

Letter To Mother Of Slain Kidnaped Boy Called Hoax

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — "I guess this is just somebody's idea of a sick joke," Mrs. Jerry Bayles said of the anonymous letter that lured her to the site of her son's unsolved kidnap-slaying just one year earlier.

Mrs. Bayles said she received the letter two weeks ago. It said if she went to an alley three blocks from her home she would find a package that would help solve the murder. She was to be there at 5:25 a.m. Sunday.

Her 10-year-old son, Mike, was kidnaped in the same alley at 5:25 a.m. Oct. 3, 1970, as he delivered papers, police believe.

The boy's nude body, stabbed repeatedly, was found along a deserted road near Knightstown.

Police staked out the alley but no one showed up and there was no information on the slaying. Mrs. Bayles hadn't notified police, fearing they wouldn't let her go, but her husband told them.

"I had to go," she said. "I just had to know. I thought maybe Mike's clothes would be in the package. I know that finding the killers isn't going to bring Mike back, but I just have to know what happened to him.

Capt. Raymond A. Koers, homicide chief who was sta-

tioned in an unmarked car near the alley Sunday, said the letter might have been on the level and the person who wrote it just lost courage.

"But all I can think right now is that this was a cruel hoax," he added. "Why can't people just let this woman live in peace."