

Mental patient wanted in slaying seized here

An escapee from an Indiana mental hospital, wanted for questioning in the Oct. 3 kidnap-slaying of a 10-year-old Indianapolis newsboy, was arrested at a north Phoenix apartment last night.

Robert Eugene Schmidt, 48, offered no resistance when detectives took him into custody at 9450 N. 17th Ave., where he had been living for the past month.

Schmidt is wanted in connection with the kidnap-slaying of Jerry M. Bayles, a 10-year-old carrier boy for the Indianapolis Star.

Police there said the boy was abducted early Oct. 3, as he was delivering newspapers near the Central State Hospital, in West Indianapolis.

His nude body, which had been stabbed a number of

times, was found later that day alongside a dirt road 40 miles from Indianapolis, authorities said.

Schmidt was a trusty at the hospital, police said, when the boy was abducted. Officials at the hospital conceded that he could have been absent for as long as eight hours without being noticed.

Committed to the hospital as a criminal sexual psychopath, Schmidt became a suspect in the slaying when he disappeared from the institution a week later, police said.

Schmidt was arrested last night by Phoenix police Sgt. Bill Chapman and Detectives John Burnett and Bill Nola.

Indianapolis police said last night that they would send investigators to Phoenix to question Schmidt and examine his apartment.