

AVE
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SOON TO BE RAZED is Bartlett Home at 232 Court Street, gathering place in the "Roaring 20's" — and before and

after — of many of the nation's notables.

(Journal Photo)

Landmark Bartlett Home Scheduled to Be Razed

Another of Reno's rapidly vanishing landmark homes will feel the weight of the bulldozer this year.

Announcement was made this week of the sale of the Bartlett home at 232 Court St., just west of Hill Street.

The stately three-story dwelling, built in 1901, has been sold to four Reno attorneys by Miss Dorothy Bartlett and Margaret Bartlett Thornton. They are the daughters of the late Judge and Mrs. George A. Bartlett.

Buyers are Francis R. Breen, Cliff Young, Jerry Whitehead and David Hoy, all partners in the Reno law firm of Breen and Young.

A spokesman for the purchasers said they plan to build a general office building on the

site, "from two to four floors" and hope construction can get started by sometime this summer. Architect Hewitt Wells is now drawing plans for the building. Besides landscaping on the property, there will be parking in the back of the building and, possibly, under it.

The Bartlett home was the "haven" for many years, extending from before the 1920's through the 1940's, of noted socialites and figures in American letters, the theater, opera, and other pursuits.

Judge Bartlett, Nevada's congressman from 1907 through 1910, was later Washoe district

judge for more than 20 years. He died in 1951, Mrs. Bartlett preceding him in death by 12 years.

The home was built as a residence for the superintendent of the Western Pacific Railroad and eventually was bought by Judge and Mrs. Bartlett in 1915.

During the judge's long tenure on the bench, Reno became the divorce capital of the world and many noted figures came here to divorce their spouses. Their stay in Reno attracted other famous and near-famous people, come to visit their friends or relatives awaiting "the cure."

Judge Bartlett declared "open house" for the visitors, and for years, especially in the "Roaring 20's," many "names in the news" made the spacious Bartlett menage their "second home" in Reno.

Among those who partook of the Bartlett hospitality were Sherwood Anderson, Robert Sherwood, Peter Arno, Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr., Paul de Kruif, Tallulah Bankhead, Wallace Beery, Dudley Field Malone, 'Liz' Whitney, Catherine Ann Porter, Clare Booth Luce, Doris Duke, Lawrence Tibbett and Jack Dempsey.

Across the street at one time lived Helen Whitney of the famed and wealthy family, and her daughter, who became Whitney Bourne in motion pictures. That home is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gorman.

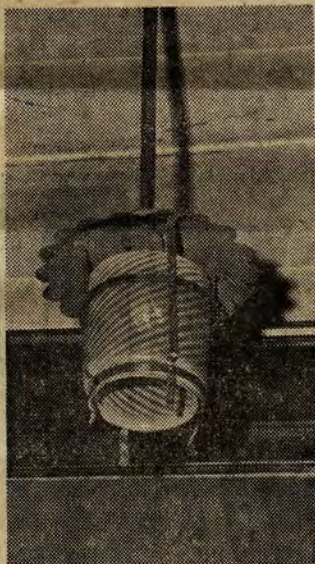
Living in the Bartlett home for many years besides the senior Bartletts were Mrs. Bartlett's mother, Lucy Gates, three Bartlett daughters, Dorothy, Margaret and Georgene, now Mrs. Cleveland Putnam, and son, Donald.

The exterior of the home ap-

pears essentially the same today as it did "back when," but it has had some interior remodeling over the years. One bit of "landscaping" long since vanished is a stall in the back yard, where the judge kept his horse "King" in order to saddle up quickly early in the morning for a ride into the foothills before going to the courthouse, just two and a half blocks down the street.

Judge Bartlett's numerous papers, stored in the basement of the home, were categorized over the last 15 years by Dorothy Bartlett. They were acquired for the University of Nevada, Reno, Library last year by Friends of the Library and action of the board of regents.

Most of the time in late years Miss Bartlett has been the sole occupant of the home. Recently taken ill she spent some time in the hospital, but is now recuperating in her apartment at Arlington Towers.



EDISON BULB in electric light fixture in main hall of Bartlett home has burned nightly, all night, every year for at least 53 years. It was in the home when it was purchased by Judge and Mrs. George Bartlett in 1915. They made a ritual, continued by their children, of switching on the light each evening at dark and off on arising. The bulb is slow to reach its full glow, but then lights up the hall well.



REMOVED FROM BARTLETT home was this ornate desk, once the property of Gov. John Sparks, Nevada's tenth governor (1903-1908.) It was presented to Judge Bartlett by a group of attorneys when the judge moved

his law practice from Tonopah to Reno in 1911, just after he had retired as Nevada's representative in Congress. Shown at desk is Mrs. James Herz, whose husband has acquired the historic piece of office furniture. (Journal Photo)