

Hit-Run Unit May Aid Stab Witness

Capt. Robert Gray, head of the Indiana State Police investigation team probing the stabbing death of 10-year-old Jerry M. "Mike" Bayles, said today a witness to the abduction of the newspaperboy may be turned over to the Indianapolis police hit-and-run branch "because they can help him remember things he may have seen."

Gray made the suggestion at a 10 a.m. meeting between city police investigators and the state police team investigating the boy's death a week ago today.

Gray drove the supposed route of the abduction today to the site on a Henry County road, about ¼ of a mile East of Ind. 109 where the boy's body was found. He began the trip at 5:20 a.m., roughly the time a witness said he saw the youth being forced into a car by a man with a knife.

Gray drove on Washington Street to Interstate 465, north to Interstate 70, east on I-70 to Ind. 109 and to the murder scene.

He said the trip took him 38 miles in 47 minutes. On a return trip, he used

U.S. 40 to drive back to Indianapolis, and the trip took 55 minutes to drive 41 miles.

Gray said he was looking for additional clues along the route and attempting to determine how many other witnesses might have been awake to see the boy and his abductor.

Gray also assigned two other state troopers to the investigating team today.

Gray said the witness to the abduction passed a polygraph (lie detector) test yesterday to help verify his story after a session with detectives in which he gave additional details about an automobile believed used in the murder.

The Westside man earlier had told of seeing young Jerry being confronted at knife-point by a man a few hours before the boy's nude body was found last Saturday in Henry County.

The boy, a carrier for The Star, disappeared while delivering the newspaper last Saturday morning.

Teams of detectives assigned to the case continue to check a variety of leads 24 hours a day. Gray said no leads are overlooked.

Gray issued a public appeal yesterday for the killer or killers to give up.

Two contributions yesterday increased to \$5,304.32 the amount of money offered as rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer.

Eugene C. Pulliam, publisher of The News and The Star, began the fund by offering \$5,000 in the case.