

Companion Of Murdered Boy Being Sought

Police are seeking a teen-ager who left the North Eastwood Bowling Lanes, 8939 E. 38th, with Robert Jackson Jr., who was found dead in Buck Creek near Cumberland about 4:30 p.m. Monday.

State Police detectives and Dr. James Benz, a forensic surgeon who performed the autopsy on the youth, said Jackson was sexually molested and was 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. Bruises on his other wrist indicate that Jackson broke the bonds, police said.

A companion of Jackson's, Paul Higdon, 15, told detectives they left the Jackson home about 7 p.m. Saturday for the bowling place. He said they played pool there about an hour, and then he saw Jackson talking to another teen-ager shortly before 9 p.m.

Higdon said Jackson left with the unidentified youth about 9 p.m. and he did not see him after that.

Mrs. Mary F. Jackson, 44, the victim's mother, called police at 1 p.m. Sunday and filed a missing person report.

The following day Tony Capps, 14, 12046 E. Washington, was collecting discarded bottles and looking for a place to ride his minibike along Buck Creek about one-half mile south of U.S. 40 and 300 yards east of the Marion County line when he saw the body of the 15-year-old Marshall High School freshman.

Capps said he thought it was a stuffed toy animal at first, but when he found out it was not he ran home and told his mother, Mrs. June Capps, who called the sheriff's office in Hancock County.

Police said the body was found in an area with heavy undergrowth and no access roads. No indications of a struggle were found, and the youth's body was found with the head in the creek and the remainder of the body on the creek bank.

At the time of his death Jackson was wearing a gold knit shirt, blue jeans and a caramel-colored hooded jacket.

Mrs. Jackson identified her son at the Hancock County Memorial Hospital in Greenfield.

It is the third tragedy for the Jackson family in less than four years.

Nearly four years ago Mrs. Jackson's husband died, leaving her a widow with six children. About a year ago her daughter and son-in-law, Kathleen and Richard L. Frisbie, were killed when their car collided with a truck on Ind. 67 between Indianapolis and Fortville.

Police said the exact cause and time

of death will not be known until a complete autopsy report is made.

State police are meeting with Indianapolis Police Department detectives to determine if there is any similarity between the Jackson death and the murder of Jerry "Mike" Bayles, a newspaper carrier who was abducted and found stabbed to death near Knightstown last October.

Sgt. John M. Petty, a State Police detective, and Trooper Paul C. Weiler have been assigned full time to the Jackson case.