Cause Of Boy's Death Confirmed

A second autopsy, postponing the burial of slain newsboy Jerry M. "Mike" Bayes yesterday, revealed only some slight hand bruises that did not turn up in the original examination, the Marion County coroner said today.

Coroner Dennis J. Nicholas said the bruises could have resulted from a struggle with the boy's slayer, but also could have been received before his abduction last Saturday.

The second examination, ordered by Capt. Robert Gray, head of state police criminal investigations, was conducted to insure the findings of a pathologist in Henry County, where the boy's body was found four hours after he was abducted while delivering his brother's Indianapolis Star route on the Westside.

Confirmed, according to Nicholas was the cause of death — internal bleeding as the result of eight shallow stab wounds in the chest, back and abdomen. Previously noted bruises on the back of the boy's neck also were studied.

Mike, age 10, 3028 W. Jackson, was clad only in socks when his body was found along a rural road by a farmer. His clothing and a late 1950s, light blue or green car seen at the abduction scene by an eyewitness, have not been found.

Lt. Patrick Uberta, acting head of the police homicide branch, said the witness, a 34-year-old service station attendant, has agreed to a lie detector test to affirm his story of the abduction.

Uberta said two known sex offenders in the neighborhood where the Bayles family lives have been questioned but not detained. Leads elsewhere in the case have failed to turn up any substantial information, according to Gray.

The boy's funeral was yesterday.