

FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

Who Take All Kinds of Chances

A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES

CAPT FRED F. LEARY LADDER 3

"What I consider as my most thrilling experience since entering the Fire Department happened at the general alarm fire from box 52 on March 10, 1893, while acting as a substitute on Engine 6.

"On arriving at the fire, which at that time had attained marvelous proportions, my company was ordered to the roof of French's distillery, which was then on Essex st. For a position we climbed to one of the large vats used for catching rainwater, and into this I slipped. It was the greenest and thickest rainwater I had ever seen and about seven feet deep.

"Although a good swimmer I struck the bottom of that vat twice, and on reaching the surface my protruding shiny hand was grasped by Capt William E. Riley of Engine 4, who was then a hoseman in my company, and had it not been for his timely assistance my career as a fireman would have been short-lived.

"One disagreeable feature of this experience was that I was not permitted



CAPT FRED F. LEARY.

to go to quarters and change those wet clothes until the following morning."

Capt Leary was appointed Feb 15, 1893, and assigned to Engine 6; promoted to lieutenant in June, 1908, and assigned to Engine 41; transferred to Engines 26-35 Dec 25, 1908; promoted to captain Jan 31, 1914, and assigned to Ladder 3.