

Union Hotel

By Carl Mellor

The Union Hotel was built in 1891. The Union Hotel, probably the most elegant structure ever built in Lehi was constructed at 121 East State Street. Fifteen sleeping rooms occupied the second floor. An immense arched lobby dominated the first floor with kitchen and eating areas to the rear. A basement was entered from the spacious lobby, by descending a large stone stairway.

Traveling salesmen, sugar company officials, and railroad men stayed here. In 1905 a Samuel Biggs acted quite differently and Marshall Newburn Butt was summoned. In the presence of the marshall, Mr. Butt popped a cyanide pill into his mouth and died instantly.

In 1911, Hyrum Scott, a Watkins Salesman, tried to take opium due to sagging sales and despondency. He was taken to the State Hospital in Provo for treatment. It was here that the wealthy (worth over \$500,000 at the time) Ira Wines endured a community scandal. Mr Wines' first wife had died in Palo Alto, California. In her memory he gave Lehi City the present city park-Wines Park. His second wife accused him of lavish living with a third women at the hotel and filed for a divorce in 1913. At his death in 1923, the obituary listed his second wife Elizabeth as his widow.