

Drag River For Body Of Neenah Man

NEENAH — Dragging operations continued today for the body of Otto Luebke, 73, of 128 Columbian Ave., Neenah, believed to have drowned Wednesday afternoon while fishing in the Fox River below the Neenah dam.

Luebke's empty skiff was found at 7 o'clock Wednesday evening against the piling of the Milwaukee Road bridge at the rear of the Bergstrom Paper Company.

Boats manned by police officers, firemen, sheriff's officers and private citizens this morning dragged the Fox River below the Neenah dam in search of Luebke's body.

Failed To Return

His disappearance was reported to Neenah police at 6:10 Wednesday evening by his son-in-law, Alvin Hoppe, 333 E. Franklin Ave., Neenah. Hoppe said his father-in-law went fishing at about noon, Wednesday, and had failed to return. His auto was parked in the Neenah Paper Company parking lot and was still locked.

Luebke's olive drab skiff was found by Neenah police officers at 7 o'clock last night against piling of the Milwaukee Road bridge. Dragging operations started at 6 o'clock this morning after the four gates of the Neenah dam were lowered.

Harold Luebke, no relation to the missing man, assistant Neenah city engineer, reported that at about 2:30 p.m. Wednesday he saw an empty skiff bobbing up and down in the river at a point about midway between the Oak Street bridge and the Chicago & Northwestern railroad bridge. The empty skiff also was reported seen in the vicinity of Badger Globe Mill at 3 p.m.

Fished Below Dam

Friends of Luebke observed that he usually fished below the Neenah dam. He kept his skiff on the south bank of the river below the dam.

Luebke was born in Menasha May 23, 1881, and, except for 14 years when he lived in Milwaukee, he spent his entire life in the Twin Cities. He formerly operated a drayline in Neenah, retiring about 10 years ago. He was a member of Immanuel Evangelical and Reformed Church and Neenah Eagles Club. He also served on the Neenah election board.

His relatives include his wife, two daughters, Mrs. Alvin Hoppe and Mrs. Jacob Metko, both of Neenah; two sons, Orville Luebke, Neenah, and Henry Luebke of Menasha; six sisters, Mrs. Martin Gmeiner of Waupaca, Mrs. Minnie Westphal of Oshkosh, Mrs. Ernest Kramer, Mrs. Charles Kuchenbecker and Mrs. Martin Wachholz, all of Neenah, and Mrs. John Mantzfeld of Rt. 2, Neenah; two brothers, Oscar Luebke, Rt. 2, Neenah, and Carl of West Allis, and 11 grandchildren.



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