

# McCARTHY HAS CHANCE FOR LIFE

Companions Killed in  
West End Fire.

Firemen Buried Under Timbers  
at 349-357 Cambridge St.

Origin of Fatal Blaze Will  
Be Investigated.

Christmas this year will be a sad one in the Boston Fire Department because of the untimely death early yesterday morning of hosemen Charles Willett and Dennis A. Walsh and the serious injury of hoseman William J. McCarthy, all of Engine 10, West End, who were crushed beneath the falling roof and three floors while working at a fire in the six-story brick building at 349-357 Cambridge st. West End

Although the name of McCarthy is on the dangerous list at the Haymarket-sq Relief Hospital it was said there last night that there is a chance of his recovery. He is suffering from a crushed body and from shock.

Capt Cornelius J. O'Brien, and hoseman Edward F. McCarthy, also of Engine 10, received injuries, but after medical attendance at the scene of the fire they returned to duty. William J. Connell, chauffeur of Aerial Truck 8, fell from the truck to the street and

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received a severe scalp wound and a slight concussion of the brain. After treatment at the Relief Hospital he went to his home at 79 Moseley st, Dorchester.

The fire is regarded as most suspicious by Chief Peter F. McDonough. Officers of the State Police and the Boston Police Department are investigating its cause.

## Property Loss \$25,000.

The fire broke out shortly after 3 o'clock and three alarms were sounded. It completely gutted the building and the money damage is estimated at \$25,000.

The building was the scene of a serious fire on Nov 24, last year, following which changes were ordered by Building Commissioner O'Hearn, and it is within a short distance of a block in which four persons lost their lives a few years ago. Many recommendations for changes in the building were made recently by Acting Dist Chief Hines, including a sprinkler system and more fire escapes, but none of the changes had been made by the owner of the building. The owner is Neil McNeil, a Dorchester builder and a member of the State House Commission.

The building was occupied by the Glenbrook Wine Company on the first floor, and on the upper floors by the Paragon Paint Company, Massachusetts Thread Works, National Rubber Clothing Company and the Boston Metal Company. All these suffered heavy damages except the Glenbrook Wine Company, whose premises were untouched by fire but were damaged by water.

At the time of the fatalities Chief McDonough was just about to order all the firemen from the building because of its reported dangerous condition. The fire was practically out at the time. Under the leadership of Capt O'Brien the members of Engine 10 were at work on the third floor when they heard a queer creaking sound above them. Capt O'Brien, who has been a firefighter for 25 years, realized the sound meant danger. He shouted to his men to get out.

## Make Dash for Safety.

Capt O'Brien, with hosemen George P. Smith, George F. Dovie, Edward F. McCarthy and John V. Ney, ran toward the front of the building, while Walsh, Willett and William J. McCarthy started for windows at the rear of the building. Before the three last named could reach safety, however, the falling mass of roof and floors crashed down on them and carried them through with it to the second floor.

Finding that the three men were not with him when he got out Capt O'Brien rushed back to where the collapse occurred and shouted for the men, but did not get an answer. He reported to Chief McDonough and other men immediately rushed into the building. Headed by the crews of Aerial Trucks 8 and 17 the rescuers went to work, but it was fully two hours before the three men were reached under the ruins.

Several doctors arrived with pulmotors treated the men even before they were extricated and Rev Dennis Lynch of Concord administered the last rites of the Catholic Church to the men.

McCarthy was the first reached. He was conscious and displayed utmost heroism and he directed his brother firemen to rescue his comrades "Dennie" and "Charlie" ahead of him. McCarthy was taken to the Relief Hospital, conscious and suffering intense agony, and Willett was rushed in another ambulance to the Massachusetts General Hospital. He was declared dead on reaching there.

It was not until an hour later, at 7:20, that the body of Walsh was taken from the ruins and doctors stated that he had then been dead some time.

