



Annie Stattelmann became Anna Lester

In 1898, a twenty-six year-old German-born woman named Annie Stattelmann made claim to the 158-acre tract of land encompassing Park Avenue toward Campbell, from Lester Street north to Grant (formerly North Street). According to the official homestead documentation, Annie testified to the “primary residence being “32’ x 32’, plus five chicken houses and a barn, with 10 acres fenced, a well, windmill, tank and other small buildings *Value \$1500.*” That residence was located in the area of Santa Rita and Linden. In 1899, she married Frank Lester, who was the superintendent of Mammoth Mines.

Bringing Gold from the Mammoth Mine:

...Woodson Allen remembers...“ She originally came from Bavaria (Germany) and lived in Tombstone...she said they were still hanging ‘em when she landed there. She’d talk about going back and forth from Mammoth to the Arizona Bank on Main Street and coming over the hills there on dirt roads and a buggy. She was nursing a baby and said that they were carrying gold bullion on the floorboards of the buggy...The horse got a rock in his hoof and her husband stopped to get it out. Just about then two men on horseback came over the ridge and had masks

and handkerchiefs over their faces. She was scared to death and she picked up the gold and put it on her lap, and put the baby on top of that and then these men came up. One of them reached in a pocket behind his hip. She thought for sure they were gunna pull a gun on her, hit him and kill him. It was a bottle of whiskey and they offered him a drink. He declined and they talked a few minutes and went on their way.”

Meeting Anna: “I was staying at the University dorm...it was too noisy to study and I was kind of conscientious about studying so this fellow and I, David B...decided to look for a rental. We saw an ad in the paper and came out to 1208 E Linden...she rented it to us for \$17.50.

It was said that Anna wanted young people with children to move in the neighborhood and wanted a school for her own children. ..She first told me about it in 1942 and she used to encourage me to buy property along Park Avenue...she made me an offer of \$150 per lot. ... I didn’t have the money, but I could see that it was a worthwhile investment.”

During the War: “the other story that stands out in my mind was during the war ... one day a man came to the front door and asked her if she was Anna Stattelmann...She was very shocked because nobody knew her by that name. He wanted to let her know the United States was going to be invaded through Mexico and wanted to know if she would cooperate and she said absolutely NOT, although she was Bavarian born in Germany but she would not cooperate...she sent him on his way”.

Getting a School for her Children:

Florence Lester Conover, Anna’s youngest daughter, recalled that in order to get the city to send a teacher to her, her mother needed more children. So when she hired workers for the ranch she wanted them to have kids! Flo remembered, that their teacher had long blond hair streaming out as she rode a white horse on the ranch. Anna had a building for the school; but being too young, Flo had to sit on the steps.