

Charles Ford Co. buys Resetar hotel property

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Mid Week
2/13/69

The Charles Ford Co. will become the owner March 1 of the Resetar Hotel and Garage property from Main St. to Van Ness Ave., in what is believed the largest single Main St. property transaction in the city's history.

Agreement for the transfer was announced Wednesday by Mike Resetar of Resetar Bros. and George Menasco, president of the Charles Ford Co., the department store now in its 117th year.

Ford's now will own the major portion of the principal business block on Main St. This transaction will complete its ownership of all the Van Ness Ave. property between Wall St. and West Lake Ave., and most of the frontage on the west side of Van Ness.

And on Main St. Ford's will be the owner of a major portion of the commercial frontage. On that street, only the Woolworth, E. B. Lettunich, Anita Shop and Resetar Bros. buildings now separate the new addition to the Ford department store and the hotel.

The announcement did not reveal the purchase price, but other sources indicated it would be in the neighborhood of a half million dollars.

The property purchase also includes the Crowley and Traulsen automobile agency and garage, now operated by Tom Crowley.

Menasco also revealed that Charles Crouch will lease the hotel, restaurant and bar. Crouch already operates the Appleton Hotel here and the Palomar in Santa Cruz. He will continue to operate the Resetar Hotel under present policies and no change in personnel is anticipated.

The sale to the Charles Ford Co. is being made by Mike

and Louis Resetar, brothers, and Mitchell Resetar Jr., son of the late Mitchell Resetar Sr., third of the Resetar brothers who originally built the hotel in 1927.

The purchase, Menasco said, is being made "because we want to help develop Watson-

3 caught in act of stealing beef

Three Salinas men, who apparently had had visions of living high on the hog (only this time it was beef) were arrested Sunday night and held for investigation of trying to steal meat from Watsonville Dressed Beef on Beach Road.

Police officer Joe Flores, patrolling the west side of the city, near Watsonville Canning Co., investigated when he saw a light flashing in the Watsonville Dressed Beef building.

He said he found two men loading three hindquarters of beef into a station wagon and placed them under arrested.

They were Corbit R. Burks, 44, and Weldon F. Jenkins, 24, both of the same address in Salinas.

A third man, he said, ran, fleeing into a nearby field and continuing his flight even after Flores fired a warning shot in the area.

Other officers in the meantime had arrived on the scene and Officer Gary Aderson rounded up Howard Dale Snow, 34, the third Salinas man, on Harrington Road.

All three were turned over to sheriff's deputies, since the meat company is outside the city limits.

ville." Future plans are indefinite, he said, but he indicated that the development of Watsonville favored is that included in a sketch plan which has been prepared by planning consultants. It envisions an eventual mall type of development.

Mike Resetar said that he was happy that the sale is being made to a local concern. "I think it's a great thing for the city of Watsonville," he said. At the same time he expressed a feeling of sadness in the sale of the property, particularly the hotel, which when it was erected was the finest in any city of comparable size in the state.

Besides the building on the west side of Main street occupied by Olander's and Jansen's, the Resetar Bros. still own the property at the southeast corner of Main St. and East Lake Ave. occupied by Rasco's. At one time three of the corner properties at that intersection were owned by the Resetars.

Resetar, in company with a friend, John Ucovich, former operator of the Del Monte Cafe, will leave June 9 for a three-month trip to Yugoslavia.

Aptos resident surprises youths burglarizing home

Paul Austin returned to his house at 623 Club-House Drive, Aptos shortly after 11 a.m. Tuesday and surprised two young burglars.

Austin called Santa Cruz County sheriff's deputies who, with Austin's help, rounded up four boys, ages 13 to 17. Officers said two of the boys were in a car nearby, apparently waiting for their friends, who had forced entry into the residence.

Department Stores