

Vernon Hoppe, former Hennepin taxation chief, dies



Vernon T. Hoppe

Vernon T. Hoppe, 68, retired Hennepin County director of property taxation and a former two-term state representative, died of a heart attack Thursday at the Health One Buffalo Hospital in Buffalo, Minn.

Hoppe, of Minneapolis and Annandale, Minn., grew up on a farm near Crookston, Minn. He served in the Army for one year during World War II and in the Air Force for three years and later attended the University of Minnesota.

In 1956 he became an engineering draftsman for the Hennepin County auditor's office. He later held the titles of finance director and auditor. He was director of property taxation when he retired in 1985.

He was named County Auditor of the Year in 1982 by the Minnesota Association of County Auditors.

"They went from handwritten ledgers to computers in the time he was there," said his wife, Adelle. "When he first came in there, you mailed in your taxes and it would take a month before they got them all handled. By the last several years, probably the last 10 years, the checks were in the bank the same day they came in."

Hoppe was elected to represent Minneapolis' 34th District in the state House of Representatives in 1966. He served on Gov. Harold LeVander's Council on Lighted Schools and was a founder of the Minnesota Community Education program.

"The idea of the 'lighted school' was to open up this public building to the public and make it usable, which was the basis for the community education program," his wife said. "He felt that that was one of his biggest accomplishments."

Hoppe was defeated for reelection in 1971.

He and his wife have owned the Narrows Resort on Clearwater Lake near Annandale for 24 years. They rented four cottages and pontoon boats to vacationers. He recently was president of the Annandale Area Tourism Association.

"He enjoyed it," she said. "I think it was a tremendous help for him to be able to come out and work off the

mental stress of the day physically."

Besides his wife, Hoppe is survived by sons John of Golden Valley and Paul of Minneapolis; a daughter, Alice Mauren of Burnsville; brothers Laurence and Raymond, both of Crookston, Minn.; a sister, Edna Dennistoun of Apple Valley, and three grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11:30 a.m. Monday at Zion Lutheran Church in Annandale. Visitation will be held from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Dingmann-Ferrell Funeral Home in Annandale. Memorials to the family are suggested.