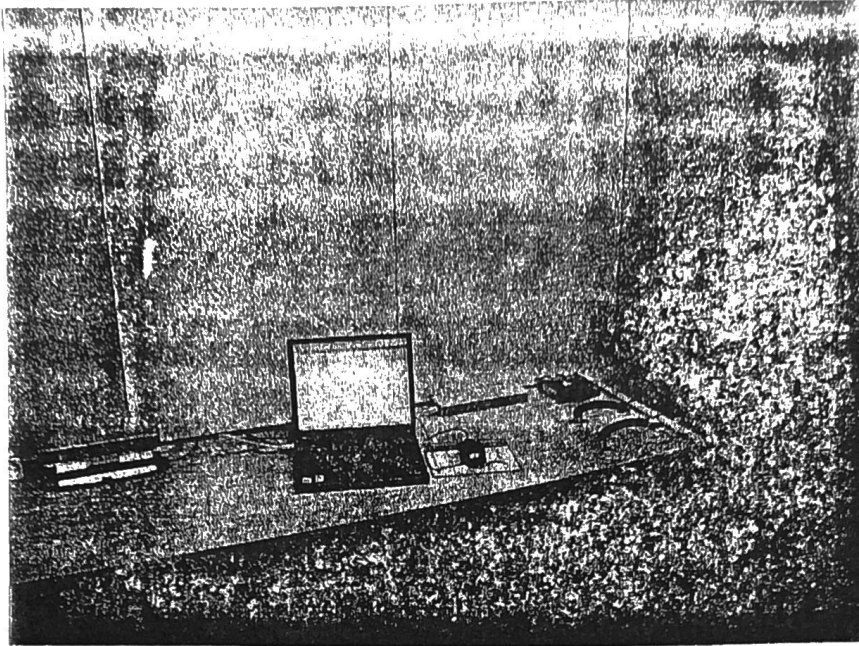


Polygraph Testing & the JonBenet Ramsey Murder



Above = Polygraph Examination Room

The use of polygraph testing generated much controversy in the 1996 murder investigation of a six-year-old girl named JonBenet Ramsey. The question at the heart of the controversy was: "Should criminal suspects be able to choose who will give them a polygraph test?"

The Murder & Subsequent Investigation

Early on the morning of December 26, 1996, Boulder, Colorado resident Patsy Ramsey called 911 to report her young daughter JonBenet missing. Mrs. Ramsey then said that they had found a handwritten ransom note demanding \$118,000. Hours after Boulder police arrived and secured the house, John Ramsey found his daughter's lifeless body in the basement of their large mansion. JonBenet had suffered blunt force trauma to the head and had been strangled.

A lengthy investigation into JonBenet Ramsey's murder failed to produce any credible suspects. Boulder Police officials said her parents were under suspicion. In April and June, both Patsy and John Ramsey were questioned by police. Even JonBenet's 9-year-old brother, Burke, 9, was interviewed for 6 hours. Police insisted they could not rule out Patsy as the writer of the ransom note.

Controversy Surrounding Polygraph Testing

In order to exonerate themselves, John and Patsy Ramsey offered to take polygraph tests to prove they had nothing to do with their daughter's death. The Boulder Police Department (BPD) agreed as long as it was conducted by the FBI (a normal procedure done in all serious criminal cases). The Ramseys refused to take FBI polygraph tests saying that the FBI was involved with the case and as a result would be biased. The

Ramseys then submitted a list of polygraphists to the BPD that they wanted to conduct their polygraph tests. The Boulder Police rejected all the proposed polygraphists.

The determined and wealthy John and Patsy Ramsey then proposed that Edward Gleib, a polygraphist with 30 years experience and past president of the *American Polygraph Association*, could conduct their polygraph tests, but the Boulder Police continued to insist upon the FBI.

Then the *American Polygraph Association* (APA) became involved announcing that they were willing to provide a polygraphist to administer polygraph tests similar to the FBI's to the Ramseys. JonBenet's parents agreed, but Boulder police rejected the offer. The Ramseys then decided to reject the APA's offer, preferring to pay Edward Gleib to administer their tests.

