All Work and No Play For Sixty Dollars a Month

THE average Salt Lake citizen thinks the man who lands a job on the city fire department has, in the vernacular of the street, "a snap." Oftimes the remark has been made:

"The firemen certainly have an easy time of it. They get good pay and don't have a thing to do except to go to a fire two or three times a month."

The idea is a mistaken one. Besides the mere duty of saving lives and property and incidentally risking his own life, the fire laddie is a very busy individual. Except for a couple of hours each day and a day off each week, he is on duty every second, day and night. And being on duty means more than simply hanging about the station house waiting for the gong to strike.

The fireman sleeps with both ears and one eye open. At any second of the day or night the startling clang of the gong, the rushing of many feet, the stamping of impatient though trained horses and the whirr of wheels may send him to a burning building where many precious lives and thousands of dollars of property are in jeopardy. Mentally and physically he must be in condition to meet any emergency. He must be strong of limb and lungs, keen of eye, confident and fearless, ready and willing to brave smoke and flames for the protection of the citizen who pays him.

WHAT HE HAS TO LEARN.

Every fireman has to learn all this. No matter how brave and active a new recruit is, he has to learn step by step and the man who thinks he can perform the duties of a fireman without being drilled, and drilled and drilled, and tries the same, is not only badly mistaken but is usually unfit for any kind of work in the future.

The work of "breaking in" a new man is a hard task for all concerned. The recruit receives his appointment and reports to headquarters for duty. He is immediately assigned a cot in the dormitory, supplied with his "hurry up" outfit and then shown over the department. He is taught the various signals and is shown how to board the hose wagon, truck, steamer or chemical or to whatever apparatus he is assigned. Discipline is the first thing instilled into his mind. He must be alert and sober. Go where ordered and do as he is told.

HIS INITIATION.

The first night in the department is always a strenuous one for the new man. All day long he is drilled in hitching, climbing on to most moving wagons, making plug connections with the hose from a wagon going at the rate of 25 miles an hour, sliding down the pole and doing a hundred and one things. Night comes, the horses are cared for and Mr. New Fireman is a pretty tired individual. He needs no urging to seek his narrow cot. But the poor fellow is not permitted to sleep. Once wrapped in sound slumber and the fun begins. The old timers who have gone through it all, get even on the new recruit. The new man is usually given a cot at the extreme end of the dormitory. When all is quiet a fireman wearing a devilish grin and carrying a long coil of rope stealthily approaches the sleeper's cot. One end of the rope is securely tide to a leg of the cot and the rop is trailed out of the front window, down to the sidewalk and half way across the street. At a signal the big gong booms and there are yells of "Fire!" Startled out of a sound sleep, and with visions of a burning building, heroic conduct and quick promotion, the new man makes an attempt to jump into his hurry ups. But he has not even get a good start when his cot describes a semi-circle and starts madly for the other end of the dormitory, headed straight for the window. The poor fellow is too dazed to think and begins to shriek, "Whoa!" He thinks the hose wagon is running away. This is his initiation.

REAL WORK STARTS.

Then the real work starts. After learning to make the plug connections he is given a few days with ladders of from 15 to 35 feet in length. He is taught to raise any one of these ladders up the side of a building and is instructed how to climb them. Climbing a ladder properly looks easy enough but "barked" shins and bruised knees testify eloquently to the contrary. The new man is taught to climb a ladder as though he were going up stairs. His next step is in learning how to hold a life net. If he don't hold it right he may get an arm or two jerked out of place to say nothing of a "kinked" neck.

TRUCK DRILL.

Then comes the truck drill. Each and every part of the big complicated machine is explained in detail and the recruit is given a chance to show how much he remembers. The 85-foot extension is run up and the firemen-to-be is told to climb to the dizzy height. He is taught how to carry a couple of lengths of hose to the fourth or fifth story. The average man grabs the hose, throws the nozzle in front of him and starts to climb. As a rule he gets about a half a story high when something happens. The "something" is generally a tangle of legs, nozzle and hose and the climber either quits cold or drops the hose. The proper way to carry the hose is to take it in front and throw the nozzle over the shoulder so that it hangs down the back. The hose is thus diagonally across the chest. If carried this way it does not interfere with the movement of the limbs.

DANGEROUS POMPEIR WORK.

