

Allendale fire *(continued from page 1)*

ous attempts by many people to rescue Mr. Mahoney.

Mrs. Mahoney and the Rinaldi family were out of the building when Steve Forbes, first captain of the Allendale Volunteer Fire Department, got there, several minutes after the police.

The fire fighters continued the efforts to get to Mr. Mahoney.

Mr. Forbes described their work: "I went up the fire escape and opened the door of his [Mr. Mahoney's] apartment, and got just inside, but was driven back by the smoke and the fire."

"Two firemen tried to get in by going up the interior staircase and got as far as the kitchen, but no farther. The same two came out and tried to go up again with a hose line and got no farther than they did the first time," according to Mr. Forbes.

Through the roof?

While these attempts were going on, Mr. Forbes called for the tower ladder from the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department. The ladder would be used to try to fight the fire by going through the roof.

Even that attempt to reach Mr. Mahoney was unsuccessful. Eventually, the roof caved in.

Assistance

In addition to the Allendale police, firemen and the volunteer ambulance corps, assistance came from other communities, including the Ramsey fire department and rescue squad, the Waldwick and Wyckoff fire departments, the Saddle River Valley Rescue Squad, and Box 54, Teaneck, which provides food for firemen.

Investigation

The Bergen County Arson Squad, which routinely investigates fires in which there has been a fatality, arrived on the scene about 5 a.m. They and the firemen used a crane to remove the rubble of roof and building debris so they could determine the cause of the fire. They remained throughout the day, searching through the apartments and taking statements from the firemen and witnesses. The results of their findings should be available within a week or so.

(See obituary on page 16.)