The Boulder Police Department's continuous refusal to this request was based on a convincing argument. They stated that only a law enforcement agency like the FBI could complete a reliable and valid polygraph examination because they had access to the thousands of pieces of undisclosed and sensitive evidence related to the case.

The unwavering Ramseys hired Edward Gleib to conduct a polygraph examination with both of them. Gleib's findings cleared them both of any involvement in their daughter's death. The Boulder Police rejected these results saying that they were only willing to accept valid polygraph findings from the FBI. The Ramseys offered to allow the police to question Edward Gleib about his polygraph testing procedures, but the Boulder Police Department refused.

As of December 2005, it has been nine ten years since little JonBenet Ramsey was brutally murdered and found dead in her own home. The Ramseys still refuse to take FBI polygraph tests, while the Boulder Police Department still refuse to accept polygraph results from any other source. The case remains unsolved and is considered to be a 'cold case' since no new credible suspects or witnesses have surfaced.

"Healthy disagreement and debate lead to reasonable compromise and this is the only way to resolve anything of importance." - Anonymous

Polygraph Testing & the JonBenet Ramsey Murder: Related Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. In addition to reporting the disappearance of her daughter - what else did Patsy Ramsey report she found? (1 mark)

2. Hours after Boulder police arrived and secured the Ramsey house – what did John Ramsey find? Where did he find this? (2 marks)

3. In the spring of 1997, which three suspects were questioned by police? (3 marks)

4. Who did police suspect could have written the ransom note? (1 mark)

5. What did Jonbenet's parents offer to do to prove their innocence? (1 mark)

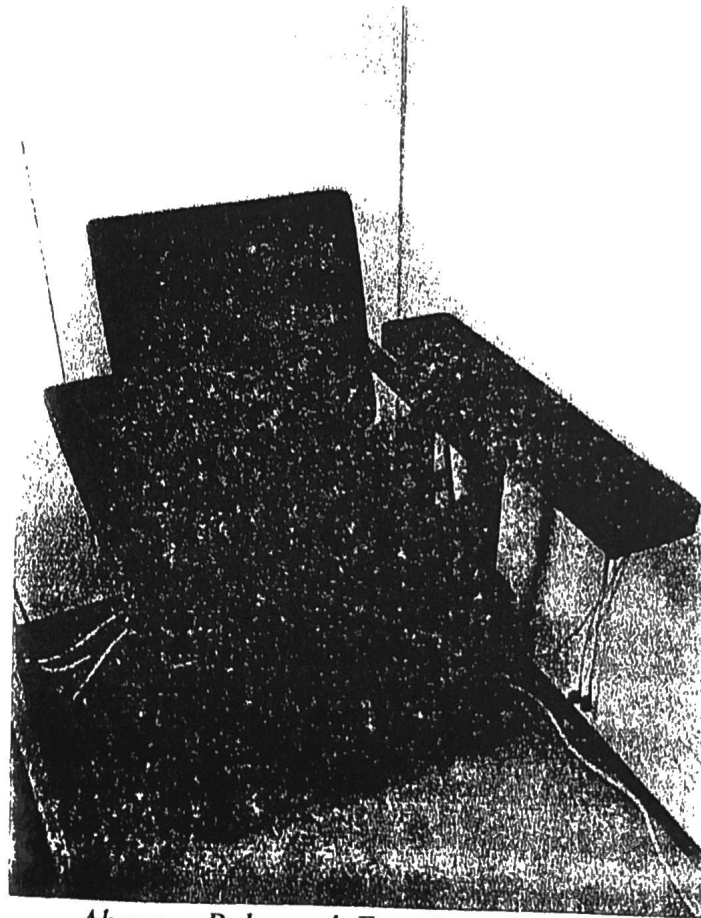
6. Why did the Ramseys refuse to take any polygraph tests through the Boulder Police Department? (2 marks)

7. Which law enforcement agency offered to administer polygraph tests to the Ramseys? (1 mark)

8. What were the results of the polygraph tests conducted by Edward Gleib, past president of the *American Polygraph Association*? (1 mark)

9. Why did the Boulder Police refuse to accept any polygraph test results from the Ramseys? (2 marks)

10. As of December 2005 – has the JonBenet Ramsey murder investigation made any progress? (3 marks)



Above = Polygraph Examination Chair