

Police Follow Tip in Paper Boy Killing

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — Police followed up their best clue Monday into the slaying of a young newspaper boy whose stabbed body was found near Knightstown by thoroughly investigating a tip from a man who reported seeing the apparent abduction of a boy Saturday morning.

The body of Jerry M. Bayles, 10, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry M. Bayles, Indianapolis, was found about three hours after the witness saw what appeared to be an abduction.

THE WITNESS, whose name was withheld, told authorities a man was dragging a boy to a car on the city's westside about 6 a.m. The witness said the man said the boy was his son and was trying to run away from home. Another man was in the auto toward which the boy was being dragged.

The apparent kidnaping occurred in the area of a home on the west side near where the boy's bicycle and undelivered newspapers were later found. A woman living in the neighborhood reported hearing a scream about the same time, but saw only a car driving away when she checked.

The body was found stabbed in the chest and back several times about 9 a.m. near Knightstown in Henry County by a farmer driving along a gravel road on a tractor. The boy's parents identified the body Saturday evening.

The witness said his suspicions were aroused about the incident and he contacted police

story Sunday morning about the slaying.

The youth had \$21 from newspaper collections with him when he disappeared. His father theorized the motive for the slaying may have been robbery.

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

Gordon Bayles, the dead boy's brother, normally delivers the route. Gordon received calls from several subscribers when they did not receive papers Saturday morning. Indianapolis authorities began a search after the bicycle and papers were found.

State police Detective Sgt. Martin Wehring of the Connersville post who was put in charge of the probe, was slated to meet Monday with Indianapolis police about the case.

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