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MOTHER AND DAUGHTER, Mrs. Susan Fahy and Sharon, watch squad of police march by after ceremonies dedicating the former New St. Bridge

(Globe-Times Photo)  
to Sharon's father, slain Bethlehem Patrolman Philip J. Fahy. A bronze plaque now stands on the northeast corner of the bridge in honor of his memory.

# Fahy Bridge Dedicated

By MARY WAGNER  
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There were tears in the eyes of Bethlehem policemen this afternoon when three-year-old Sharon Fahy unveiled the plaque honoring a father she never knew.

The child was the focus of 500 spectators who assembled for ceremonies officially opening the Philip J. Fahy Memorial Bridge, formerly the New Street Bridge.

Fahy died of gunshot wounds in August of 1969, the second Bethlehem policeman ever struck down in the line of duty.

The dedication began as a squad of more than 60 area police led by a color guard marched to the site on the north end of the new bridge.

The invocation was given by the Rev. William Hoffner of St. Joseph's Church, Limeport. He married Philip and Susan Fahy.

He said Fahy's death was an "example of tragedy" which

should make us "aware of the value of humanity."

Bethlehem Mayor H. Gordon Payrow introduced the representative sent by Pennsylvania Gov. Milton J. Shapp. Lt. Col. William Cooper, Eastern Region Commander, Pennsylvania State Police, said police work is the "only profession which really asks a man to give up his very life to protect the people."

"The day will come," he assured those police present, "when we will assume our

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**PHILIP J. FAHY**

# Fahy Bridge Is Dedicated

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rightful role throughout the nation."

In his letter, Shapp said renaming the bridge was a great tribute to police. He added he hoped it would "memorialize all other valiant police who have given their lives in the line of duty."

Patrolman Angelo Augustino, coordinator of the ceremonies, thanked those legislators present who introduced and were ultimately responsible for the passage of the bill which renamed the bridge.

He presented framed copies of House Bill 1926, passed in July of last year, to Mayor Payrow, Police Chief John DiDonato, Det. Charles Donchez, Star Lodge 20, Fraternal Order of Police president; Mr. and Mrs. John Fahy, parents of the slain policeman, Mrs. Susan Fahy and her daughter.

Augustino's voice shook with emotion as he announced that Sharon would unveil the plaque.

There were also tears in the eyes of some of the spectators as the Fahy family, including young sister, Rosemary, gathered at the site on the northeast corner of the bridge.

After Sharon pulled away the purple and black covering, the Rev. Vincent Cronin gave the benediction.

A luncheon followed at Hotel

Bethlehem.

Music was provided by the East Hills Junior High School summer band.

The dedication was originally scheduled over a month ago, but postponed when completion of the span was delayed by bad weather.

Police department chaplain, the Rev. Richard Guiliano of Sacred Heart Church of Miller Heights, gave the invocation at a luncheon at Hotel Bethlehem.

Fahy was 26 when shot Aug. 29, 1969, investigating a routine traffic incident. A three-year veteran of the force, Fahy had planned to quit and begin college at the time of the shooting. He had been married for only a year, and his daughter was born in May of the next year.

Suspect Bebley C. Wells Jr. was wounded in the gunfire. He pleaded guilty Nov. 16, 1970, and was given a life sentence four days later.

Among state and local officials attending the ceremonies were State Reps. Thomas J. Maloney of Bethlehem, and James Ritter of Allentown, State Sen. Jeanette

Reibman, Northampton County, former secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Robert Bartlett, a city native.

Also, former state representative William C. Rybak, city public safety director Ronald H. Drew, Lehigh County Dist. Atty. George Joseph.

Also in attendance were Al J. Roman of the No. 1 Construction Co.; PennDOT district engineer A. Victor Cesare; city council president Charles Donches and councilmen Paul Calvo, Paul Marcincin and Robert Snyder.

In addition, the representatives from the state FOP plus local chapters were also present.

Cong. Fred B. Rooney sent a telegram expressing his inability to attend because of other commitments.

Work began on converting the two-lane New St. bridge into a four-lane facility Dec. 4, 1968. The western span was completed May 29, 1970. But just over a month later, the entire bridge was closed for a three-day period due to a buckling steel supporter.

After more complications over the steelwork, construction began again in March, 1971. At that time, PennDOT requested a two-year postponement of the December, 1971, opening date. Six months was cut from that request by the state Public Utilities Commission.