

## 'Thrill Killer' Theory Advanced In 6 Deaths

Police yesterday advanced a theory that a "thrill killer" may be responsible for the deaths of six persons whose bodies were found in Eastern Indiana and Western Ohio within a 25-mile radius of Richmond, Ind.

Capt. Robert K. Gray, head of criminal investigations for the Indiana State Police, said he would talk with Ohio authorities today about the possibility that a knife-wielding killer may have committed all six murders, including those of a carrier of The Indianapolis Star earlier this month, and a Connersville woman who was found dead Saturday.

Gray said his department also will ask Michigan police departments for aid in locating an Ann Arbor man who may have information in the slaying of the newspaper carrier, Jerry M. (Mike) Bayles, 10.

**CAPT. GRAY NOTED** that all six bodies were found since April within a 25-mile radius of Richmond, and that four of the victims were stabbed to death. The two remaining bodies were too badly decomposed for the cause of death to be determined, he said.

"There is always the possibility of a series of thrill killings by someone who lives in that area," Capt. Gray said. "We have established no definite connection, but we have not ruled out any connection at this time."

"We are interested in what Ohio authorities can tell us about all this," he added.

**THE VICTIMS**, in addition to the Bayles boy, were Mrs. Arletta Sue Remley, 21 Connersville, who was found stabbed to death near a Connersville shopping center Saturday afternoon; an unidentified woman whose badly decomposed body was found at Greenville, Ohio; Mrs. Wanda S. Heck, 72, Lewisburg, Ohio, who was stabbed to death

there; Milton F. Steiner, 81, West Alexandria, Ohio, found stabbed to death in that town, and Lois P. Bailey, 30, Jonesboro, Ga., whose decomposed body was found near Connersville in April.

Capt. Gray said state police will enlist the aid of Michigan authorities in locating and questioning an Ann Arbor man who reported to Indianapolis police Oct. 3—the date of the Bayles kidnap-murder—that his car had been stolen from a motel parking lot in the 300 block of West Washington Street.

**THE MAN TOLD** Indianapolis police he had picked up a hitchhiker the previous day in western Marion County, and that they had ridden to the motel together. Police records show the man said his car was stolen Oct. 2, but he did not report the theft until the next day.

The man described the hitchhiker as 18 years old, 5 feet, 10 inches tall, 145 pounds, with brown hair.

The vehicle has not been recovered.

The Bayles boy was kidnaped as he delivered The Star on Indianapolis' West-side early Oct. 3. His body was found near Knightstown later that day.

**MRS. JERRY B. BAYLES**, the carrier's mother, told The Star yesterday she may have erred in describing her son's clothing at the time he was abducted.

She had told authorities her son was wearing black pants at the time, but a check of his clothing over the weekend showed both of his two pairs of black trousers were at home. His only other pants, dark olive-colored, could not be found, so Mike presumably must have been wearing them when he was kidnaped, she said.

Capt. Gray said that city and state police investigators yesterday spent most of their time checking out leads ob-

tained during a canvass of the neighborhood in which the kidnaping took place, as well as on telephone tips.

**HE SAID HE IS** "gratified" by the public response to the investigation, and encouraged anyone who thinks he may have information to contact police or The Star.

More than \$6,000 in rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the Bayles' killer has been offered—\$5,000 of it by Eugene C. Pulliam, publisher of The Star and The Indianapolis News.

Latest contributions to the reward fund were Steelworkers Union Local 4315, \$27; Mrs. William Springfield, 3556 North Tacoma Avenue, \$3, and Mrs. E. Myers, Bloomington, Ind., \$1.

**PERSONS WITH** information should address a letter to The Star's city editor and write a number at the top of the letter and repeat the number along the bottom of the letter.

They then should tear off the bottom, and if the tip results in the arrest and conviction of the killer, they would be eligible for the reward and their identity would remain anonymous.

Capt. Gray said that laboratory tests on a butcher knife turned into them last week indicated that the knife could not have been used in the Bayles murder. The knife had been found by a farmer north of Knightstown.

**FUNERAL SERVICES** for Mrs. Remley will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Myers Funeral Home at Connersville. Burial will be in Orange North Cemetery there.

Survivors include her husband, Army Sgt. William D. Remley; her mother, Mrs. Fern Ward, R.R. 2, Centerville; three sisters, three step-sisters and a stepbrother.