Ohio White Women Confess Rape Stories Were Lies Under Lie Detector Pressure

TOLEDO, Ohio — (ANP) — A white 17-year-old girl and a 27-year-old nurse perpetrated hoaxes charging they had been attacked by Negroes and it had this city on the verge of a racial explosion, until Thursday when the hoaxes were exposed.

Linda Berger, a high school senior and daughter of a Lutheran clergyman, admitted that the story that three youths attacked her in an alley near home was a complete fabrication.

The nurse, Mrs. Delores Lotte, also confessed that she made up the accusation that a man invaded the seventh floor of St. Vincent’s Hospital, clamped on ether-soaked rag over her mouth, making her unconscious.

Both admitted their stories were untrue after an atmosphere of fear of a racial outbreak persisted for nearly a week.

FLUNKED 5 LIE TESTS

Linda flunked five lie detector tests before she told police that she made up the story to compensate for a guilt complex. She said she planned the whole deed and inflicted razor cuts on her body and rolled over on the ground to simulate bruises from the purported attack.

The nurse failed two lie de-
LIES—...

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tector tests, then told police: “Forget it. It never happened. I don’t know why I said it.” Linda’s father, the Rev. Ewald Berger, issued this statement after revelation of the hoax:

“Linda and Pastor and Mrs. Berger express deep humility over the hoax which Linda played. “We regret the deep anxiety it has caused all of our friends and all of the citizens of Toledo. “Linda never foresaw the far-reaching consequences of her theatrical action. Your prayers for all concerned will be deeply appreciated.”

NURSE DOESN'T APOLOGIZE

The nurse never apologized, but resigned from the hospital staff. During the days that followed the false charges, Negro citizens, in their contacts with whites, were subject to constant stares and indignant remarks.

The chief of police, Anthony A. Bosch, even suggested at a mass meeting that the Negro community turn stool pigeon. It was at this meeting that Negro citizens raised doubt that the crimes were committed by Negroes, or that they perhaps were made up.