

FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

Who Take All Kinds of Chances

A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES.

CAPT M. J. LAWLER ENGINE 33

"In the 27 years that I have been connected with the Boston Fire Department I think the most gruesome sight I was ever called to look upon was at a fire on North st a few years ago, when 13 bodies were removed from the burned building.

"I responded to the alarm, being a member of Ladder 1 at the time, and when we arrived at the fire we found the building a mass of flames. After fighting the fire from the outside some time, we ran our ladders up in the front and rear of the building and finally entered, when a sight met my eyes that I shall never forget. There lay 13 dead bodies.

"Another fire that gave me a thrill was when I was lieutenant on Engine 6. I responded to an alarm for a fire in a building on Fleet st, near Garden Court st. The building was doomed when we arrived, and the smoke was coming out in volumes; people were hanging from windows on all sides.

"I went up the ladder and saw a woman inside. I broke the window, went in and passed the woman out to others on the ladder, who took her to the street. At this fire 11 people lost their lives.

"At the Merrimack-st fire I had a very narrow escape when the roof and floor went down with a crash and left me standing on a part of the top floor that remained. Just a few moments before I had vacated that part of the floor



CAPT M. J. LAWLER.

which went down with a crash and killed several firemen.

"At a fire in a private residence on Commonwealth av. when we arrived, we found the whole inside a blaze. I entered on the first floor. The flooring had been burned so badly that I had taken only a few steps inside when the floor gave way and I was thrown violently to the cellar below, striking on my head, rendering me unconscious. I was rescued by members of Truck Company 13 none too soon, as a piano crashed through the floor, striking the spot where I had fallen."

Capt. M. J. Lawler joined the department June 21, 1889, was appointed lieutenant July 19, 1895, and captain June 10, 1903.