

Hoppes charged in wife's death; bond is denied

A UNL groundskeeper, charged with three felony counts six days earlier, was charged Thursday with first-degree murder of his estranged wife.

Tom Hoppes, 23, of 1136 Oak St., went with his attorneys to the Lancaster County Atty. Ron Lahners' office Wednesday and told officials where the body of Ann Hoppes, 24, of 1109 N. 28 St., could be found.

Accompanied by one of Hoppes' attorneys, officials were led to Pawnee Lake, west of Lincoln. About a foot of ice had to be sawed through before three Lincoln Fire Dept. scuba divers could recover Ann Hoppes' body from the water.

According to Lincoln Police reports, small cuts and bruises were found on the victim's face. An autopsy report showed death was caused by suffocation.

Hoppes, who was out on \$10,000 bail, then was arrested and charged with the murder of his wife. County Court Judge Jeffre Chevront denied a bond request by Arthur Langvardt, Hoppes' attorney.

Ann Hoppes had been missing eight days. A friend, who talked by phone to her Jan. 3, reported her missing

the following day, according to police records. A UNL custodian since August, Ann Hoppes was cleaning Fair field Hall at the time of the call.

An investigation of the building, east of Selleck Quadrangle, by Campus Police revealed the possibility of a struggle in one of the rooms but nothing conclusive, said Lt. Bob Edmunds. Indications of a struggle included a desk that was out of position, desk articles lying on the floor, and a receiver placed backwards on a phone.

Police questioned Hoppes, a UNL freshman, Jan. 1 but made no arrest. However, according to the county attorney's office, their visit resulted in three other felony counts being brought against Hoppes.

These include possession of more than one pound of marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to manufacture and concealment of stolen property.

A preliminary hearing on those charges will be Jan. 13, and a preliminary hearing on the murder charge is scheduled for Jan. 23.

The Hoppes, married in August, 1973, had been separated for at least a month, police records show.

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