Next comes pompier work. It is dangerous and a great deal of care is exercised in giving the first lessons. Scaling ladders are brought into use and the new man is given a couple of them and told to climb to the top of an eight story building. The arm or hook, is crashed through a window and the fireman climbs the ladder, taking the other one with him. The second ladder is fastened to the sill of the window above and up goes the fireman and so on until the roof is reached. It may be necessary then to fasten a rope to the roof so that equipment may be drawn up or the inmates of a burning building be carried down to a place of safety. This rope is called the life net. The fireman is supplied with what is called a Pompier belt and with the belt are hooks, spikes, wire cutters and many other implements needed in the fire-fighting business.

WHERE THE ROPE COMES IN.

If the rescue finds man, woman or child in the burning building and all other means of escape are cut off, he fastens the person to his belt, takes three or four hitches on the rope in the hook attached to the belt, and slides to the ground in safety. The experienced fireman can drop rapidly or slowly as he chooses and there is little danger of any one being injured.

FOR THIS HE GETS $60 PER.

The new fireman has been at this sort of work for about three months. His salary during that time is $60 per month. After the third month he receives $5 more and so on each three months until he is a full-fledged fireman at $85 per month.

The citizen who imagines that the fire fighters have nothing to do except when fighting flames, should pay a visit to any one of the five stations now in operation in Salt Lake. Bright and early every morning, rain or shine, the horses are exercised. Then they are thoroughly groomed and fed. Then comes practise hitch and the apparatus has to be thoroughly cleaned and tested and if any repairs are needed they must be attended to at once. The building has to be in apple pie order, the dormitory mopped and the beds made. Shortly before noon comes another hitch and again at 7 in the evening. Hose has to be tested and dried. Engines are looked after and chemical tanks tested and charged if necessary. All this means a great deal of work. Then come special drills and runs. A call is likely to be turned in at any time and the men are constantly on duty so that Salt Lake's firemen do not have such a "soft snap" after all.

