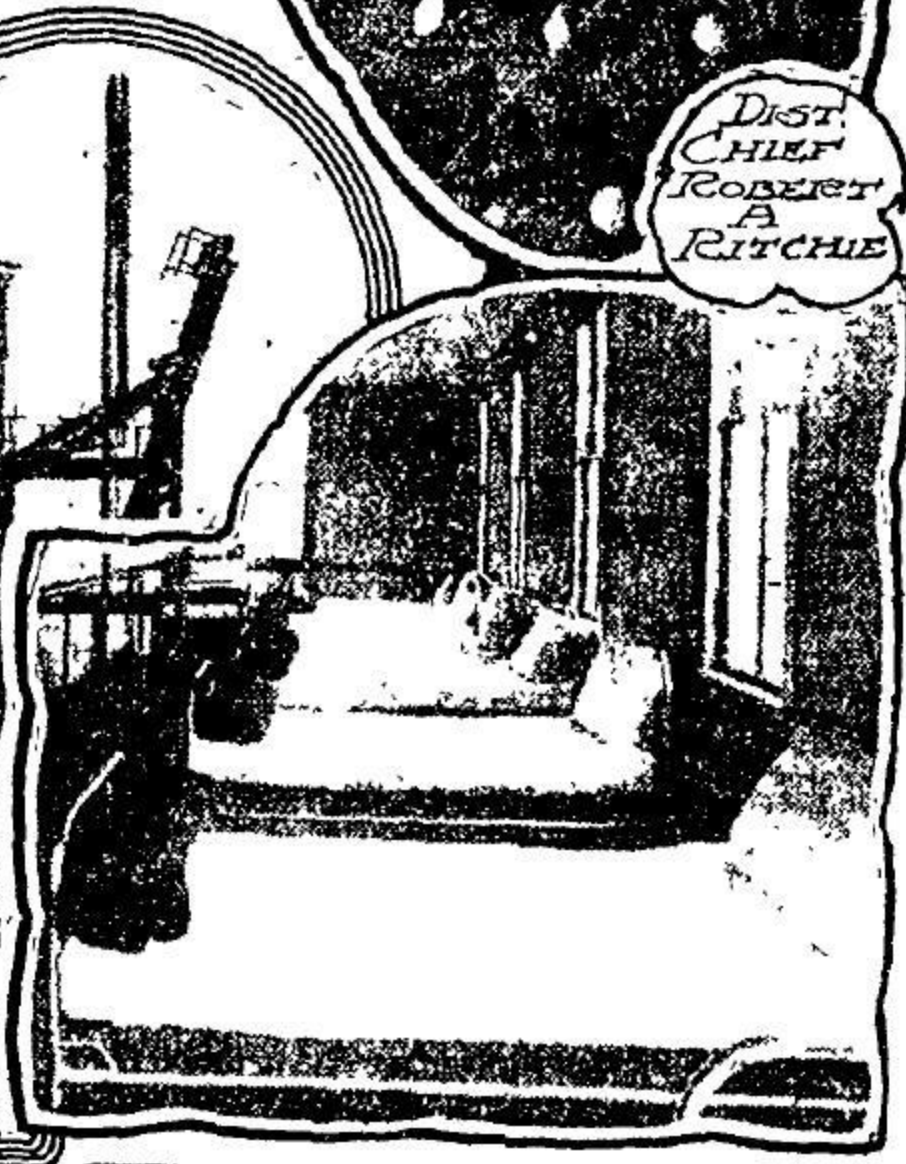


NEW QUARTERS FOR MARINE FIRE FIGHTERS.

SMOKING
ROOM AND
PATROL DECKDIST.
CHIEF
ROBERT
A.
RITCHIEBERTH of FIREBOAT 47 at
EAST BOSTON.PORTION of the DORMITORY
of BERTH of NEW FIREBOAT.

The new and handsome quarters of fireboat 47, which are also the headquarters for Dist Chief Robert A. Ritchie, the leader of the recently established marine district of the fire department, have been opened.

The property on which the quarters of the new fire boat have been erected were formerly used by the ferry department. The structure stands three stories high and is built of wood. It faces out onto the pier, and the officers and crew of company 4, now on board the boat easily and quickly after leaving their station. Located on the first floor is the smoking quarters, in which may be found the patrol desk, gongs, running cards and various other paraphernalia common in every fire station. There are two company journals kept at engine 47, one by the man on patrol inside the quarters, and another by a member of the crew, who remains on the boat.

Doing patrol duty at engine 47 is much more pleasant than performing such duty in one of the land companies because the man doing patrol duty at 47 is located close to his fellow men and has plenty of company, while on the land companies, according to the rules, the patrolmen must remain by himself on the main floor of the station, being prevented from entertaining any company while he is on patrol and being obliged to keep the floor clear and converse only on department business. This rule is often lived up to.

There are many other reasons why a man performing patrol duty at company 47 does not find his position tiresome. There is plenty of talent scattered among the crew of 16 men, piano

players, songsters and monologue artists being numerous, and when the company installs its piano and is provided by the department with a pool table, performing service at the company will be even more pleasant. Then, in hoseman Harvey J. Hooper, the company has an entertainer, who is described as a star. His act is based on mental telepathy, and he has given some startling demonstrations in the smoking rooms, which has set his associates talking.

The third floor is the location of the large and dry dormitory with bunks for 14 men, while in an adjoining room are the spacious, ventilated lockers. Showers baths are to be built, also a room for drying clothes after fires. All these who do not care for the shower baths may take a dip in the salt water at the edge of the wharf.

Above that is the roof, where the expert gardeners of the department will in the springtime demonstrate, they say, how tastefully they can adorn the roof of the premises. There is a door leading from the roof of the garden to a hose tower, which has been erected alongside of the structure.

The securing of a crew for a fireboat is not an easy task, and today several of the men in this marine district are but provisionally appointed, and will not be full fledged members of the force until they pass civil service examinations. They were appointed provisionally because there did not happen to be any eligibles on the civil service lists who were qualified as either pilots or marine engineers.

The other part of the first floor is used as a heating room, while on the second floor are the quarters of the

officers, District Chief Ritchie, Lieut. Charles S. Moran, first-grade engineer Stephen E. O'Brien, while there is a spare room awaiting the coming of another lieutenant, whom Commissioner Parker will later name.

Located at the edge of the pier of the boat quarters is an ordinary fire department lamp post. This post is lighted by electricity, being operated from a switch in the smoking quarter. At night it acts as a beacon and is used by the skipper of the boat as a guiding post in backing the craft into its berth and indicates to those in the harbor who may be in distress just where they may find friends.

There are two sliding poles, and from any part of the house the crew of company 47 can readily reach the boat in case of fire.

Serving under District Chief Ritchie at company 47 are Lieut. Charles A. Moran, first grade engineer Stephen E. O'Brien, engineers Daniel J. Gibbons, Harvey J. Hooper, Joseph F. Murphy and Stephen McGinley, pilots Robert A. Nugent, William S. Slaupwhite and S. D. L. Boudreau; hosemen John E. Walsh, Thomas F. Flynn Jr., Frederick L. Carroll, William J. Marshall, James J. Callahan and Thomas M. Dugan.

Across the harbor, on fireboat 44, serving under Capt. Eaton, are pilots Herbert E. Smith, Frank A. Nugent, Theodore H. Bicknell, John W. Huskins, first grade engineer Sylvester J. Wynter, engineers Henry J. Marsh, John W. Smith and Maurice A. Dally, hosemen Frank G. Avery, James F. Murphy, George F. Moore, Thomas R. O'Brien, William F. Brown, James J. Walsh and Thomas R. Collins.