

FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

Who Take All Kinds of Chances

A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES.

SENIOR DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN O. TABER.

"You know Tom Giblin of East Boston, of course—Representative Thomas J. Giblin he is now—and you know he weighs about 250 pounds. Well, at the Globe Theatre fire back in the 90's I carried Tom unconscious from the roof of the theatre down over a ladder. Tom was a member of the department and

at a large lumber wharf fire when two or three of us were working with a line in a small boat under the wharf. We failed to note that the tide was rising until we noticed that we could not get the boat out because it hit the beams under the wharf.

"For a moment it looked as if we might be caught like rats in a trap. Then the expedient of partly sinking the boat occurred to us; so we pulled the plug and let in enough water to submerge the craft sufficiently to let it clear the timbers and we pushed it out. The late Chief Mullen was one of that boat's crew, if I remember rightly.

"I have had no more—no less—hair-breadth escapes than the average member of the department of long service, generally speaking. We don't realize until it is all over and we are back in quarters the dangers of many of the situations we are in.

"It's like driving an automobile and a sudden skid and just grazing a pole or obstruction—it's all over before you realize what might have happened and that's all a narrow escape is, a realization of what might have happened.

"The men in the department are all there with a heart and each one only needs his opportunity to become a hero. Some are naturally daredevils and take all kinds of chances and get away with them, too. The late Chief Egan was one of the daredevils."



JOHN O. TABER,
Senior Deputy Chief.

he had been stunned by being hit by a flying timber following an explosion. (But it takes all the romance out of my story when I tell you that the now portly Tom weighed then only 155 pounds).

"Perhaps the most ridiculous experience I have had in the department was

Senior Deputy Chief Taber has been in the Boston Fire Department since Jan 6, 1888. His training for the department was the proper sort, he says. He shipped as a cabin boy, sailing from New York to Galveston, when he was 13. Later he entered the Navy, rising to rank of chief gunner's mate. Between the Navy experience and the time of entering the department he drove an express team.