

**LEHI BANNER OFFICE  
LEITER'S  
MALAN UNDERTAKING  
POWERS  
REAM'S BOOTS AND JEANS**

**Constructed: 1914**

**Address: 68 West Main**

**Present owner: Marian Ream**

Editor Will Ross bought the *Lehi Banner* from publisher James M. Kirkham in the fall of 1913. The new owner soon announced that the newspaper office would be moving into a new office building at 68 West Main, as soon as it could be completed. Ross had bought the property from Dr. Walter T. Hasler, whose medical office was one door west.

The new *Banner Office* was completed in April of 1914. The newspaper management, under Ross's guidance, experienced behind-the-scenes criticism from interests who thought the paper was owned by the Gaisford family from American Fork, who had just started the *Lehi Sun*. The tactics of these "unprincipled solicitors," as Ross labeled them, consisted of spreading rumors that the newspaper was "not owned and published by Lehi People." Ross, who had paid Kirkham \$4,800 for both the paper and the Lehi Publishing Company, countered by detailing his proprietorship. He then added that "the Banner in its thirty year's history never contained so much news or so many paid advertisements or had so many subscribers as it has at the present time, and never before was it so worthy of the liberal support of the people."

Despite Ross's enthusiasm, however, the paper's days were numbered. The 30 May 1917, issue of the *Lehi Sun* announced that "we have taken over the Lehi Banner, and in the future its subscribers will receive the Lehi Sun in its stead."

From the beginning the Banner office was shared by Ralph Leiter's newspaper and stationery stand, which remained on the premises until 1920. This small business achieved unwelcome notoriety by the attempted murder of the shopkeeper's brother Edward on 1 May 1915. The young man was returning home at approximately 10:40 p.m., with the day's receipts from the store, when he was confronted by a "masked highwayman" as he entered his front gate.

When the robber demanded the money, Leiter called him a coward and took a step towards the man. Backing up, the bandit fired a single shot into Leiter's abdomen and then ran from the scene. The gravely-injured man was transported on the Orem Interurban train to LDS Hospital, where he eventually recovered. The crime, subject of much speculation about town, was never solved.

Will and Alice Ross sold 68 West Main to Dr. Fred Worlton in 1919. It was merely a rental property; however, his medical office was then situated at the Lehi Hospital (150 East State).

Worlton's first tenant at 68 West Main was local mortician N.O. Malan, who established an undertaking business there. Alva Wing bought the funerary in the fall of 1924. When he moved to the present site of Wing Mortuary the following year, Mary Marie Maudsley opened a dress shop in the former undertaking parlor.

In November of 1927 local boy Tommy Powers moved his "shoes and gents' furnishings store" into the former Maudsley's Millinery. Tom and Ora Powers maintained their clothing store at 68 West Main for nearly fifty years. In 1935 they doubled the size of the building by constructing an addition to the north. Eight years later they bought the place from the Fred Worlton family. Powers was affectionately known as "The Mayor of Main Street" because of his gregarious charm. He could be seen daily strolling about his domain exchanging banter with other businessmen and townspeople. "You can't go on forever," was the way he announced his retirement in 1977. Marion Ream had purchased Powers, after which it became Ream's Wrangler Shop, along with the building to the east. It remains Ream's to this day.