Police Unable to Tie Together Attacks on Three Indianapolis Youths

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — In the last year, three young Indianapolis boys have been the victims of sexual molesters, two of them losing their lives in the attacks, but police say there are no strong connections to tie the three attacks together.

Robert Jackson Jr., a 15-year-old John Marshall High School freshman, was found dead in Buck Creek near Cumberland about 4:30 p.m. Monday, the latest victim.

THE FIRST was 10-year-old Mike Bayles, kidnaped in an alley three blocks from his home Oct. 3, 1970, as he was delivering papers. The boy's nude body, stabbed repeatedly, was found along a deserted road near Knightstown.

On Oct. 31 this year, a 16-year-old newsboy reportedly was lured into a car near his Eastside home, driven around Marion, Hancock and Madison counties for several hours, then subjected to the driver's sexual advances. He managed to escape.

State Police Sgt. John M. Petty, investigating the Jackson case, said the killing of the Bayles boy was being reviewed but there has been no definite evidence to make a strong connection between them.

"RIGHT at this point, we can't tie the two together. But we're not overlooking it either," Petty said.

He said the third case, in which the victim escaped, also was being considered in the investigation, but no connection has been made.

Petty, comparing the Bayles and Jackson cases, said "We believe we're looking for a younger person" in the Jackson death.

THE AUTOPSY on the Jackson boy indicated the teen-ager had been pushed or thrown into Buck Creek, probably strangled before being drowned.

The autopsy revealed Jackson had bruises inside his throat and on both wrists, a cut on the right side of his face and creek gravel was found in his lungs. It is believed his hands had been tied with a yellow string that was found on his right wrist.

Detectives said a companion of Jackson, Paul Higdon, 15, told officers the two left the Jackson home about 7 p.m. Saturday and played pool at a bowling alley for about an hour. Higdon, officers said, told them he saw Jackson talking to another teen-ager shortly before 9 p.m. and Jackson left with the unidentified youth.

THE MOTHER of the Jackson boy called police Sunday to report the youth missing.