

Molestation Eyed In Carrier Murder

Full-Time Team Of 7 In Probe

Sexual molestation as a motive in the stabbing-murder of 10-year-old newspaper carrier Jerry M. (Mike) Bayles is a possibility, according to Capt. Robert K. Gray, who is heading the investigation for the Indiana State Police.

Gray made his comments yesterday following a 2½-hour meeting between state police and Indianapolis police investigators assigned to track down the killer.

ALTHOUGH TESTS could not prove conclusively the boy was molested, the possibility exists, Gray said.

"However, it would be awfully easy for me to say this was the only motive, but we have to keep an open mind and consider all possibilities," the state police chief of criminal investigations added.

"There is the possibility the man who did this might just be a mean man who had no reason to kill at all."

GRAY IS HEADING a team of four city police detectives and three state detectives working full time on the slaying which occurred last Saturday morning.

He said known child molesters may be brought in for questioning.

Indianapolis Deputy Police Chief Ralph F. Lumpkin, in charge of the investigations division, and Gray both reported their officers were "swamped" with calls yesterday following the circulation of a composite drawing of the kidnap-murder suspect.

GRAY SAID 19 CALLS reached his office by 10 a.m., most of them from callers "supplying hunches rather than facts." But he added that he still wanted persons to call, no matter how small their information might seem.

The number is 633-0864.

Both investigators said they had no single suspect in mind at the present but that suspects might be brought in for questioning in the near future.

A PATHOLOGIST'S report is expected soon which will contain information on the exact nature of the knife wounds and might more precisely determine the type of knife or blade that was used.

Extensive interviews with the Bayles family have failed to turn up anyone who might have a grudge against a member of the family, darkening the possibility of revenge as a motive.

THE WITNESS to the boy's abduction, at knife point several hours before his body was found on a rural Henry County road, was unable to pick any pictures of known sex offenders out of police files, the investigators said.

Today police are going to check all traffic arrests during the period immediately before and after the boy's disappearance to see if any car fitting the description was involved in an arrest.

Funeral services for the murder victim will be held at 1 p.m. today in Farley West Morris Street Funeral Home. Burial will be in Summit Lawn Cemetery at Westfield.

2 More Employes' Groups Contribute To Bayles Reward

Two more Indianapolis organizations yesterday contributed money to the reward fund offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the slayer of 10-year-old Jerry M. (Mike) Bayles.

Richard J. Mitchell, president of Local 1148, United Steel Workers, said members of his union had collected more than \$200 for the reward fund.

"WE'VE NEVER DONE anything like this before but a lot of our members think this a special occasion, a particularly horrible tragedy because a lot of their sons and daughters deliver papers in the mornings."

"I've never seen our people so upset over something like this," he declared.

Mechanical employees of The Indianapolis Star and The Indianapolis

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