

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1970

Psychopath Held In Bayles Killing

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send detectives from the homicide division, probably headed by Sgt. Robert J. Tirmenstein, and State Police Sgt. Chester Inlow, to Phoenix to return Schmidt to Indianapolis.

PHOENIX POLICE said Schmidt drove to Phoenix in a 1970 Rambler, which they recovered.

State Police Superintendent Robert K. Konkle threw the full weight of his office behind the search for Schmidt, who was committed in August, 1969 to Norman W. Beatty Hospital at Westville after being indicted on charges of sexually molesting dozens of Eastside boys.

KONKLE SAID that, as a former carrier of The Indianapolis Star himself, he had a personal interest in solving the Bayles murder.

Mike was slain early Oct. 3 as he started delivering his Star route on the Westside.

"It's a vile day when an enterprising kid can't even start in the American tradition of free enterprise without losing his life," Konkle said.

The superintendent reported that his experience as a Star carrier many years ago has been invaluable throughout his life. He praised the newspaper for focusing public attention on

the case and providing police with numerous leads.

THE CARRIER was slain on Harris Avenue just south of West Washington Street, only about 100 yards from the main gate of Central State Hospital where Schmidt was assigned to duty as a groundskeeper.

Alan R. Kimbell, director of public safety, said last night that Central State Hospital should be used exclusively for treatment of the mentally ill and should not be required to treat criminal sexual psychopaths.

"If the sexual psychopath is mentally ill, he definitely should receive treatment someplace but not at the expense of the citizens when he is given freedom to roam the streets," Kimbell declared.

KIMBELL SAID persons such as Schmidt should be confined to an institution capable of maintaining tight security.

The problem is "so acute," he said, he will meet today with a special legislative committee to map corrective legislation for introduction in the 1971 General Assembly.

Dr. John U. Keating, hospital superintendent, admitted that Schmidt, even though restricted to the grounds, might have been missing up to eight hours without being detected.

His disappearance Oct. 10 — a week after the Bayles slaying — was not discovered until the

routine bed check was made at 9:30 p.m.

CONTRARY to earlier reports, the hospital telephoned state police at 10:40 p.m. Oct. 10 of his disappearance and followed with an official letter of notification early the next week.

Konkle said that immediately afterwards state police issued an all-points bulletin that Schmidt was missing.

But Indianapolis homicide detectives assigned to the case did not learn of Schmidt's escape until later because the state police bulletin was routed first to the police department records department, according to Deputy Chief Ralph F. Lumpkin, head of investigations.

LUMPKIN SAID he was requesting a change in procedures under which information about escapees would go to the detective division first and records second.

Lumpkin said Schmidt's name came up earlier in the Bayles investigation and a picture of Schmidt was shown to a witness who saw the newsboy being dragged across the street by a man.

At that time, however, the witness said he did not recall the suspect wearing glasses, as Schmidt usually does, and that Schmidt appeared taller than he remembered the suspect being.

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