



TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLICE ADD A CHAPTER TO DEPARTMENT'S HISTORY

TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – (2/21/13) – The Temple Terrace Police Department has acquired an intriguing piece of its illustrative history, thanks to the family of a former officer.

Former Deputy Police Chief Clifford W. Ellis served with the department from 1959 to 1973. He left the department in 1974 to serve with the U.S. Marshals Service, and passed away later that year when he sustained injuries from a fall from a horse.

Recently, pictures and other memorabilia surfaced from Ellis' days with the Temple Terrace Police Department, providing an interesting glimpse into the department's development. The memorabilia was donated to the city by Ellis' sons, Dan and David, along with grandchildren C.J., Tara, Josh and Justin.

The family stopped by the Police Department recently to share photos and stories of Ellis' law-enforcement career. Dan Ellis told the story of how his father caught a bank robber in 1964. The robbery occurred at the Exchange Bank of Temple Terrace (now the Bank of America building).

Officer Ellis and the police chief responded, exchanging gunfire with the robbers as they ran. One of the suspects fled in a car, and Ellis pursued him to Mission Hills Avenue. The suspect stopped and jumped from the car, fleeing on foot. Ellis chased and tackled him, making the arrest.

Along with photographs, Ellis' family also possessed a copy of his original employment contract, signed by City Manager Frank B. Moses and dated May 1, 1959.

The Temple Terrace Police Department is acquiring memorabilia with plans to someday create a history exhibit or museum, said Deputy Chief Bernie Seeley. The Ellis family photos add an exciting chapter to the Police Department's story, he said.

"We are extremely grateful to the Ellis family for this contribution to our history," Seeley said. "These types of pictures connect us to our past, to those who helped lay the foundation for those of us who serve today to build on. It is vital that we know where we came from in order to continue to move forward."