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Saturday, February 06, 1999

Search fails to recover body from river

Cheviot man leaped from Anderson Ferry

BY KRISTINA GOETZ
The Cincinnati Enquirer

CONSTANCE, Ky. — A Cheviot man who boarded the Anderson Ferry on the Kentucky side Friday morning apparently exited his car about two-thirds of the way across the Ohio River and jumped in.

He was later identified as Terry Graf, 43, of 4008 Smith Road.

The Boone County Water Rescue Team worked throughout the day to find his body without success, using a combination of boat-mounted video cameras and dragging equipment in the Anderson Ferry and Constance areas.

Dale Apple, captain of the water rescue team, said the man had little chance of survival because of the temperature of the water and the strong current.

Sgt. Rob Reuthe of the Boone County Sheriff's office said witnesses told police they saw the man dive into the river.

"We know he was parked at the ferry for some time," Sgt. Reuthe said. "When it opened, he was the first car on the ferry."

The incident occurred about 8:30 a.m.

Ferry operator Paul Anderson said he saw Mr. Graf in the parking lot and thought he was waiting for a passenger.

"He pulled up and paid the deck hand," Mr. Anderson said. "I noticed he got out of his car, which is not unusual. Then all of a sudden he took off running and he jumped off the front."

Mr. Anderson said he stopped the ferry as soon as he could and floated down the river hoping the man would surface.

"He left his license, glasses and a list of people to call and how they were related to him in his car," Mr. Anderson said. "It was something he must have been contemplating doing."

The water rescue team will keep searching the river around the clock until Sunday.

If Mr. Graf's body is not found by then, the team will reassess their search.

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