

INDIANAPOLIS STAR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1970

Acquaintances Of Slain Star Carrier's Family To Be Interrogated As Leads In Case Dwindle

All acquaintances of the family of Jerry M. (Mike) Bayles will be questioned as part of the investigation of the boy's Oct. 3 murder, police said yesterday.

Detective Sgts. Chester Inlow of the Indiana State Police and Robert J. Tirmenstein of Indianapolis police agreed on the step as the number of tips in the case continued to dwindle.

INLOW and Tirmenstein said they believe it was likely Mike knew the person or persons who abducted him while he was delivering The Indianapolis Star, stabbed him eight times and dumped his nude body in a Henry County field.

Hundreds of persons have been questioned so far, but the detectives said they want to talk to acquaintances of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry B. Bayles, and their children, even "friends of friends," to make sure no possibility is overlooked.

INLOW and Tirmenstein said their theory that Mike knew the killer or killers is based on the known facts of the case and various possibilities of what happened.

They noted that his bicycle and paper bag containing 46 newspapers were found in front of 12 Harris Avenue, while a witness reported seeing a man holding Mike at knifepoint near

an alley about 100 feet away.

THE DETECTIVES said if Mike had left his bicycle because the man had called to him near the alley on the pretext of buying a newspaper, the boy would have taken a paper with him.

However, the only two missing papers have been accounted for—one had been delivered to a bank branch and the other was delivered to 12 Harris Avenue.

Inlow and Tirmenstein said they also considered that if Mike had been fearful of the person or persons who summoned him from where he had left his bicycle, he would have run the other way—north—to well-lighted Washington Street 50 feet away.

ALTHOUGH the investigation has consumed hundreds of man hours on the part of city and state police, no suspects have been found. The knife used in the slaying and Mike's clothing have not been located and the only evidence is information provided by a witness to the abduction and a woman who saw Mike in a car at Greenfield later in the morning.

A car stored in a Southwest-side garage the day after the slaying was checked yesterday and cleared of any connection with the murder.

STATE POLICE last night were checking a car abandoned on Ind. 45 in the town of Stamford in Monroe County after

blood was found on the dashboard. However, it was believed the car was involved in a traffic accident.

Meanwhile, the amount of money donated through The Star to help the Bayles family 3028 Jackson Street, increased to \$1,220.89 yesterday with a \$5 contribution from Byron B. and Margaret Rudic Buhner, 5650 Whitcomb Terrace.

Rewards totaling more than \$6,000 have been offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the case.

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