

Old Port Picture



VOLUNTEER VAMPS TOURNAMENT on August 22, 1914, shows man-drawn ladder wagon of the Atlantic Hook and Ladder Company during contest held on Railroad Avenue, now known as Haven Avenue. Port's fire department has come a long way since the 'Atlantic's' was formed in 1888 and organized in 1889 when a group of men, approximately 35, got together to devise ways and means to provide fire protection for their small community. In those days the ladder wagon was pulled to fires by the volunteer firemen, and leather buckets were used to take water from private wells or cisterns and then passed hand to hand to the fire. There was no

municipal water system and it is a good guess that no large fires were put out. But the volunteer firemen were dedicated and hard working and then, as now, they answered the call no matter what the weather or time of day. Then, as now, our Volunteer Vamps still participate in tournaments requiring skill, coordination and speed. Frequently, when the local vamps win tourney trophies, they will ride slowly through town holding aloft their cup for all to see. The above hand-drawn ladder wagon is currently stored in the Avenue A Annex. (Photo borrowed from Frances Farrell, reproduced by VAL GELO-Mason Studio)