

[Groom, Arthur J.]

## ARTHUR GROOM, HERKIMER FIRE CHIEF, 69, DIES

Fire Chief Arthur J. Groom, 69, head of the Herkimer Fire Department for the past six years, died yesterday in his home, 515 Park Ave., after a short illness.

Stricken with a heart attack on Nov. 30, Chief Groom was taken home Monday from Herkimer Memorial Hospital. He suffered another attack before noon yesterday, and department members administered oxygen with a resuscitator and inhalor.

A member of the department for more than 50 years, Chief Groom was elected a member of the Excelsior Hook and Ladder Company on May 27, 1902 and a trustee in 1903. He was first assistant foreman from 1904 to 1909 and a company vice-president from 1915-1917.

### Second Assistant

Chief Groom was elected a vice-president and served as second assistant chief in 1908 and 1909 of the Herkimer Volunteer Fire Department, which was made up of the Hook and Ladder Company and the Fort Dayton Steamer Company.

Appointed first assistant chief and advanced to chief of the volunteers in 1917, Chief Groom was appointed as one of the early members of the paid department on Nov. 1, 1919. Previously he had worked as a mason and bricklayer, becoming an expert in terra cotta and stone setting.

He was made a captain in 1926 and a deputy chief in 1943, when the rank of captain was abolished. Following the death of Chief Harry Vincent on Feb. 26, 1946, he served as acting chief until the following Oct. 28 when he was appointed chief.

When Chief Groom started as a paid fireman in 1919, equipment of the department consisted of a ladder truck, hand operated, and one small pumper. Equipment today includes a 75-foot arial truck, two 750-gallon pumpers and a chief's car.

### Native of Herkimer

A native of Herkimer, Chief Groom was a son of James and Delia Peters Groom, born Oct. 18, 1884. He was educated in local schools and married Jessie Carpenter in 1912 in Richfield Springs. His wife is his only survivor.

Chief Groom was a member of the First Universalist Church, Herkimer Elks Lodge, IOOF Lodge and Herkimer Lodge. F. & AM. Active in area firemen's organizations, Chief Groom was elected chairman of the Herkimer County Firemen's Association Mutual Aid committee in 1946. In December, 1952, Chief Groom was honored for his 50 years service by the Excelsior Hook and Ladder Company.

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Chief Groom completed a course in the Municipal Fire Training School of the State of New York, conducted in 1929 and 1930. He served as instructor of the Herkimer department's drills from 1930 to 1946.

Under the firemen's defense training program, he attended the University of the State of New York Education Department of Public Service Training School in 1942. Following instructions at the bomb school in 1942, he was made a bomb reconnaissance agent and instructor, qualified to instruct in war gasses.

Services will be held at 3:30 p.m. Monday from the home, with the Rev. Stanley C. Stall, Universalist pastor, officiating. Interment will be made in Oak Hill Cemetery.

*Evening Telegram*, Herkimer-Ilion NY, Sat. 26 Dec 1953

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