

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

## Motorist Key To Killer Of Carrier?

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murder of the newspaper carrier at 4:30 p.m. yesterday on orders of Alan B. Kimbell, director of public safety.

This was almost 24 hours after the victim was identified by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry B. Bayles, 3028 West Jackson Street.

He was identified by his parents about 7 p.m. Saturday.

But Indianapolis homicide detectives said they did not start an immediate investigation because they had no evidence the boy was slain in Indianapolis.

Kimbell told police to "do anything possible" when he conferred with acting Captain of the Homicide Division Lt. Patrick E. Uberta, after Kimbell was reached by reporters.

Lt. Uberta termed the killing "brutal, terrible act—a senseless slaying."

**POLICE SEEMED** to have a slim clue yesterday afternoon when what appeared to be a patch of dried blood was discovered about a foot from the curb in front of the Johnson residence.

Tests by the police lab revealed that it was not blood.

An additional \$50 reward was offered yesterday by employees of the Indianapolis Transit System Inc., according to Carl M. Tanksley, a city bus driver.

Tanksley said he drives on West Washington Street early in the morning and frequently saw the murder victim or his brother delivering papers.

"I USED TO SEE these boys and I don't know if they were scared or just lonesome but they always waved. Often I stopped to buy one of their extra papers.

"I'll tell you one thing. I can't get this thing out of my mind and I get pretty worked up about it. I'd like to get the ball rolling to help in some way."

Jerry's brother, Gordon, who normally works the route, went to look for him after receiving several calls about undelivered papers.

**A RADIO BROADCAST** revealing discovery of a boy's body near Knightstown led the elder Bayles to suspect it might be his son.

A positive identification was made in a New Castle funeral home.

Mike had \$21 in his possession, collections from the paper route, when he disappeared.

John W. Nordholt, the district manager of The Star for this Westside area, said Bud brought him a partial

collection Friday afternoon, then agreed to hold the money until he had completed his collections Saturday morning.

Nordholt said he usually arrives at his office about 9:30 a.m. and had expected Bud to bring in his collection money about 10 a.m.

**AFTER THE** hunt began Saturday for the victim, the older brother explained to Nordholt that Mike had made collections Friday afternoon and was to have turned it in.

The boy's father theorized yesterday that whoever killed him may have been after the money.

"I can't understand it," the elder Bayks said. "It wasn't his money but he was the type of boy who wasn't going to let it get away from him.

"He's just a little guy but he'd probably put up a fight if somebody tried to rob him."

**EMPLOYEES AT** nearby businesses where young Bayles worked at odd jobs said the youth was a hard worker, "more interested in working than playing like most kids."

Mrs. Harold Nichols, an employe at the Burger Chef Restaurant, Tibbs Avenue and Washington Street, said Mike "was all the time working around trying to make a quarter.

"He saved his money and gave it to his mom and dad," she said the boy told her.

Roy N. Ott, manager of the Economy Laundramat, 3019 West Washington Street, said Mike earned money by carrying out trash and pop bottles from the self-service laundry.

"I didn't think he had any enemies," Ott commented. "He was a nice kid—the only one you could trust—you know."

Uberta, after receiving Kimbell's go-ahead, said he would have homicide detectives check the area last night to see if they could supply any leads for state police investigators.

As of last night, State Police Detective Sgt. Martin Werling was the only investigator assigned to the case.

"I'VE BEEN WORKING by myself because this is pretty much of a dead-end thing so far," he said.

"I've been told I can have as many men as I want but right now there is nothing to put them onto."

He said there was no useful physical evidence at the site where the body was discovered and "not enough blood for it to be feasible that the murder happened there."

State police searched a 2½-mile area around where the body was discovered

by a farmer on an isolated stretch of loose-gravel road, looking for a weapon or clothes.

**THE POLICE DEPARTMENT** Juvenile Division, called into the case only while it was a search for a missing juvenile, questioned residents of the neighborhood Saturday afternoon but no one reported anything unusual, according to Patrolman Larry P. Jones.

He said one piece of red thread, 2 to 3 inches long, was found lying near the two bags of papers and sent to the property room at police headquarters.

A similar piece of thread was found where the body was discovered.

**ACCORDING TO** the family, the youth was wearing black jeans, a yellow shirt with "pinkish" stripes, a blue, fingertip jacket and black tennis shoes when he left home to get the papers.

Mrs. Thomas P. Baker, 40, South Warman Avenue, told police Saturday she had heard the scream between 4:45 a.m. and shortly after 5 a.m. The alley behind her house, where she said she saw a speeding auto, connects Warman and Harris avenues.

Police now believe it may have been the same yell that the witness said he heard, though there is a discrepancy in the times given by the witness and Mrs. Baker.

**UBERTA SAID** the case remains under the jurisdiction of the state police and "We will work under that theory until we have conclusive evidence the murder occurred here."

"I have children of my own," the detective commented, "and we will do anything we can to assist in the investigation. I am going to offer personally to work on the investigation."

Uberta said he would like to have "one of our best investigators," Det. Sgt. Robert J. Tirmenstein, work with him on the case.

**SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENT** of Indianapolis investigators would have to come from acting Police Chief Donald D. Schaedel or Deputy Chief Ralph F. Lumpkin, neither one of whom could be reached yesterday by police detectives or reporters.

Police Chief Winston L. Churchill is on vacation and out of town.

Uberta said Werling will meet with members of his department today to "thoroughly familiarize the homicide division with the facts in the case."

Funeral services for the murdered boy will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Farley Funeral Home, followed by burial in Summit Lawn Cemetery at Westfield.