

Katherine “Kate” Lamers

My name is Katherine (Kate) Lamers. If anyone knows me, you know that I am a very shy person and this would not be one of my favorite things to do—to tell you the story of my life, but I am honored to do so.

I was born in Combined Locks in 1905 to Herman and Mary (Menting) Janssen. (That is with a double “SS”). In 1915 my mother died leaving my father with four children, Herman, Lett, Harold and me. He remarried and life was very difficult for me, but my wonderful Aunt Flora Janssen took me under her wing, teaching me culinary skills at the Hotel in Combined Locks which Aunt Flora and her husband operated.

I met and married the love of my life in 1929 and was so very proud to be called Mrs. Ted “Boots” Lamers. After only 14 years of marriage, “Boots” was stricken with cancer and was taken from me. At age 38, I was left alone to support and care for two little girls, Mary and Jane. There were no government programs to support a young widow in the early 1940’s and I being a very independent and persistent person, I put my culinary skills to work founding “Lamers Tea Room” The tea room was located in the back of the Lamers Building at the corner of Main and Depot streets in downtown Little Chute. Here I established an excellent eatery and catering business which I operated for 28 years. Just ask anyone, they all remember my prune rolls.

Along with my Tea Room, I lovingly prepared birthday cakes, wedding cakes, pies, etc for my family and friends. This of course would include my 5 grandchildren and 4 step grandchildren.

I died on November 1, 1995 at the age of 90 and I hope my legacy will live on the love and appreciation of good food, entertaining and the value of hard work.

Thank you. My name is Jane Lamers Jilek- and I am Kate Lamers’ daughter.

Little Chute Historical Society Cemetery Walk 2009







