

# Three families, one structure: The Lottes Building

**GINNY MAMMEN**  
OUT AND ABOUT

The 1889 Sanborn map shows a dwelling on the lots at 1411-1413 Adams Ave. in downtown La Grande. This was the home and shop of John L. Mars, a carpenter and contractor. John, born in Germany, and his wife Annie, born in England, had immigrated in 1883 and moved westward to La Grande. Mars was known for his fast, efficient work and one of his great contributions to the area was the mile-long flume for the Electric Light Company in 1903. This was to carry the wood for the company from Fox Hill to the county road near Oro Dell.

By 1903 the Sanborn map indicates a large structure at 1411-1413 Adams, designated to be a store, being constructed in front of the house. By 1910 the dwelling had been removed and the structure had been enlarged and was housing a secondhand store. However, like many of the other wooden buildings at this end of Adams in the early to mid 1920s, this one was demolished and space was created for one of the more solid brick structures. And as usual there was someone just waiting to add that one more.

This story of the Lottes Building begins in 1888-89 when members of three families immigrated to Oregon from Germany. One was the Stroeber family with Thomas and Barbara and their three children — John, Henry and Barbara. There was the Lottes family that brought brothers Ulrich



Contributed Photo

The Lottes Building has housed several businesses since it was constructed in 1925.

and John, sons of Fredrick and Margaret Lottes, who remained in Germany. And there was a young lady named Anna Baer who also immigrated from Germany about this same time.

Within a year of arriving in La Grande the Lottes brothers were married — Ulrich had married Barbara Stroeber and John had married Anna Baer.

John seemed to have a problem settling into one particular type of employment. During his life he was a laborer in a brewery, a

brewer, a fireman at a sawmill, a laborer with various odd jobs and at the time of his death in 1931, at age 66, he was a janitor at the telephone company in Pendleton.

Ulrich was the more stable of the two. In 1893 he was listed in the city directory as a wood dealer. By 1900 he was operating a saloon at 1118 Jefferson across from the railroad depot. Through the years his establishment flourished and he and Barbara were able to build their business as well as purchase four lots in La Grande's Coggan's

addition and other property.

Ulrich posted an advertisement for The Lottes in 1917 offering specialties such as oyster cocktails and whisky. He had also taken over the business next door at 1116 Jefferson from Sam Saites and John Pullos. This he advertised in The Observer as "A Gentleman's Resort — Cigars, Tobaccos, Lunches, Soft Drinks and Confectionery."

Business was booming for Ulrich and the other tavern owners in La Grande and then came Jan. 17, 1920, and prohibi-

tion which banned the sale of alcoholic beverages. The notices for The Lottes no longer advertised whisky, and Ulrich was offering soft drinks and listed as an owner of a pool hall.

Ulrich continued working and after prohibition in 1933, he again was able to advertise his business as The Lottes Lunch and Beer Parlor. Here he served up sandwiches and beer during the 19 hours a day he was open. The Lottes was popular with locals as well as those coming and going on the train.

Prohibition, however, did not slow down the business side of Ulrich Lottes. In 1925 the one-story brick building at 1411-1413 Adams, known as the Lottes Building, was constructed. The first businesses to occupy the space at 1411 was Gwilliams' Electric Bakery. Some of the other early businesses in the building were Western Auto Supply, Inland Poultry and Feed, and Becker's Meat Market. Later this was the home of the Sears Roebuck Catalog store and Group W Cable Inc. Today it is the location of Christ Church.

Ulrich Lottes passed away in 1935 in Union County at the age of 68. His business at 1118 Jefferson continued under the name of The Lottes with Melvin Palmer as manager. Later in the 1950s and '60s, known as the Lottes Tavern, it came under the ownership of Jean Elliott, wife of a railroad worker. Today this is the location of Jefferson Street Depot.

Keep looking up! Enjoy!

■ Ginny Mammen has lived in La Grande for more than 50 years and enjoys sharing her interest in the history of people, places and buildings.

