

Mystery Witness In Bayles Slaying?

Plea Made For Caller To Appear

By WILLIAM E. ANDERSON

Police appealed last night to an unidentified woman who has said she knows the identity of the killer of Jerry M. (Mike) Bayles to come forward with her information.

The woman, who made two sobbing phone calls to the parents shortly after the newspaper carrier's murder, had led police to a Westside home where a man believed to be the murderer had been living at the time of the slaying.

"We need the information," Homicide Capt. Raymond A. Koers declared yesterday. "We will protect her identity and safety at all costs. We will not even insist on her name if she comes forward with the information she has."

Koers said the man whose first name she gave fitted the description of a man seen pulling the 10-year-old Bayles child toward a car early Oct. 3, shortly before the boy's nude body, stabbed eight times, was found on a Henry County gravel road.

However, Koers cited inconsistencies in the woman's statements which have left police uncertain as to whether she actually described and named the slayer or a witness to the crime.

Koers said the woman can reach him or Detective Sgt. Joseph G. McAtsee at the homicide office by calling 633-7950.

HE NOTED that the woman told the Bayles family that the man is only a witness to the murder. She told the parents she and the man were afraid to talk to police.

Koers said that the Bayles family reported the calls immediately, and that after the second call, on the morning of Oct. 6, three days after the murder, police went to the address the woman gave.

Koers reported the man had lived there until Oct. 5, but that the woman apparently never lived at the Westside



Mike

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