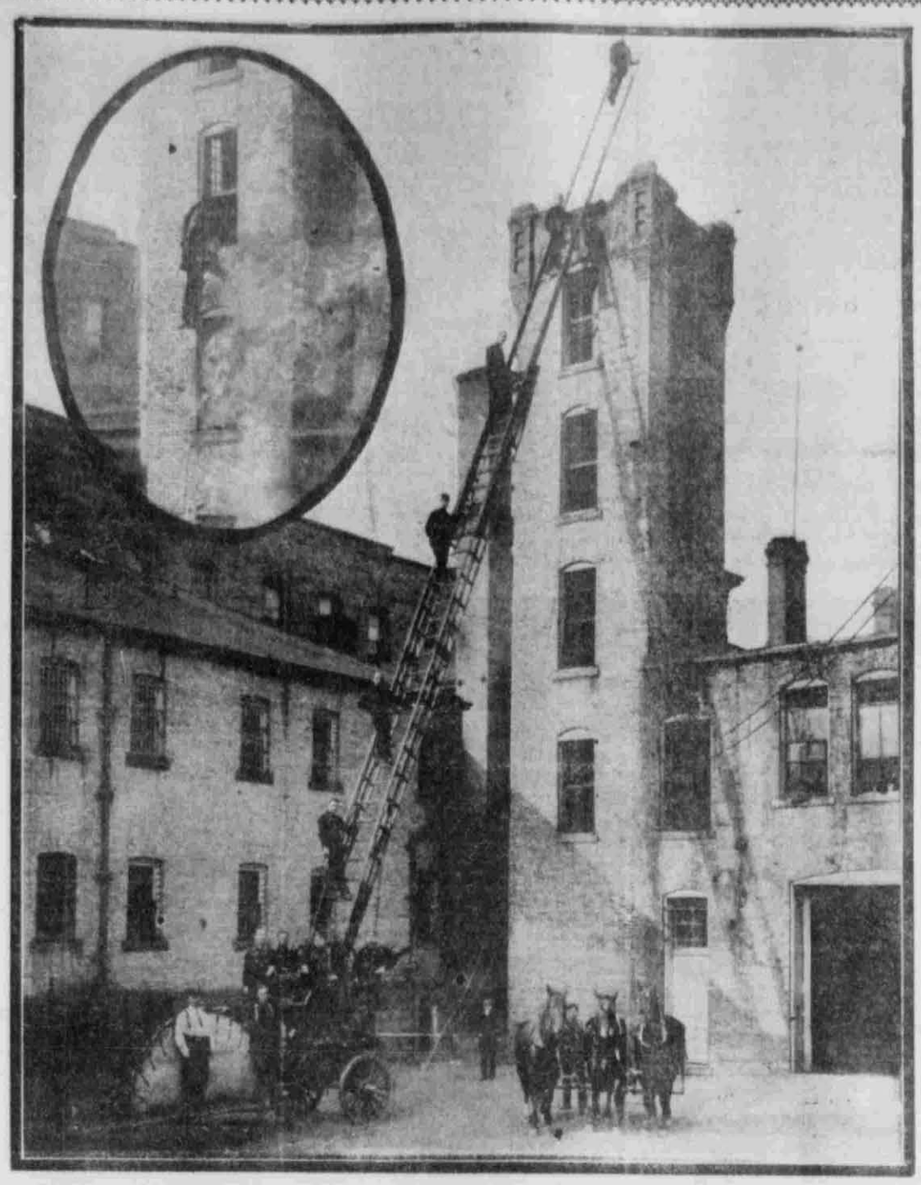

Photo by Harry Shipler.

TRUCK AND POMPIER CREWS AT WORK.

Modern Truck With Eighty-Five Foot Extension Ladder—The Small Picture Shows Fireman Rescuing Unconscious Man from Burning Building.

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to your horses as well as to yourself. You need not suffer from pains of any sort—your horses need not suffer. Try a bottle of Ballard's Snow Liniment. It cures all pains. J. M. Roberts, Bakersfield, Mo. writes: "I have used your Liniment for 10 years and find it to be the best I have ever used for man or beast." Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept., 112 and 114 South Main St. B

HOW TO PACK UP.

Some Good Ideas on Getting Everything in a Trunk Easily.

So many persons are ignorant of the best way to accomplish this task that a little advice appears not to be amiss.

Be sure to have everything gathered up and placed just where you can place your hands upon it, before you actually begin the packing process. Then put in the bottom of the trunk things which will not be injured if crushed. Here you may put all your underwear, your shoes and stockings and also down the sides, in any little spaces which might chance to be left vacant, you can pack such small articles which happen to require more care.

Remember to fill your shoes and slippers with tissue paper, in order that they may not be pressed out of shape. If you are cramped for room, it is a good idea to put the stockings inside the shoes.

On the top of the underwear you should put your heavy tailor-made dress and any coats that you have provided to wear in the evenings over your light dresses.

Above them lay your gowns. Fold the skirts lengthwise in the creases into which they would fall if worn, and then turn the top over, so as to accommodate it to the length of the trunk. Remember that you gain space by laying the clothes than by rolling things into balls and stuffing them into corners.—Chicago Record-Herald.

ALWAYS WAS SICK.

When a man says he always was sick—troubled with a cough that lasted all winter—what would you think if he should say—he never was sick since using Ballard's Horehound Syrup. Such a man exists. Mr. J. C. Clark, Denver, Colorado, writes: "For years I was troubled with a severe cough that would last all winter. This cough left me in a miserable condition. I tried Ballard's Horehound Syrup and have not had a sick day since. That's what it did for me." Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept., 112 and 114 South Main St. B

UNCOMPLIMENTARY.

Next to a difference of taste in jokes an incompatibility of musical appreciation is surely the greatest strain upon the affections. Here is a story to prove it. It is the story of a musical daughter and an unmusical mother. The daughter is barely more than three years old, but she has already shown every sign of the keenest musical liking. The mother, on the contrary, can hardly turn a tune. The other evening the mother wanted the daughter to go to bed. The daughter didn't want to go. "Come, Ethel," said the mother by way of final persuasion, "if you'll go to bed like a good girl, I'll undress you and sing you to sleep myself." "Oh, no, mamma," the daughter hastened to add. "You can undress me if you like, but please let nurse do the singing."—Kansas City Journal.

Where Things Originate.

Tea came originally from India. Sugar came from China. Yeast bread was made first in England. Tobacco was a common weed, first grown by the Indians in Virginia. Forks for eating with were first used in Italy. They were needed for rolling up macaroni. Gunpowder was used by the Chinese shortly after the death of Christ. Mirrors with silvered backed were invented by Praxiteles 328 years before Christ. The backs of our mirrors of today are painted with a composition, a miserable cheap stuff that soon peels off. Illuminating gas was invented in England in the eighteenth century. The original water ground cornmeal was an invention of Belisarius when Rome was besieged by the Goths in 537.—New York Press.

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