

Motorist Tells Of Incident

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A motorist told police Sunday night he saw a man holding a knife against a small boy early Saturday near where a 10-year-old newspaper carrier disappeared.

The boy, Jerry M. Bayles, was found stabbed to death later Saturday morning along a rural road near Knightstown, about 40 miles from his home.

The motorist said he was driving along the street where the boy disappeared when he saw a car pull out of an alley and stop, blocking the street.

He said he got out of his auto to protest when he saw a man in his 20s dragging a boy. He said the man was holding the boy's arm with his left hand and pressing a knife against the back of the boy's neck with his right hand.

The motorist said he asked what the man was doing to the boy, and the man replied, "That's my kid and he's running away. I'm taking him home."

He said he told the man it was a terrible way to treat a child, then tried to memorize the car's license numbers.

Eugene C. Pulliam, publisher of the Indianapolis Star and the Indianapolis News, offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer.

Jerry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry B. Bayles, was delivering the Star Saturday morning when he disappeared.

Subscribers called the Bayles home Saturday morning to complain that they'd missed their papers, and Jerry's brother Gordon, 15, found Jerry's bicycle and all but two of his papers abandoned at the house where the blood was found 24 hours later.

A farmer found Jerry's body, clad only in socks and stabbed several times in the back and neck, about 9 a.m. Saturday. The Bayles family heard a radio report of the discovery of the unidentified body, then went to a New Castle funeral home and identified the body Saturday night.

Henry County Coroner David L. Estell estimated Jerry was killed about 6:30 a.m. Saturday.

State police searched a wide area around where the body was discovered in an attempt to find a murder weapon or the rest of Jerry's clothes.