

F. Archibald Farrell

March 26 '59 Front Page

Indicted on 6 Counts Of Theft from Mails

ALLENDALE — Postmaster F. Archibald Farrell, whose application for retirement has been received by the Postmasters' Division in Washington, but who, contrary to news stories in other papers, has not resigned, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Newark on Tuesday, on charges of six thefts from the mails. He will be arraigned on the six count indictment on Friday of next week.

Mr. Farrell, who has been charged with stealing, between June 12, 1958, and Mar. 12 of this year, articles of various types, entered a blanket denial yesterday in a statement to The Ramsey Journal. His attorney, Martin M. Connors of New York, added information taken from Mr. Farrell's letter replying to the original charges by the Post Office Inspectors.

Items Listed

The indictment charges that Mr. Farrell took from mail packages: A hand-powered drill, a water sprinkler for a hose, a bottle of patent medicine called Sardo, a small American flag to go on a desk, a pair of garden trowels and a man's special belt. Mr. Farrell claims that most of these articles were on his desk in the Post Office.

As to the drill, which was in a package he was carrying out the back door of the Post Office as he was apprehended by inspectors on Mar. 12, Mr. Farrell declared he was unaware of the contents, but that the package was damaged, in such a way he thought of the possibility of intent. He was on his way to a nearby Post Office to pick up some stamped envelopes for an Allendale resident, envelopes which were out of stock at the time in Allendale, and he said he took the package along to check with the postmaster, in regard to his impression con-

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cerning the appearance of the package.

Denied Medicine, Lunch

Mr. Connors also released a portion of his reply to the original postal charges, in which he complained that he had never been given an opportunity to make any explanation after he was found to have the package in his possession, and that in spite of his physical condition, subject of a doctor's certificate, he had been allowed to have neither medicine nor his lunch on the day of his apprehension.

John J. Mangini, assistant United States district attorney, said that the indictments resulted from an investigation by three inspectors, B. F. Steel, in charge; F. A. DeLauter and J. G. Bullard, following complaints by persons who had not received certain packages.

Mr. Farrell has been postmaster in Allendale for 17 years. He was due for optional retirement this month. Last week Rep. William B. Widnall has submitted the name of Assistant Postmaster William F. Anderson to the Post Office Department for appointment as acting postmaster.