

Scoopsville . . .

Michael Sneed

QUESTIONS. QUESTIONS . . .

Rumors are flying everywhere since the arrest of "confessed" killer John Mark Karr in the murder of 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey. Is it true the initials S.B.T.C., which appeared at the bottom of the ransom note, are the initials Karr used when he sent his first wife love notes? Just asking.

A TIMELY TOPIC . . .

Consider this: The recent arrest in the Ramsey murder is nothing compared to a 45-year-old cold case involving one of Chicago's most sensational juvenile murders.

- Translation: The 1955 Peterson-Schuessler murders were not solved until 1995. They occurred during an era when no one believed pedophilia could happen in their neighborhood.

Kenneth Hansen was convicted 40 years after the strangulation and sexual assault of Robert Peterson, 13, classmate John Schuessler, 13, and his brother, Anton Schuessler, 11. The boys were found two days after they were killed in Robinson's Woods, but the case went unsolved until an FBI mole, William "Red" Wemette, disclosed what he knew.

Up until then, the investigation was at a dead end, despite 41,000 police interviews and tens of thousands of man-hours logged by hundreds of detectives. And Schuessler's father died of a heart attack two weeks after his sons' bodies were found.

So what's new? Here's what.

A book titled *Three Boys Missing: The Tragedy that Exposed the Pedophilia Underworld* will hit stores in October. Written by one of the first police officers on the scene, the book details how little was known about sexual predators back then and emphasizes not taking the safety of children today for granted.

Why did it take former police officer James "Jimmy" Jack 40 years to write the book? "Until the murderer was caught, I did not feel that we could have closure," Jack told Sneed. "Over the years -- as I watched other crimes against children being committed -- my desire for the capture of the perpetrator[s] grew. I was hopeful that one day we would understand why. It is a fact that within any square

mile, within any city, there is someone looking to have sex with a child."
Should be a chilling read.