

# Lohmann's steakhouse sold, to close in December

Busy corner was rural  
when popular eatery  
opened doors in 1947

**By Ty Finke**  
Staff Writer

After 60 years serving up steak with a side of hometown charm, the owners of Lohmann's Steak House, N9609 Appleton Ave., Germantown, will close its doors for the last time Dec. 15.

The restaurant Al Lohmann opened in 1947 in what was then the countryside at the now-busy intersection of Appleton Avenue and County Line Road has been sold to PH Germantown LLC.

Family-run, the restaurant is owned by Al's 66-year-old son Mark Lohmann who said he put a lot of thought into selling the property.

"The decision is based on a combination of things," he said, "It has been a lot more difficult (to run the business) since my brother John died in 2002."

Lohmann said losing his brother and business partner to lung cancer five years ago was challenging for the family, and is one of the reasons

for the close.

"And business is not as busy as it used to be when there is so much more competition with national chains," he said.

## **Keeping it a secret**

Work began on the sale in May, when Lohmann hired the vice president of Equity Commercial Real Estate, Ted Klumb, as the broker to list the property.

Klumb said he did his best to keep the listing a secret, per Lohmann's request, until the sale of the roughly one-acre property was finalized Sept. 25.

"They had an ongoing business so (Lohmann) didn't really want any disruption to the business," Klumb said. "And we didn't know how quickly the property would sell so I assured him I would keep it as quiet as possible."

The process moved more quickly than expected, said Klumb, who received interest from national, regional and local enterprises, including Walgreens.

The property sold for about \$1 million to local developer Michael Pranke, of PH Germantown, who is

working on a nearby commercial development that includes a Qdoba Mexican Grill off Appleton Avenue between Applebee's and Pick 'n Save.

Pranke said he has not developed a formal plan for the site yet, but has had his eye on the property for quite some time.

"We think it's an excellent corner at a very prominent location," he said.

The location is one of the factors that sparked such a successful sale, Klumb said.

"It's a great property and I just wanted to make sure that Mark wasn't disrupted while we gave it the proper exposure," Klumb said.

## **Spending time with family**

With his extra free time, Lohmann said he is looking forward to spending more time with his family, starting with the holiday season, and dusting off his golf clubs.

"The beauty of this deal is that the buyer closed in 10 days which is unbelievable in our industry," Klumb said. "That's a seller's dream."

*Ty Finke can be reached at [tfinke@cninow.com](mailto:tfinke@cninow.com) or (262) 446-6621.*