

Search for boy frustrating

COPPER ISLAND SENTINEL 11/12/81

The search for **Karl Heikell**, 11, of Centennial Heights which began Nov. 1 has still produced no results. Heikell left home at about 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31 after telling his father he was going for a walk. He has not returned and Trooper Lee Haltunen of the Calumet State Police Post says there has not been what he considers a positive sighting of the boy since he was seen near Harter's store at about 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 31.

Trooper Haltunen, Community Service Officer at the Post, said Monday that other sightings including those that placed Heikell in Lake Linden and on Fifth Street in Calumet on Nov. 1 could not be confirmed by officers.

The search so far has involved officers from local police agencies. The Calumet Dam area and the area from Pine Street to Centennial Heights has been swept by officers and tracking dogs from the Negaunee State Police Post. Air searches have been conducted by a Department of Natural Resources plane and by a private plane hired by the family.

In addition to the search operations Haltunen said last week officers ran down 75 tips. Haltunen drove 400 miles checking leads during the week. "I started to meet myself on the way from one to another," he said. Unfortunately the activity has not been productive.

"We have been doing everything we can and coming up with nothing," Haltunen stated.

A reward for information on Heikell's whereabouts has been offered. It began with \$100 from the family and the same amount from the State Police. It grew to \$250 after a private donation and this week has been raised to \$500. Offering the reward has brought some response but according to Haltunen police are now receiving tips which they have already followed up. He stressed

that police are anxious for information in the case and that people who may know something should call.

Besides searching in the area Haltunen says that the State Police have put a description of Karl Heikell on the nationwide Law Enforcement Information Network. "If someone file checks him (Karl) in California he'll show up as missing in Calumet." So far

there has been no activity on the network. Placing Heikell on it is standard procedure. Haltunen did not suggest that the boy had left the area.

Haltunen said the case has become, "awfully frustrating." He stressed that the police had not given up on it.

"We get 10-12 leads a day," Haltunen said, "and we are checking every lead."