



... John Raymond, second from left, says the gang used to run to fires, dragging this hose reel from the Court Street firehouse, about forty years ago. Ropes attached to the tongue permitted citizen volunteers to grab hold and help pull. Photo was taken about the time of the Puritan Cold Storage fire on November 1, 1927. From left are Manuel Steele, Mr. Raymond, Raul Motta (captain of the firehouse), Stephen Roderick in the sou'wester, Jimmy Rich, and Ernest DeSilva, father of School Committee Chairman Herman DeSilva. The Court street firehouse is still there, but long gone

are the Model T. Ford ("any color, so long as it's black"), the fire hydrant, and the buildings behind. House at the right was one of the early A & P branch stores. Behind it, just visible here between foreground buildings, was the Matheson Cold Storage at the head of the former Bowley's Wharf. John Raymond says, "In those days we were firemen for \$5 a year." In 1930 firemen were given \$15 raises. Today our volunteers get \$100, sometimes not enough to pay for damaged clothing when they rush to fires dressed like Captain Motta above. Photo courtesy Charlotte Motta.

Engine House can be seen on right side of street in next photograph