

Seek Missing Molester In Bayles Case

Was Patient At Central Hospital

By WILLIAM E. ANDERSON

An escaped criminal sexual psychopath is sought for questioning about the kidnap-murder of newspaper carrier Jerry M. (Mike) Bayles, police confirmed last night.

The search is for Robert E. Schmidt, 47, who disappeared from Central State Hospital Oct. 18—just one week after the 10-year-old newsboy was abducted and slain.



Schmidt

Central State's main gate is about 100 yards from the abduction scene, which was on Harris Avenue just south of West Washington Street.

Hospital records show Schmidt was limited to the hospital grounds during the weekend of the Bayles tragedy.

But police and hospital officials said a patient could slip away and return without his absence being noted.

"It is quite possible for a patient to be missing up to eight hours without being detected — depending upon the restrictions placed upon him," said Dr. John U. Keating, superintendent of the hospital and acting state mental health commissioner.

KEATING said he would check Schmidt's record in detail today to determine what, if any, restrictions had been ordered in his case.

The superintendent confirmed that Schmidt had violated the terms of a "work-release program" and was returned to 24-hour confinement on the hospital grounds.

While participating in the off-grounds work program, Schmidt was driving a 1970 Rambler automobile he bought after his confinement to Central State, according to State Police Sgt. Robert E. Burcham.

INVESTIGATORS also have learned that because many patients have the "run of the grounds," it was possible that any one of several committed criminal sexual psychopaths could have been at the Bayles abduction scene, according to State Police Capt. Robert K. Gray, who has headed the Bayles investigation since shortly after it began.

Meanwhile, Ralph F. Lumpkin, deputy chief for investigations in the Indianapolis Police Department, was critical of hospital officials.

Lumpkin said they were "neglect-

Turn to Page 18, Column 4