

OLD IN SERVICE.

District Chief Grady is
 One of the Best.

Bravery as a Fireman Tested Many
 Times and Not Wanting.

Has Won His Rank by Merit in
 33 Years of Work.

Young in appearance, but old in the service, is District Chief John Grady of the Boston fire department. He has now served faithfully and continuously 33 years. During his long term of service he has made hosts of friends, who unite in wishing him continued health and strength that he may be able to serve many more years. Throughout the department he is respected by both superiors and subordinates.

John O. Tabor, he cut away a portion of the front of the building with an axe and secured the chest of powder, thereby averting an explosion. He was warmly commended for his action.

When the fire department drill school was created in 1889 the commissioners selected Grady to act as drillmaster. To him the position was a hobby and he filled it with marked success for over five years, when he was bound to relinquish it in order to accept promotion to the grade of district chief. While under his charge the school gained world-wide prominence, and the cadets he turned out are today proving to be most reliable fire fighters.

He has always taken a great interest in the working of the department, and is a fluent talker on the subject of fire-fighting. He has delivered several addresses on the subject. These addresses are not forgotten, either. On Feb. 21, 1898, shortly after the disastrous Merrimac-st fire, which brought sorrow to a number of homes, he delivered an address before the Y. M. C. A. of Charlestown, and his dramatic recital of the dangers and risks of a fireman's life were a revelation to his auditors.

The chief has suffered a number of painful accidents which he is not likely to forget. One injury which nearly cost him his life he sustained at a fire on Chelsea st, East Boston, in February, 1883. At the time he was at work on a ladder which gave way and he fell with the ladder. An ugly scar under his right eye is a constant reminder of the event. At a fire on Dover st, April 30, 1899, he received numerous painful cuts and bruises.

District Chief John Grady was born in Boston, July 12, 1851. After leaving the public schools he acquired the mason's trade and followed it with success for several years. His first experience as a fireman was during 1869 when he enlisted with ladder company 1, which was then drawn by men, not horses. He remained a volunteer member of the ladder company until May 2, 1874 the day the department was reorganized, when he was appointed permanent driver of the company. He continued to serve the company faithfully for nine years, when his good service won recognition and he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

He was not long in showing his ability as an officer and as a further reward for his efficiency he was promoted to the grade of captain in 1881, and transferred to ladder company 3, Harrison av. He remained in charge of the Harrison av ladder company until the spring of 1894.

In May of that year the South End baseball grounds and much surrounding property was destroyed by fire, and the city officials and insurance people were not at all pleased. It was thought that the department, if redistricted, would be greatly benefited, and so it was.

Up to that time the department was divided into 10 districts, but the commissioners created two new districts by taking portions from the districts of the other chiefs. At that time Grady had clearly shown both the commissioners and the citizens his ability as a fire fighter, and they honored his long and faithful service with a promotion to the rank of district chief, and he was assigned to the new 8th district, with headquarters in the house of ladder company 12 T. Emory st, Roxbury. He commanded the district with credit up to July, 1901, when he was transferred to the 7th district to succeed Keyes.

Since then he has remained in command of the district, and makes his headquarters at the beautiful new house of engine company 22, Warren av. At the time of his transfer from district 8 to 7 he was presented with a beautiful chair by his comrades in the 8th district.



PHOTO BY
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DISTRICT CHIEF JOHN GRADY.

The chief is rather modest, and says but little of the brave acts he has performed. However, there are some people who do not forget a little incident which occurred the morning of Dec 21, 1898. A fire had broken out in the building 1783-1789 Washington st. In the basement of the building powder was stored. Chief Grady knew of that, and, with the assistance of Lieut. now Capt.