

Norfolk Fire Division Band

The Norfolk Fire Division Band was founded in March, 1930, composed of 29 Norfolk firemen and one civilian named Romeo Pacifico. Romeo would eventually, become the band director in 1932 and hold that same position till 1964. Being appointed as a Fireman was a secure position, and there were few openings. Romeo was not appointed into the fire department until 1936. Band practices were held in various fire stations. Scottie, the mascot of fire station No.6 was a Dalmatian. He is remembered for barking along to the musical overtures throughout the evening. The band performed in its first state competition in 1934, winning first prize and over the next fifteen years was picked as the “Best in the State” twenty times. The band placed second too many municipal bands twice their size whose directors were compensated for their talent and time.

The 35-man Fire Division Band was a non-profit organization paying its own expenses. To maintain the operating budget an honorary membership fund raiser was held once a year. The remainder of the budget was met with competition winnings.



Photo dated: August 13, 1930