Killer Of Newsboy Being Sought

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — Indiana State Police today pinned their hopes of finding the slayer of a 16-year-old Indianapolis newspaper carrier to the story of a motorist who said he saw a boy being dragged at knifepoint about three hours before the victim's stabbed body was found.

The victim was Jerry M. Bayles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry B. Bayles.

The witness told authorities he could identify the man with the knife. He said the incident occurred about 6 a.m. last Saturday near a house on the west side of Indianapolis where the boy's bicycle and undelivered papers were found. The boy's nude body was found about 9 a.m. on a country road near Knightstown in Henry County. His parents identified the body about 7 p.m. Saturday.

The witness, whose name was withheld, said the boy was being dragged toward a car in which another man waited. The man holding the boy said the youth was his son and was trying to run away from home.

The witness gave police a description of the car and a partial identificaztion of the license plates.

A Sunday newspaper story of the missing boy aroused his suspicions, the witness said, and he reported his experience to police Sunday afternoon.

The witness said he was driving by when he stopped to ask the man why he was dragging the boy. The boy yelled just before he stopped the car, the witness said.

A woman who lives in the neighborhood where the boy's bicycle was found said she heard a scream about 5 a.m. Authorities believe it could have been the same one the witness heard. She said she looked in the direction of the scream but saw only a departing car's headlight.

Henry County Coroner David Estell said the boy's body was found by a farmer who drove along the road on his tractor. The coroner estimated the time of death at 6:30 a.m. He said it was due to internal bleeding and there were no signs of molestation.

The boy had $21 from paper collections when he disappeared. His father theorized robbery may have been a motive.

Police said an investigation of the area where the body was found failed to turn up any physical clues.

The dead boy's brother, Gordon, normally delivers the route. Gordon was called by several subscribers when they failed to receive their papers and the bicycle and undelivered papers led to a search by Indianapolis authorities.

Eugene C. Pulliam, publisher of the Indianapolis Star and the Indianapolis News, for whom the boy was carrying the papers, offered a $5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the slayer.

State Police Detective Sgt. Martin Wehrling of the Connersville post, was in charge of the investigation. He was scheduled to meet with Indianapolis police today.