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Bayles Case A Mystery Despite 3,000 Man-Hours

By WILLIAM E. ANDERSON

A month after the kidnaping and murder of a 10-year-old newsboy police still are baffled, although more than 3,000 man-hours have been put into the case.

City and state police have spent most of the time investigating tips supplied by the public.

Another appeal was issued yesterday for an anonymous female caller to get in touch with The Indianapolis Star or the police about information she reportedly has about the murder.

The case began when the bicycle of the newsboy, Jerry M. (Mike) Bayles, 3023 West Jackson Street, was found abandoned on the sidewalk in front of the home of William H. Johnson, 12 South Harris Avenue at 6:30 a.m. Oct. 3. Only two papers had been delivered.

JOHNSON, WHO discovered the bike, called the circulation department of The Star, which in turn, notified the Bayles' boy's family, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry B. Bayles. The victim's 15-year-old brother, Gordon, finished delivering the papers.

Shortly before 9 a.m. that day a farmer found the body of a boy, nude except for blue stockings, in a field about 5 miles north of Knightstown. Henry County Coroner David L. Estell said the victim had been stabbed several times. He set the time of death at 6:30 a.m.

Indiana State Police Detective Martin Werling was assigned to the case.

HOWEVER, IT was not until after 6 p.m., after the Bayles family had heard about the finding of the body over a commercial radio station, that they were able to make identification of their son's body. They had reported him missing to city police about 8 a.m.

The next day, Oct. 4, state police learned of a witness who said he had seen a man with a knife at a boy's throat near the scene of the abandoned bicycle earlier the previous day. The man gave police a description of the car the supposed kidnaper used—an old-model dirty blue or green vehicle with high tailfins.

That same day, Indianapolis Public Safety Director Alan R.

Kimbell learned from The Star that city police had not been conducting an investigation of the case because they believed it to be a state police matter. Kimbell immediately ordered city police to do anything and everything possible to assist state police in the case.

BUT IT WAS not until Oct. 5 that Deputy Chief Ralph F. Lumpkin, head of the investigative branch, met with Capt. Robert F. Gray, head of criminal investigations for the state police, and each man assigned three detectives to the case. Before the week was over a total of 12 men had been assigned to investigate the murder.

On Oct. 14, a major shakeup in the investigative department was announced by city Police Chief Winston L. Churchill, with the "clumsy and slow start in the Bayles probe" given as the prime reason. Chief Churchill also cited other inefficiencies in the department.

Churchill had denied the shakeup was imminent when it was predicted in The Star three weeks earlier.

ON OCT. 18 The Star asked for the help of citizens in the case and afforded them a way to write to the city editor of The Star without revealing their identity.

Persons with information are asked to write to the city editor of The Star, 207 North Pennsylvania Street, 46206, and write a code number at the top and bottom of their letter. One of the numbers should be torn off and kept by the informant.

If the information leads to the capture and conviction of the murderer, and the torn portions of the letter match, the letter writer will be eligible for more than \$6,000 in reward money.

CAPT. RAYMOND A. KOERS of the city police homicide division said that more than 200 letters of value already have been turned over to him by The Star. All have been or are being checked out, he said.

The investigation took another twist Oct. 24 when the nude and bound body of Mrs. Arletta Sue Remley, 21, Connersville, was discovered near a Connersville shopping center. She had suffered stab wounds similar to those of the Bayles boy.

Capt. Gray said yesterday Detective Sgt. Harry E. Moore has been assigned to work with Connersville police on that case, which also remains unsolved. Sgt. Moore, who had been working on the Bayles case, has been instructed to look for a connection between the murders, Capt. Gray said. Capt. Gray added that he does not see any connection between the cases, other than the similarity of the stabbings, but he has an open mind about it.

THIS LAST weekend police and Mrs. Bayles issued appeals for the anonymous caller to come forward with her information.

Yesterday another woman who had provided information anonymously in a previous murder, joined them in asking the woman to turn her information over to investigators. The tipster in the previous case told The Star yesterday police had protected her identity when they solved the murder within two hours of her telephone tip.

Although no arrests have been made in the Bayles murder, some positive results have occurred.

POLICE HAVE arrested 17 persons wanted as sex offenders in other cases while looking for the Bayles murderer. Twenty suspects have voluntarily taken a polygraph (lie detector) test; eight autos have been towed in, and 100 pieces of clothing checked—all unsuccessfully.

More than 3,000 man-hours have been worked by the 12 detectives, a good portion of it by city Detective Sgts. Robert J. Tirmenstein and James M. Strode, according to Capt. Koers. That pair has worked 12 to 14 hours a day, without a day off, since being assigned to the investigation, Koers said.

ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT is the closer co-operation between the two law enforcement agencies, Koers said.

The captain appealed again yesterday for the killer to give himself up, or for anyone with information to come forward.

"We are not going to quit until we catch the person responsible," Capt. Koers said. "Strode and Tirmenstein will continue to work fulltime as long as there is any type of information to check out."