

THREE FIREMAN ARE HONORED AT BALL

Medals for Valor Given Ladderman Leary and Lieut Condon—Roll of Merit for Lieut Bowers



LIEUT CARL S. BOWERS,
 Aid to Chief; Roll of Merit Man.



LIEUT DENNIS M. CONDON,
 Engine 5, Awarded Walter Scott Medal for
 Valor.

Despite the odd trick of fate by which several fires broke out simultaneously in the city proper while a conflagration in Chelsea became so alarming that aid was summoned from Boston—on the night of the annual "Firemen's Ball"—the 44th annual dance of the Boston Fire and Protective Departments, held in Mechanic's Building last night with an attendance of more than 20,000 persons, proved an even greater success than usual.

der, and then leaned over the spar of the ladder in the direction of the balcony fire escape.
 "He reached down and received from the arms of the three assisting members who were on the balcony a child 3 months old, and brought her safely to the roof. Ladderman Leary repeated this act three times until he had effected the rescue of Mrs Mary Marotta, Louisa Marotta, Mary Ristagno and Joseph Ristagno.
 "Due to his exertion at this time, Ladderman Leary was rendered sick and weak for a number of hours."



JOHN J. LEARY,
 Ladder 1, Awarded John E. Fitzgerald Medal
 for Valor.

Lieut Condon's Bravery

The Walter Scott Medal for Valor was awarded to Lieut Dennis M. Condon of Engine Company 5, because, on July 30 last, during a fire at 81 Prince st, he rescued, an occupant of the fourth floor, who, unable to withstand the fire and smoke within, let himself out of the window, grasped the ledge and waited in that dangerous position until assistance arrived.
 Grasping the situation at once, the commanding officer of Ladder 1 ordered a ladder raised to the fourth story of the house, and assigned Lieut Dennis M. Condon, who was at that time Ladderman Condon of Ladder Company No. 1, to ascend the ladder and remove the man. Anthony Capo, from his hazardous position, for the man was growing weaker and weaker each minute.
 In his ascent Ladderman Condon realized the seriousness of the situation, and just as he reached the fourth story, Mr Capo, his strength now at low ebb, lost his hold and fell into the arms of Ladderman Condon, who caught him and carried him safely to the street.
 Mr Capo weighed about 200 pounds, and a move wrongly made would have resulted in death for both.

The excellent orchestral concert rendered in Exhibition Hall from 8 until 9 p m was followed by a snappy drill, after which the grand march, led by Lieut F. J. Dobratz, floor marshal of the dance, formally opened the real festivities.

Tremendous interest was felt in the awarding of the "John E. Fitzgerald medal," given for the most meritorious act performed during the past year by any member of the Boston Fire Department, and of the "Walter Scott medal for valor," which ranks a close second to the Fitzgerald medal.

The "John E. Fitzgerald medal" went to Ladderman John J. Leary of Ladder Company 1 for the following reason:

Ladderman Leary's Heroic Act

"At 8:02 p m, June 8, 1922, an alarm was sounded from box 1213 for a fire in five-story building at 440 Hanover st, and to which fire, among other companies, Ladder Company 1 responded. Upon their arrival they found the building choked with gas and smoke. A 75-foot ladder was raised by this company to the roof, and Ladderman Leary was assigned to ascend in order to afford proper ventilation.

"After performing this duty he began his descent, but upon reaching the fifth-floor balcony fire escape he found a woman and three children trapped thereon, there being no possible avenue of escape, due to the fact that there were no stairs leading to the floors below.

"Ladderman Leary then swung from the side of the ladder to the balcony fire-escape in the hope of assisting these persons to the roof from within, but this was a hopeless task, due to the density of the smoke. In the meantime, however, a 50-foot ladder was raised to this balcony, over which ladder three members of the department ascended.

"Ladderman Leary mounted the railing of the balcony, leaned and caught on to the ladder, climbed to a firm position, secured his leg over rung of lad-

The distinction of the "roll of merit" was conferred upon Lieut Carl S. Bowers, aid to Chief of Department, for his action during the ceremonies of the Drum-Head Election of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts on the Common on June 5 last, when six horses attached to a gun lumber took fright at the report of the gun salute and dashed down the Charles-st Mall and across Boylston st.

The Chief of the Department's car, with Lieut Bowers driving, was proceeding east on Boylston st, near Park sq, and the Chief, sensing the danger to the pedestrians, ordered the car stopped, whereupon Lieut Bowers jumped from the car, swung to the bridle of the front "off" horse, and clung to it until the frightened animals were guided across Boylston st and were brought to a standstill.

The timely act of Lieut Bowers saved the lives of many people and also prevented serious injury to many, aside from preventing the destruction of many motor vehicles.

Assisting Lieut Dobratz as floor marshal at the ball were Capt S. A. McDonnell and J. J. Higgins, while Lieut G. J. Baumeister served as chief of aids, the large group of which important functionaries was headed by Capt G. H. Hutchings.

Fire Commissioner T. A. Glynn headed the reception committee, the other members of which were Chief of Department J. O. Taber, H. E. Thompson, superintendent of the protective department; Dist Chief C. A. Donohoe, Capt L. C. Stickle, J. J. Gallagher, D. J. Cadigan, J. F. Good, Lieut J. W. Shea, D. J. Looney, S. L. King, H. J. McNealy and J. J. Regan.

Lieut Dobratz, the floor marshal, headed the general committee in charge of the ball.