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2022

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- Close by
  - Farm baby
  - Tennis stroke
  - Romantic island
  - no good
  - Boathouse gear
  - Extremist sect
  - Large amounts
  - Grade-school org.
  - Snore, in cartoons
  - Easy
  - Mombasa's country
  - Discreet summons
  - Before, to bards
  - Eggnog time
  - Lhasa —
  - I, to Nero
  - Teams of oxen
  - Keep an — to the ground
  - Banned thing (hyph.)
- DOWN**
- "Law & Order" network
  - Water, in Montreal
  - Omitting none
  - Posh
  - Skater's jump
  - PFK mail drop

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Y	A	R	D	S	O	L	D	P	A	D	
A	L	O	E	A	F	A	R	S	L	Y	
M	E	A	L	P	A	R	A	S	I	T	E
S	C	R	I	M	P	A	G	O			
	G	O	Y	A	O	P	A	L	S		
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B	E	L	T	A	R	K	O	L	E	O	
I	R	S	B	I	O	S	P	E	N	T	
E	V	O	K	E	W	A	S	P			
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I	V	E	R	E	N	E	S	T	A	N	
O	E	R	E	P	E	E	S	E	N	D	

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- Geog. feature
- Juicy pears
- Removes, as branches
- Word of honor
- Make like a donkey
- Silly
- Actress — Hagen
- Lament loudly
- Therefore
- Diner sign
- Tea variety
- Multitude
- Appreciative murmurs
- Burst of laughter
- Prudent
- Mine yields
- Performed a glissade
- Make a decision
- Chicago airport
- Non-com nickname
- Exclamation of dismay
- War god
- Not new
- Deep black
- Place for a bubble bath
- That señora
- German conjunction
- Capture
- Summer, to Pierre

## HOROSCOPES by Stella Wilder

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2022

YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder

Born today, you are destined to be known not only for the things you do that are widely remembered and revered, but also for who you are behind the scenes -- and that individual is a truly fascinating combination of confidence and insecurity, fantasy and reality, and almost all other contrasting or contradictory traits. It is the fact that you conflict with yourself that gives you such personal power and potential.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- You'll spend a good deal of time and energy today talking yourself off a certain cliff, but this issue isn't going away any time soon.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Communication with a loved one may become complicated today as you both are trying to make a point that the other isn't really ready to hear.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Certain actions will go unnoticed today, which suits you just fine, but others are likely to put you in the spotlight. Are you ready for that?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- You're eager to come up with a plan that allows you to outmaneuver a rival -- but perhaps you're thinking about this the wrong way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- You may not be ready to reach out to someone who is back in the picture after quite a long time, as it will require some difficult adjustments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Whether an idea is large or small makes no difference whatsoever, you must try to put it into motion today -- or you'll lose the opportunity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- You must play by the rules, but that doesn't mean you can't bend them just a bit today to give you a temporary, important advantage.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- It may fall to you to say or do something no one else will, but that doesn't mean you'll be in a position of authority anytime soon.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- A subtle change yields a dramatic result today -- and you may be surprised to learn just how much of your private life will be affected.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- You are aware of certain problems lying ahead of you at this time, but you're not prepared to face them. It's time to imagine solutions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- What you've done in the past to deal with a certain situation is not likely to work as well for you this time -- but today's outcome isn't bad.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- You'll go about your business with little concern for what others think of either your methods or motives -- but a friend's comment rangles.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2022

YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder

Born today, you like to think you are being swept along in your life by a kind of existential current, but the truth is you are for more instrumental in deciding what you will do, and when, and with whom than you think you are. Perhaps talking things up to destiny or fate or the stars themselves allows you to weather your failures and disappointments more philosophically. On the other hand, your way of thinking prevents you from taking full credit for all the things that go right in your life -- including your greatest successes.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- If you choose to be unfocused today, so be it, but any unintentional straying from your intended purpose can actually prove hazardous.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- What you want is nearer today than it has been in quite a while, and yet it may prove difficult to close

even that short distance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- You cannot expect to win over your critics if you persist in doing the very thing they criticize. Some sort of adjustment is required today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- What someone has to tell you today can make all the difference -- so you must be willing to wait until that message is delivered.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- You have more options available to you today than you think. All you have to do is look around to see the potential of a certain situation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Complaints aren't likely to get you today, but if you're willing to present a way forward, you can certainly have a lasting impact.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- You may have trouble reconciling what others are telling you and what you can see happening all around you. You must investigate further.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Random comments must not be allowed to affect you today, but pointed criticism is different. You'll want to listen carefully -- and learn.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Progress can be considerable today, even though you don't reach the goal you had set for yourself. There's still time for that.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- A minor mishap mustn't be allowed to trip you up all day long. Acknowledge it, correct it and move on -- it's the only way to progress.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Despite feeling alone in a certain situation, you haven't been abandoned by your allies. They're in the wings, waiting to offer assistance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Disappointment can be avoided today by tending to the difficult things first and leaving yourself plenty of time to engage in enjoyable activities.

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