

SATURDAY, OCT. 13, 1934

Yesterday Judge Souter asked me if I would make a trip to Carson for him today. In 1913 the Reno people conceived the idea that if 6 months residence for divorce was good, 1 year would be better. The leading citizens signed a petition asking the Legislature to pass a 1 year law. Souter and Sumnerfield desire to know whether or not Richard Kerman or Graham Sanford signed it. I went into the basement of the Capitol Bldg. to look over the old records 21 years old. I found things in simply terrible shape. The old rubber bands have turned to powder - bundles of bills and papers have fallen apart, and are all mixed up in old cupboards and boxes of all sorts. I spent 4 hours there in that filthy hole - found a petition from Tonopah and two original bills on the subject, but not the petition from Reno. It might be there somewhere but I believe it has been removed - because I looked at every single piece of paper in the 1913 records. The Journal tells the story but does not contain the names of signers. The bill passed and became a law known as the Barnes Bill. For two years Reno was a dead town - no outside divorce business at all and when the next Legislature met, the first bill passed put the residence period back to 6 months. The Jews next door to me have moved out and in their place came two fairly decent looking fellows - I asked one of them if he would like to ride to Carson with me. Albert Ballagh of Buffalo, N.Y. As the miles slid by, I learned that he is here for a divorce and has no attorney as yet. What a break -

SATURDAY, OCT. 13, 1934 (contd)

When we parted on the return to Reno, he said he would have me handle his case. This evening I took in the Tavern and various places stag. The first part of the evening was spent at Lawton's Hot Spring at the Tri Delt Bowery Costume Ball. Man O man, did that crowd have fun.