

# WOODFORD HOTEL TRADING STORE IS BURNED TO GROUND

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Fire shortly after 1:30 o'clock yesterday morning destroyed the historic hotel and store at Woodfords, situated on the west fork of the Carson river about thirty-five miles from Carson City. The loss is estimated to be between \$25,000 and \$300,000 with no insurance, and from Gardnerville today came word that it was unlikely the hotel would be rebuilt. A barn on the grounds also was destroyed, but another building, some distance from the burned structures and said to be the second oldest buildings in the Carson valley, was saved from the flames.

Sparks from a chimney of the hotel are believed to have started the fire, which spread from the building to the store across the road and then to the buildings. No fire apparatus was available, and a bucket brigade was the only method of fighting the fire, which was fanned by a high wind.

In this old structure Mrs. Mary Merrill, owner of the Woodford resort and store, will resume her business, she announced yesterday. Mrs. Merrill's dwelling, across the road from her store, was saved through the efforts of ranchers of the valley who drove to the scene when they saw the flames reaching into the sky.

Reynolds Brothers conducted the hotel, and they had been at Gardnerville Saturday night to a show. On their return they built a fire to have the place warm for guests who had made reservations. It is thought there was a defective flue or sparks caught the roof, for in a brief time the entire hotel was ablaze. There was not fire protective apparatus at the place, and it went up like tinder.

Elmer Bruns, one of the fighters, was burned slightly about the legs in fighting the flames.

Woodfords will continue to be a stopping place for motorists, and the store will be an accommodation to tourists, but it was said to be probable no new hotel would be built. This was the third hotel at the famous old location, all having been burned. The old buildings in which Mrs. Merrill will re-open her store is known as Carey Mills.

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