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## Investigation to continue

# Dismiss charges against Garrison

In a special press conference Tuesday night at the court house, Humboldt County Attorney Dick Williams and Assistant Attorney General Joe Coleman announced that a motion would be brought in District Court at Fort Dodge to dismiss all charges against Larry Garrison, 22 of Livermore. Garrison had been indicted for the murder of Douglas Nielsen, 17, of Humboldt. Williams also stated that investigation of the case will continue.

The sudden developments followed two polygraph tests given to Garrison, one on Feb. 13, the other Tuesday. The first polygraph test was given in Sioux City at the request of the defense. The most recent test was given by Lynn Marcy, a noted polygraph expert, at the insistence of the prosecution. In both instances, Garrison passed, leading Marcy to conclude that Garrison had no knowledge of the Nielsen death.

Williams stated that at this point he is convinced that Garrison is not guilty. Garrison had been given a polygraph test in Des Moines during the early days of the investigation, but according to Williams, his emotional state at the time gave questionable results. Marcy also concurred that a person's emotional condition could affect the results of a polygraph test. Marcy, an instructor at the American Institute of Polygraph Technique in Dearborn, Mich., is considered an expert in his field and has been involved in the investigation of several homicides. He was called in by the prosecution because of his expertise, to corroborate the findings of the Sioux City tests. Marcy said that he spent two to two and a half hours talking to officers and attorneys to get a background in the Garrison case and then spent approximately four hours with Garrison himself. Garrison was then given a series of six

polygraph examinations. Marcy stated that as a result of these tests he is of the belief that Garrison has no knowledge of the murder. Marcy said that his or anyone's polygraph test could be affected by emotional amnesia or a temporary psychotic state, but added that instances of these conditions are so rare as to be almost negligible. Nevertheless he did admit that "we could make a mistake." Williams said that polygraph tests will now be requested of all those known to have attended the party. "If we have made a mistake, then we'll find out from these tests," he said. He added that no one can be forced to take the test. Williams said that since there were no known witnesses to the killing, the indictment against Garrison was based entirely on circumstantial evidence. The testimony of those at the party excluded everyone from being

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## Humboldt County Association for Retarded Citizens

# Knights of Columbus give \$2,000

The Humboldt County Association for Retarded Citizens is the recipient of a \$2,000 gift from the Iowa Knights of Columbus. A check in that amount was presented at a dinner Monday night at the Star Restaurant to Bruce Watnem, association president, by Joe Umthum, of Eagle Grove, District Deputy of the Knights of Columbus.

Attending the dinner were state and district Knights of Columbus officers and members, officers of the Humboldt County Association, their husbands and wives, and other guests.

Iowa Knights of Columbus last year adopted the Tootsie Roll Program in which they passed out Tootsie Rolls during a fund raising campaign throughout Iowa to aid the mentally retarded.

John R. Plunkett of Eagle Grove, master of ceremonies for the dinner, said \$163,000 was raised in the Tootsie Roll Program last year and the goal for this year is \$250,000. The Tootsie Roll Program has been made the one major charitable project of the Iowa Knights of Columbus. "This is not charity," said Plunkett, "this is simply justice."

In accepting the cash award, President Bruce Watnem said the money would be used for the Opportunity Center at Livermore; the school carpenter workshop for special education students at the

Humboldt Junior High School; the summer recreation program; and the trainable school at Gilmore City.

Burl Place, past president of the Humboldt County Association of Retarded Children, presented background information on the local program for retarded citizens.

Place said the national association was founded 25 years ago and the county association in 1961 with Mrs. Jeannette Tigges as the first president. He credited much

of the early success of the organization to Miss Francis Messer, county superintendent of schools, and Miss Leah Nefzger, psychologist of the county office of education.

He recalled the trainable program started at the Eagle Grove School in which Humboldt County boys and girls could participate, later the Sheltered Workshop at Fort Dodge and now Handicap Village at Clear Lake.

Place said Handicap Villages would be established at Sheldon, and Phoenix, Ariz., as satellites of the Clear Lake Handicap Village. Place is a member of the Board of Directors of Handicap Village.

Among those seated at the head table who were introduced were Mrs. Miles Torgerson, immediate past president of the Humboldt County Association for Retarded Citizens, and Mr. Torgerson; Jim Barnett of Fort Dodge, president of the Iowa Knights of Columbus Bowling Association, and Mrs. Barnett; District Deputy Joe Umthum of Eagle Grove and Mrs. Umthum; Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Watnem; Msgr. Leo McEvoy of Fort Dodge; Father Anthony Conrad of Princeton, State Chaplain, Knights of Columbus; Father Richard Mcke of Humboldt, pastor of St. Mary's parish; and Mr. and Mrs. Burl Palce.

Entertainment was provided by the Watnem Family Singers. Arrangements for the dinner were in charge of Albert Klein of Humboldt.



\$2,000 for Association for Retarded Citizens

The Iowa Knights of Columbus presented a \$2,000 check to the Humboldt County Association for Retarded Citizens at a dinner Monday night at the Star Restaurant. The presentation was made of Joe Umthum of Eagle Grove, Knight of Columbus District Deputy, to Bruce Watnem, president of the Humboldt County Association. The Knights

of Columbus last year raised \$163,500 through their Tootsie Roll program for their aid to the retarded program.

Left to right are Father Anthony Conrad of Princeton, State Chaplain, Knight of Columbus, Bruce Watnem; Joe Umthum; and John R. Plunkett, Eagle Grove, master of ceremonies for the evening.—Republican Photo.