

Lie Test Expert Says:

Womack 'Was Truthful'

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Banner Staff Writers

A Metro police polygraph expert today said he is convinced accused slayer Jeffrey Womack was truthful in denying during two lie tests that he killed Marcia Trimble.

Police Capt. Noble Brymer said he based his opinion on careful analysis of the polygraph charts in tests given to Womack on Feb. 28, 1975 — three days after Marcia's disappearance — and again on June 30, 1976.

"Based on the two tests I gave Womack," the veteran police official said, "I would have to say the youth was truthful because there was not sufficient deceptive criteria from his responses."

Brymer, who has given 25,000 to 30,000 polygraph tests, said the 20-year-old defendant was asked on each test if he had killed the 9-year-old girl.

In addition to the two tests given Womack by Brymer, the suspect has also taken — and passed — two other tests given by Paul Baldinger, a private polygraph expert employed by Womack's lawyer, John Hollins.

Womack was arrested early Tuesday by Metro officers and charged in a juvenile court petition with the slaying of the Green Hills area child. He has been released on \$25,000 bond ordered by Juvenile Court Judge Richard Jenkins.

Hollins said he will ask Juvenile Court today to require the district attorney general's office to reveal the nature of the evidence against Womack.

Assistant District Attorney General Pat Apel said he will ask the juvenile court judge to have the

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defendant tried as an adult in Criminal Court. A Juvenile Court hearing is expected within a month.

Brymer said his initial testing of Womack, who was 15 at the time of the slaying, indicated there was "some emotional response" by the suspect.

He said Womack appeared nervous and unable to remain still in his chair during the test.

The police captain said Womack's lawyer and several other people were outside the room

where the test was being administered.

"There wasn't enough response for me to tell if the youth was lying on any particular question," Brymer noted. "There was some emotional response, but unless I get it in all components of the test, I give the person being tested the benefit of any doubt."

Brymer said he believed that the first test was actually inconclusive, but he had listed Womack as

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NOBLE BRYMER
Police Polygraph Examiner

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not being deceptive in his answers.

"I thought there should be a rerun of the test, but I felt it was OK for the present time."

Sixteen months later, Brymer said he again tested Womack — this time with only Hollins waiting outside the polygraph room.

"Although I was not happy with the responses on this test, there was still not enough deceptive criteria to indicate deception," Brymer said.

The official said, "It's not the function of a polygraph examiner or the purpose of the examination to support any physical evidence or a witness, but rather to attempt to arrive at the truth by use of the polygraph instrument."

Two different sets of questions were asked in tests given on the

same day by Baldinger, a private polygraph examiner.

"Do you know where Marcia is?" Womack was asked on the first test administered by Baldinger several weeks before the girl's body was found in a garage near her home.

"No," Womack replied.

Womack also replied "no" when asked in a third polygraph question if he "harmed the little girl," sources said.

"Have you told the truth?" was another question.

"Yes," Womack said.

In evaluating the slaying suspect's responses, the polygraph expert found "no deception is indicated with any of the above listed answers."

In the second test administered by Baldinger, Womack was asked,

"Have you told me the complete truth about the missing girl?"

"Yes," he replied.

"Do you know more about this disappearance than you are willing to tell me?" Baldinger asked.

"No," Womack said.

In the final question Womack was asked, "Did you cause Marcia to be missing?"

Womack responded, "No."

In evaluating the second set of responses, Baldinger reported he found the "same results" as he had in the first set of truthful responses.

Local polygraph operators Bill Woody, of Allied Security Associates, and Bill Coleman, of Security Alarms and Services, said the accuracy of a properly administered lie detector test runs in the low 90s in percentage points.

Woody said drugs, Valium and other outside influences can affect the outcome of a test.

He said there are some very rare cases in which a "pathological liar" could lie without detection.

"They believe whatever they tell you," he said of pathological liars.

"I can't judge this man who has been arrested one way or another, though, because I have never tested him," Woody said.

Coleman said he, too, would not draw conclusions in the Trimble case because he had never tested Womack.

"Whoever did something as cold blooded as in this case — and I'm not saying this young man (Womack) is guilty or innocent — is a likely type to fall into the category of those unsuitable for testing."