mounting public indignation against the exploitation of a human being brought about legislation prohibiting and ending such exhibits.

The circus was playing in Providence, R. I., according to the story, when the bin was levied. Some circus official took "Johnnie" to the depot, bought a ticket to Boston and placed "Johnnie" on the train with the ticket affixed to his suit. That was "Johnnie's" farewell to the sawdust trail. He fell into the hands of a Boston policeman and was sent to Tewksbury.

Most microcephales never reach maturity. They die early in life. But "Johnnie," a circus freak, now became a medical freak in the true sense of the word.

### Died at 74

Life at Tewksbury was just what "Johnnie" needed, apparently. He died the other day at the age of 74. For the past 47 years, "Johnnie," who didn't have the brains to feed himself, has been fed by spoon three times a day by kind attendants at the hospital.

He lived in a men's ward. He would sit in the center of the bed, babbling all day long and clapping his hands together in some simple ecstasy. He amused the patients. He was never fussy. Never temperamental, not even when doctors and medical students came from all over to examine the specimen that was "Johnnie."

# Local Police Obtain Large Complaints

## Charge R. I. Man With Victimitizing Parents of Veteran

LOWELL.—Local police today they have obtained 10 complaints against a 42-year Pawtucket, R. I., confidence man now being held in Boston postal authorities, for victimizing the parents of local veteran in a phony picture frame racket.

The glib swindler, identified as William H. Shillan, alias M. Leach, of 270 High street, Pawtucket, is currently charged with using the mails to defraud. He would get deposit

The picture frame racket consisted of soliciting orders for ornamental frame to enclose a veteran's picture, the frame being painted with gold leaf representing the branch of the service in which the veteran, Shillan would obtain a \$2,000 deposit.

A number of parents of veterans were victimized in this manner two weeks ago, causing a city-wide alarm for Shillan. A letter was sent out by police returned here again last week, however, and received 10 victims.

Shillan was while leaving yesterday night on a train for Boston. Shillan was spotted after postal inspector and under arrest.

Sgt. John J. McNamara, Inspectors Frank J. O'Donnell and Andrew W. Hunter, who have the complaints against Shillan, said that he is also wanted on various charges in a number of Massachusetts cities.

# 50 "Dangerous" Spots in Lowell

LOWELL.—In a report before the city council, 50 spots in Lowell are listed as "dangerous" and hazardous to the public safety.

The report was presented by Chief Michael H. Winn's department, with the cooperation of Street Supt. George G. Grand and City Engineer Hugh Kearney.

It was requested by the council on the motion of Councilman William C. Geary which was adopted following several discussions earlier this year. The council will take it up next week.