

Body of missing Jesup woman found

Janeen Seehase died of exposure to the cold after leaving basketball game Friday night.

**By AMY DAVIS
and JEFF KART**
Courier Staff Writers

JESUP — A well-known Jesup woman was found dead Tuesday of exposure to the cold about a quarter-mile from her farm house.

Janeen Seehase, 47, was found by a neighbor in a field on her property. Seehase had been missing since Friday night, when she was last seen leaving a basketball game at Jesup High School.

"For some reason she just left," said her husband, Richard Seehase. "Can you tell me what women think sometimes? It bothers me because I don't understand."

At about 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Gary Thoma, 22, was riding his snowmobile along the railroad tracks

behind Seehase's house when he found her body.

"It didn't look like she had been there very long," Thoma said this morning. "She wasn't covered with snow or anything."

Seehase was wearing a hooded coat and possibly snow pants, Thoma said. She was not wearing gloves or boots.

Though foul play is not suspected, an autopsy has been ordered to confirm the cause and time of death, Black Hawk County sheriff's deputies reported.

The trek from the high school to the Seehase property is between two and three miles, school officials estimated.

"She didn't quite make it home," Richard Seehase said.



**Janeen
Seehase**

Temperatures Friday night ranged from 15 to 20 degrees, according to the National Weather Service in Waterloo. Winds of 6 to 10 mph brought the wind chill factor down to the single digits.

Richard and Janeen were at the high school Friday night to watch their daughter, Marta, play basketball against the East Buchanan Buccaneers.

"They are avid followers," a high school spokeswoman said. "They are good fans. They would have been here if they didn't have children on the teams."

When Richard returned home from the game and discovered Janeen wasn't there, he started to worry. All weekend he searched for his wife, calling friends and relatives, but nobody knew where she was.

"Why do people do what they do?" Richard Seehase asked. "Maybe it was her quiet time."

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Jesup woman found dead near farm house

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"She does a lot of cross-country skiing, so she's always loved it out there. She loved the outdoors."

The Seehases had been married 25 years and had five children, ages 14 to 21 — all of whom lived at home. Four of the children are in high school; the oldest son is enrolled at Upper Iowa University in Fayette.

Two of the Seehase children were adopted from Korea. A third was adopted from El Salvador.

Both Richard and Janeen were involved in their community. Richard

is the school board president; Janeen worked part-time at the library. In 1991, their family was named "Family of the Year" by the local Chamber of Commerce.

"They were such a neat family," librarian Cindy Lellig said. "Everybody's just in shock. Everybody in town knew Richard and Janeen. She will really be missed."

Richard Seehase said his wife will be remembered as a woman committed to children, her church and her community.

"She had an awful big heart for everything — for people, for kids," he said. "She wanted everyone to grow in value. She was a fantastic mother."

Janeen Seehase was serving her second year as chairwoman of the Black Hawk County Soil and Water

Conservation Commission.

She was a 4-H leader for more than 10 years, Seehase said, and was once voted "Leader of the Year."

She also was a member of the local garden club, the Northeast Iowa Weavers and Spinners Guild, and the United Methodist Church choir.

Janeen Seehase, the daughter of Paul and L. Jo Brasch of Waterloo, graduated from Orange Township Community School in 1964 and received a bachelor of science degree in textiles and clothing from Iowa State University in 1968.

She also was a former textile instructor at Hawkeye Institute of Technology in Waterloo and formerly served as a chairwoman for both the Black Hawk County Women's Farm Bureau and the Black Hawk County Extension Family Living Committee.