Willett was on house patrol when the alarm from box 1356 sounded in the house of Engine 10. It had been rung in by patrolman O'Hara of the Joy-st station in front of the Evans House, at the corner of Cambridge and Charles sts and adjoining the burned building. On another side of the burned building are two-story frame buildings, the one nearest the burned building being conducted as a lodging house and 13 lodgers rushed from it, scantily clad, when the fire began to rage.

On reaching the fire members of the department had fears for the Evans House, but the guests themselves did not pay much heed to the fire. A F. Griffin, one of the guests, reported that he had seen the fire from the Evans House. About the time he decided to run down stairs, he said, to pull the alarm he saw a dark-bearded man leave the building that was afire. Griffin was questioned by the police, who later told Chief McDonough that the man was "joshing." Griffin's story, however, as well as that of Lieut Thomas J. Hines of Ladder 24, the first company to reach the fire, that when he entered the building the fire showed on the fifth floor and within the next minute he saw flames two stories beneath him, are being investigated by the city and State Police.

A general order will be issued today officially announcing the death of the two firemen in the Fire Department. The Christmas tree celebration of the Box 53 Association, planned to be held

last night, was canceled as a mark of respect to the dead firemen.

## Widows Will Receive \$3000 Each.

Hosemen Walsh and Willett, as well as McCarthy, each have three children and the two first named leave wives. The families of the dead men will each receive a death benefit of \$2000 from the Firemen's Mutual Relief Association, of which the men were members, the widows will each receive \$1000 from the fund set aside by the Commonwealth for disbursement under the direction of the trustees of the Massachusetts State Firemen's Association, each widow will also receive a pension of \$300 a year from the city of Boston, and they will each receive \$100 from the so-called "Ball Fund" of the Boston firemen. The families also will receive weekly payments from the Charitable Association of the Fire Department and each child of their families under 16 will be paid a weekly sum, through the mother as guardian.

A special fund for the widows and children of fireman Walsh and Willett was started yesterday by Dr John Dixwell of West Cedar st. Dr Dixwell, who knows many of the West End firemen well and who was very friendly with Walsh and Willett, walked into the house of Engine 10 yesterday afternoon and as a basis for a fund, to which he said he hoped others would contribute, he left a \$10 bill.

## Both Experienced Firemen.

Hoseman Dennis A. Walsh of Engine Company 10 was born in Ireland about 32 years ago, the son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Walsh, now of East Boston. Dennis came to this country while a child and attended the East Boston schools.

He was appointed a member of the Fire Department Sept 3, 1909, and assigned to Engine 10, Mt Vernon st, West End, where he remained on duty for more than two years. He was then transferred to Engine Company 11 in East Boston, and from there he was transferred back to the Mt Vernon-st Engine House about two years ago.

About eight years ago he was married to Miss Mary Reynolds of Charlestown. They lived in East Boston, at 447 Franklin st, for a few years, and last June they removed to 109 Regent st, Roxbury. Mr Walsh leaves a wife and three small children: Mary, aged 6; Beatrice, aged 4, and Dorothy, aged 2. He also is survived by his parents and four sisters, Mrs John Felcter and Mrs John Simpson, both of East Boston; Mrs James P. Curran of Roxbury and Miss Helen Walsh, who makes her home with her parents.

The funeral of hoseman Walsh will take place on Friday morning at 9:15, followed by a solemn high mass of requiem at St Joseph's Church, on Circuit st, at 10 o'clock. He will be accorded a fireman's funeral and a large escort of men will be selected tomorrow by Deputy Chief Daniel Sennott.

Hoseman Charles C. Willett had been in the Fire Department since May 3, 1901. For years he was located in South Boston, later was attached to Chemical 5, and last August was transferred to Engine 10.

Willett leaves a wife and three children, May Willett, aged 10; Florence, aged 7, and Charles Jr, aged 6. Mr Willett's mother is Mrs Helen Mackey, who lives at 450 Cambridge st, Allston, near the home of her son. Miss Florence Willett, sister of fireman Willett, is a vaudeville actress.

Hoseman William J. McCarthy, who was seriously injured, is the son of Mr and Mrs John T. McCarthy of South Boston. His home is at 389 East 4th st, South Boston.