

# Remains of Heikell boy found

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COPPER COUNTRY VERTICAL FILE

MISSING PERSONS - UP

CALUMET — "I still had hope — and the hope is gone," said Pat Heikell today, as she talked about the discovery of skeletal remains Saturday afternoon, along with clothing identified as that worn by her 11-year-old son, Karl, who disappeared from his Centennial Heights home without a trace almost a year ago.

State police said the remains and "badly torn" clothing were found by a hunter at about 2 p.m. Saturday in a heavily wooded area about a half-mile northeast of Centennial Heights.

The hunter, Roger Perreault of Calumet, notified state police after finding the clothing. State police combed the area and turned up the skeletal remains and some hair, according to Det. Sgt. John Aird of the state police post in Calumet.

County Medical Examiner Dr. Howard Otto identified the remains as those of a young male.

Aird said the remains and clothing were sent to the state police crime laboratory in Negaunee for analysis.

The Heikell boy was last seen the afternoon of Oct. 31, 1981. It was presumed that he had gone for a walk to nearby downtown Calumet at about 4 p.m., after spending most of the afternoon helping his father cut firewood.

Ground and air searches that followed produced nothing. State police tracked down countless leads and reported sightings, all of which led to



**WAITING IS OVER** — Lawrence and Pat Heikell have a photograph and memories of their 11-year-old son, Karl, who disappeared a year ago on

"a brick wall," Aird had said at the time. He described it as the most baffling missing persons case he had ever encountered.

Saturday's find places the boy about a half mile from his home, a fact particularly disturbing to his mother.

"To think that he was that close," she said, her voice trailing off.

Halloween afternoon. Skeletal remains were found in a wooded area about a half-mile from their home Saturday.

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"The waiting is over. I'm glad he's found, but I still don't think he would go there (into the woods) alone."

Pat and her husband Lawrence said their son was afraid of the dark and seldom went anywhere alone.

Aird said the area where the remains were found is on the edge of a swamp and covered with a thick growth of

trees and brush. He said there are no roads nearby.

There is little question in anyone's mind that the remains are those of Karl Heikell. His mother said her husband and daughters identified the clothing.

The question now is how he died, said Aird.

along with clothing postively identified as his. (Gazette photo by Carl Peterson)