

CARNEGIE HOTEL BURNED DOWN THIS MORNING!

ALARM SOUNDED AT ONE-0'CLOCK

HOTEL TOTALLY DESTROYED

The Johnson City Comet, Sunday Morning, April 3, 1910

Hotel Carnegie is no more. This magnificent hotel erected during the boom days by General J. T. Wilder at a cost of \$150,000 is now in ashes.

About two years ago this building was put in order for the use of the C. C. & O force and some of the developers of the kindred corporations. During the last year it was vacated by the officials and for several months was occupied by several families as a sort of club, each pro rating the cost of maintenance.

It was finally decided by the owners of the building, the East Tennessee National Bank of Knoxville and other banks to convert the building into an apartment house and it was vacated for that purpose. Everybody had moved out except M. L. Fox and family who represented Trustee Fisher and they were preparing to vacate at once.

Shortly after midnight, Mr. Fox returned to the hotel from the residence of S. E. N. Moore and discovered pillars of smoke emanating from the basement. An alarm was turned in as a manner of precaution and he and others began to look for the fire. Mr. Fox in answer to a telephone query said there was some smoke in the basement but no fire had been discovered and no danger of a conflagration was feared.

Several alarms were turned in and the whole town was aroused. It seems the fire permeated the studding between the floors and its partitions and had such headway when it finally broke out the building was doomed. As the *Comet* goes to press at 3 o'clock, the ruddy glare of the flames can be read in the sky for miles.

It is impossible to save the building and no effort is being made to do so, **but the office building across the street occupied by the C. C. & O officials will be unharmed.**

A LANDMARK IS RAZED

This hotel was opened for business on September 27, 1891. In the *Daily Comet* of that date we find this statement in reference to the hotel:

"The auspicious beginning of this magnificent enterprise marks a new and important epoch in our history. It is a proud and enduing moment in far-seeing business genius and for the energy, the hopefulness, and the confidence and courage of capital which have transformed in a few brief years, a struggling unsightly village to a gem city, bristling with life and activity and full of incentives and inspirations for the future."

It was opened and operated for some months by R. W. Farr, of Philadelphia, now the popular manager of the Imperial Hotel of Knoxville.