

Motorist Key To Carrier's Killer?

Saw Man Struggling With Boy

By WILLIAM E. ANDERSON

A motorist who told police he saw a man holding a knife against a small boy and dragging him toward a car early Saturday morning, may have provided the information that will lead to the slayer of a 10-year-old Westside newspaper carrier, police said.

The motorist, whose name was withheld, told Indianapolis and Indiana State Police investigators he could identify the man.

He said the incident he observed occurred about 6 a.m. Saturday near the home where the undelivered papers and bicycle of Jerry M. (Mike) Bayles were found.

The boy's body, stabbed several times in the abdomen and back, was discovered about 9 a.m. Saturday on a country road near Knightstown.

A \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the slayer was offered Saturday by Eugene C. Pulliam, publisher of The Indianapolis Star, which the youth was delivering, and The Indianapolis News.

The motorist said he was driving north on Harris Avenue when he saw a car—described as a light blue or dusty green, late 1960s Rambler or Dodge—pull out of the first alley south of Washington Street and stop, angled across the street.

He said the car had fins on the rear fenders.

The alley is about 50 feet from the home of William H. Johnson, 12 Harris Avenue, where the boy's bicycle and papers were found.

THE WITNESS got out of his car to say something about the auto blocking the street when he saw a man in his 30s, wearing a dark work jacket and dark trousers, dragging a boy.

He said the man was holding the boy's arm with his left hand and had a white-handled knife pressed against the back of the boy's neck with his right hand.

A second person with close-cropped hair was sitting in the auto, the witness said.

The motorist said he called, "What in hell are you doing with the kid?"

THE MAN turned around, providing the witness with a good look at him, and said, "That's my kid and he's running away. I'm taking him home."

He told the assailant it was a terrible way to treat a child and then pretended to light a cigarette so he could observe the car's license plate.

He said the plate was dusty but it appeared to have a 49P or E prefix and a combination of 5 and 8 in the number.

The witness said the boy did not speak while he talked to the older man, and he did not question the youngster.

He did say, however, that he heard the victim yell just as he stopped the car.

The witness called police about noon yesterday after he read The Sunday Star and realized what he had witnessed was not a family squabble.

MEANWHILE, Indianapolis police began officially to investigate the vicious

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