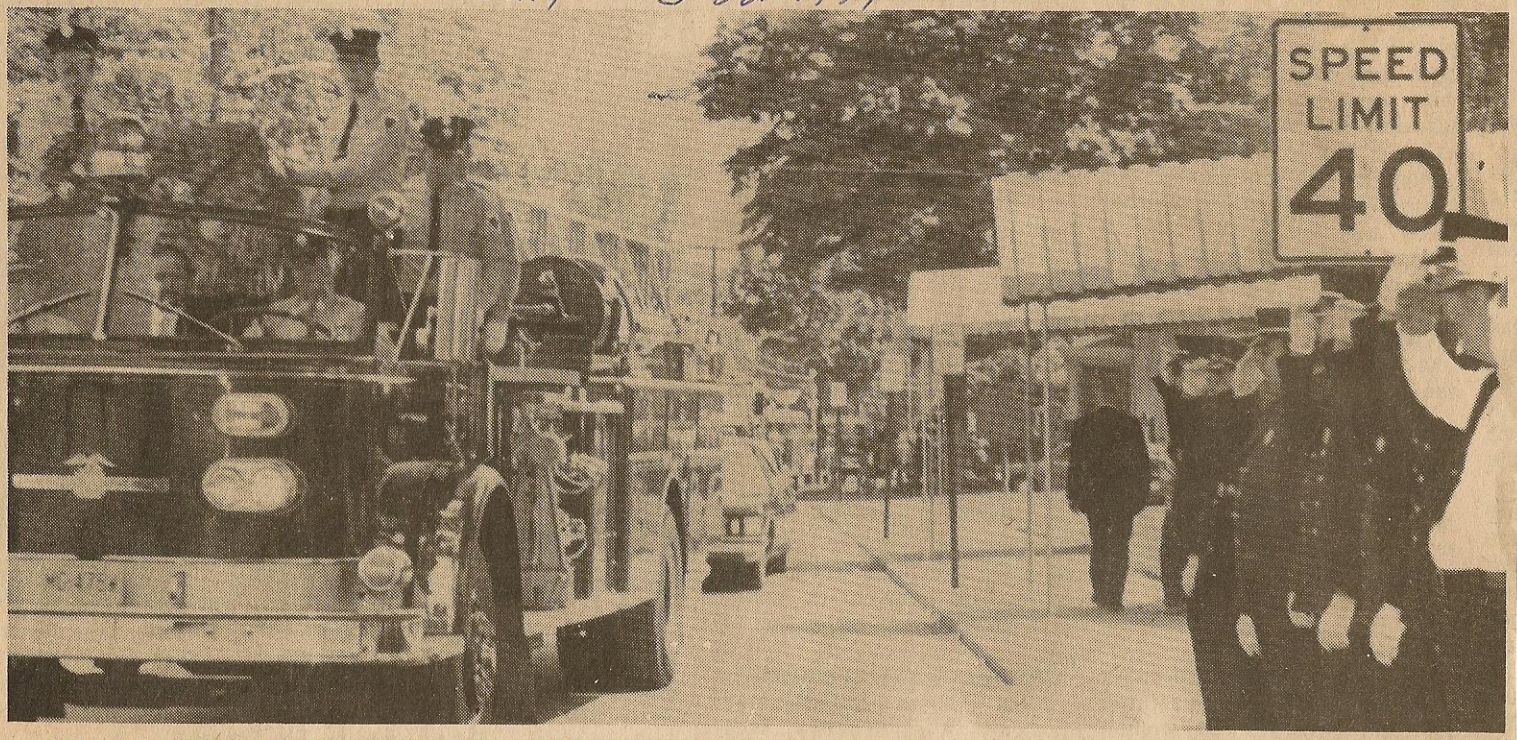
TODAY 5-22-1974



A LAST FAREWELL — Firemen from all over New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania lined the streets of Pompton Lakes Saturday to honor Mr. Raymond Cahill, veteran volunteer fireman, who lost his life while fighting a fire in the borough last Tuesday. Mr. Cahill's body was carried on his assigned fire truck from Richard's Funeral Home in Riverdale to the Reformed Cemetary in Pompton Lakes. More than two dozen fire vehicles participated in the procession.

'Last call' held for Pompton fireman

BY SONIA SMITH
Today Editor

POMPTON LAKES — Raymond Cahill, a veteran volunteer fireman from Pompton Lakes who lost his life last week while fighting a fire on Hamburg Turnpike, was carried past his fire house for the last time Saturday by a truck he often rode in the line of duty.

Mr. Cahill was given a full fireman's honorary funeral with the traditional last call ceremony, the blowing of the fire siren, in front of the Hamburg Turnpike fire house, with flag flying at half mast and black panels draped along the front of the station.

More than 1,000 firemen from all over New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania attended the funeral to honor Mr. Cahill. Dozens of fire trucks were used in the funeral procession and firemen lined with the streets to salute their comrade fire fighter.

Mr. Cahill died during a fire that destroyed a store-office building in the borough. He became trapped in the basement of the burning building. Rescue attempts failed due to the heavy smoke and heat intensity. When finally removed from the building, Mr. Cahill was taken to Chilton Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The fire gutted the Town and Country Market, The House of Cheer, Fruitland and several offices. According to Pompton Lakes Building Inspector Frank Giovatto the extensive damage and changes in the building code since the building was originally constructed would tend to make it more plausible to tear the building down rather than attempt to repair it.

The owner of the building, Ned Janel, was notified by the inspector that it is recommended that he demolish the building and re-build it according to the borough's new standards.

In the meantime, fire officials are still investigating the cause of the fire that was believed to have started in the basement of one of the stores.

Late last week, Assemblyman John Sinsimer introduced a resolution, which was passed unanimously, honoring Mr. Cahill. It noted that the 49-year-old volunteer was the first member of the department to lose his life while fighting a fire.

The resolution added that Mr. Cahill's "valor and devotion to duty are worthy of recognition and highest praise" and that the members of the "Assembly join the citizens of Pompton Lakes in expressing admiration for and deep sorrow at the untimely death of Mr. Cahill."

According to Sinsimer, a copy of the resolution will be forwarded to Mr. Cahill's son, Raymond Jr. and daughter, Ruth.