

Slayer's Car Big Hope In Bayles Case

An automobile used by the abductor-slayer of newspaper carrier Jerry M. (Mike) Bayles is the principal hope for solving the case, Capt. Robert J. Gray, head of Indiana State Police criminal investigations, said yesterday.

GRAY SAID the murderer may have burned clothes stripped from the boy's body and may have destroyed the knife used to inflict nine stab wounds in the little victim.

The killer also may be in hiding, Gray speculated, but he said it is going to be difficult to get rid of the automobile.

"The majority of our calls have concerned the car, and we have checked out every one of them," he pointed out.

State police investigators in the last few days have investigated leads at Marion, Knightstown, Greenfield, New Castle, Roachdale, Lebanon and Connersville, Gray said.

IN ADDITION, detectives flew to Bowling Green, Ky., and to Texas in search of leads.

Ralph F. Lumpkin, Indianapolis deputy police chief, who personally has been overseeing the case six or seven days each week, said he has "little doubt" that the murderer is a sex offender.

The killer may be in hiding and certainly is in fear, he asserted. "I am almost certain that the killer will tell somebody," Lumpkin added.

Sgt. Robert J. Tirmenstein, a principal detective in the case, will check out another of several leads today, Lumpkin said.