

05-14-1973 Spencer IO – James Longmuir – VFD Attempted Rescue Low Head Dam

James Lee Longmuir

Iowa Firefighter's Memorial

<http://www.iowafirememorial.org/ShowIFFMRecord.asp>

James Lee Longmuir, 22, died on May 15, 1973, during a river rescue. Jim and other fire fighters came to the rescue of two Wartburg College students inner tubing on the Cedar River. As the students neared a dam, Jim was lowered by rope over the dam; after rescuing the two students, Jim became entangled in the ropes, his life jacket was pulled off and he was lost to the river.

Jim was born April 21, 1951, to Robert and Leona Longmuir of Arlington, Iowa. He had two older brothers Robert Jr. and Ronald, and a younger sister, Mila.

He graduated from Starmont High School in Arlington where he was active in football, FFA and chorus. He received the American Bar Association Good Citizenship Award at graduation ceremonies.

Jim was an avid hunter and a fishing and boating enthusiast. He was a member of the Isaak Walton League. He attended Northeast Iowa Area Community College in Mason City, Iowa, from 1969-71, graduating with an Associate of Arts degree.

He transferred to Wartburg College and while there was a volunteer for the Waverly Fire Department and resided in the station.

Seek body of fireman

WAVERLY, Iowa (AP)— The search for the body of a Waverly fireman who drowned during a rescue attempt on the Cedar River was to resume Wednesday.

Authorities suspended the search for the body of James Longmuir, 22, Arlington, Tuesday night. Longmuir, a Wartburg College student and part time fireman, drownd during the rescue attempt Tuesday afternoon.

Fire department spokesmen said two college students were on the river floating in inner tubes above the dam and ventured too close, spilling over into the back waters below.

Longmuir, Waverly Fire Chief John Ingersoll and another fireman went out in a boat to rescue the two men. Longmuir was let out of the boat on a rope to pull one of the men out of the back waters when the boat either lost power or lurched sideways and went over the dam.

The men in the boat were able to stay afloat by clinging to the boat, but Longmuir reportedly lost his life jacket and went under the water.

One of the men being rescued, Lowell Anderson, 20, Waverly, was taken to a Waverly hospital where he was treated for shock. The other man being rescued was not identified.

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2350&dat=19730513&id=2OApAAAIBAJ&sjid=BtoEAAAIBAJ&pg=5205,3050864>

Waverly Dam

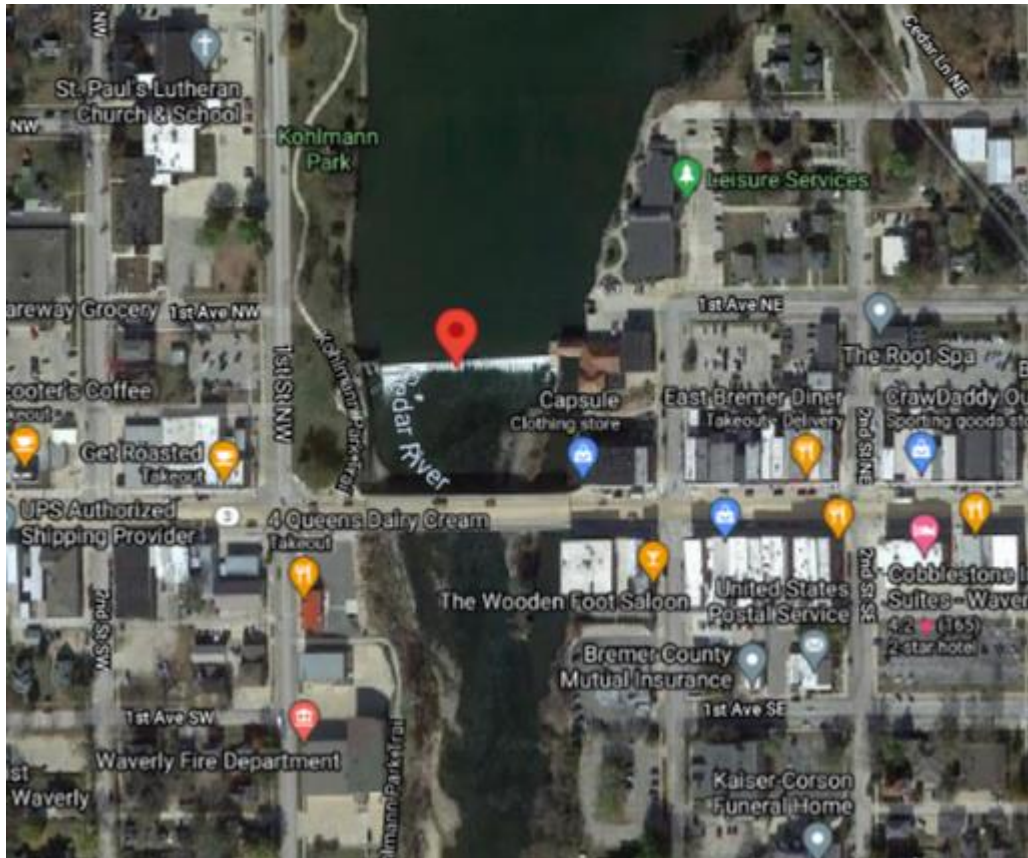
<https://www.iowawhitewater.org/lhd/LHDwaverly.html>

River/Stream: Shell Rock River

Location: Waverly, Butler County

Latitude: 42.726513

Longitude: -92.470838



Built: 1872, reconstructed 2011

Owner: City of Waverly

Height: 11 feet

Length: 310 feet

Hazards: height, drowning

Warning signs:

Portage option:

Comments: obvious impoundment. \$4.2 million project began in 2010 to replace the existing fixed low head dam with an inflatable rubber bladder dam. The new dam can be lowered during periods of flooding.

Fatalities 2

- May 16, 1973, fireman James Longmuir, boat over dam during a rescue operation for another person who went over the dam in an innertube. (Click [here](#) to view a report and photos of the incident.)
- August 9, 1910 - Max Eggleston, fell from narrow ledge into mill race



Photo above during reconstruction on 7/30/2011

Iowa Firefighter's Memorial

<http://www.iowafirememorial.org/ShowIFFMRecord.asp>

Information on selected person	
Last Name	Longmuir
First Name	James Lee
Department	Waverly Fire Department
President	
Active	
Date of Death	May 15, 1973
Panel	Ultimate Sacrifice
Line	#79
Died in Line of Duty	Yes
Died Out of Duty	No
Past President	No
Bio	<p>James Lee Longmuir, 22, died on May 15, 1973, during a river rescue. Jim and other fire fighters came to the rescue of two Wartburg College students inner tubing on the Cedar River. As the students neared a dam, Jim was lowered by rope over the dam; after rescuing the two students, Jim became entangled in the ropes, his life jacket was pulled off and he was lost to the river. Jim was born April 21, 1951, to Robert and Leona Longmuir of Arlington, Iowa. He had two older brothers Robert Jr. and Ronald, and a younger sister, Mila. He graduated from Starmont High School in Arlington where he was active in football, FFA and chorus. He received the American Bar Association Good Citizenship Award at graduation ceremonies. Jim was an avid hunter and a fishing and boating enthusiast. He was a member of the Isaak Walton League. He attended Northeast Iowa Area Community College in Mason City, Iowa, from 1969-71, graduating with an Associate of Arts degree. He transferred to Wartburg College and while there was a volunteer for the Waverly Fire Department and resided in the station.</p>