



Law enforcement officers from numerous agencies stand at attention just prior to Saturday's services, saluting the family of their comrade, Eagle Lake Police Officer Tobin C. Thomas, as they arrive at Dulany Funeral Home in Eagle Lake.



The overwhelming turnout at Officer Thomas' funeral services forced at least 100 law enforcement officers to stand outside to pay their respects to the fallen officer and his family.

Headlight Photos

"I Saw A Policeman Crying"

I saw a policeman crying, on the news the other day.
A sheet upon his partner, as they carried him away.

Who are these people really, with lights of flashing blue,
They're simply men and women, a lot like me and you.

The job is very thankless, and quite misunderstood.
We rarely see the caring, and seldom see the good.

They shield us with their badges, and protect us with
their lives,
Normal human beings, with husbands, kids, and wives.

When an officer has fallen, we all should shed a tear,
For those who wear the badges, and work in all the
gear.

I saw a policeman crying, on the news the other day,
A sheet upon his partner; as they carried him away.

"In Memory of Fallen Officers"
By Daniel T. Dundar

This is dedicated to the memory of Officer Tobin C.
Thomas, Eagle Lake Police Department.
You will be greatly missed, Your friends

"A Part of America Died"

Somebody killed a policeman today and,
A part of America died.

A piece of our country he swore to protect
will be buried with him at his side.

Now a young widowed mother must work for her kids,
and stand many long lonely nights.

The beat that he walked was a battlefield too,
just as if he'd gone of to war.

Though the flag nationwide won't fly at half mast,
to his name they will add a gold star.

Yes, somebody killed a policeman today,
in your town or mine.

While we slept in comfort behind our locked doors,
a cop put his life on the line.

Now his ghost walks a beat on a dark city street,
and he stands at each new rookie's side.

He answered the call, of himself he gave his all,
and a part of America died.

-Author Unknown

Thomas was third law officer to fall

When Eagle Lake Police Officer Tobin Thomas died last Thursday, June 18, he was the third law enforcement officer to be killed in the line of duty in Eagle Lake.

According to "A History of Eagle Lake", compiled by Bill Harrison Sr., the first was shot to death June 6, 1903, on a Thursday evening at about 8:17 p.m.

Marshal W.R. Kinard was killed by W.L. "Bill" McDow, using a Winchester rifle.

The marshal had taken a pistol away from McDow earlier in the evening because he had been drinking heavily.

Kinard was able to return fire and pursue McDow even after being hit twice in the chest by gunfire.

There was a third death that night, also. An innocent bystander, Pierce Hammon, also died of his wounds.

The last law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty was during the 1950s. (Whether it was 1953 or 1955 is disputed. Long-time Eagle Lake mayor Elmer Struss says 1955, but a source at City Hall was told it was 1953. We'll settle for just the 1950s.)

Albert Louis Schmidt, age 59, was killed by a subject he was arresting for murder. The murderer, drunk and causing trouble, broke free and grabbed Schmidt's gun, shooting him in the head.

The killer fled law enforcement officers including Texas Rangers and volunteer possemen, but was finally taken into custody in Fort Bend County.

Schmidt's killer was tried and given a life term in State Prison.

Publisher's Note: There are some strange, and some not so strange, coincidences in the facts concerning Kinard's death and Tobin Thomas'.

Both officers were killed on a Thursday in June, a little over 95 years apart.

Both cases involved, in some way, alcohol.

Both men were able to fire at their assailants after being shot. In both incidents, three people died.

It's almost like the Kennedy-Lincoln facts.

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Thomas

in a house on E. Prairie for just over two weeks when he was killed.

Chief Webb related the events of the early morning hours of June 18th:

At approximately 12:40 a.m. Thursday morning, June 18, Eagle Lake police officers responded to a dispatched call after a local resident reported that a man had told her he had just killed someone and she should call the police.

Sgt. Bill Lattimore and Officer Thomas responded.

Thomas located a black female lying in the roadway next to a vehicle on Fairview Street. The female was later identified as 28-year-old Betty Lou Holloway and pronounced dead at the scene.

Lattimore saw a male walking away from the scene and made contact with him. Before Lattimore could even question the man, he heard a single gun blast and handgun fire.

Lattimore returned to Thomas' location to find him lying in the street with a gunshot wound to his back.

Not knowing if Thomas' assailant was still in the area, Lattimore held his weapon in one hand while he began CPR on Officer Thomas.

Thomas was transported to Rice Medical Center where he was pronounced dead at 1:30 a.m.

Lattimore later located a black male several feet away from the spot Thomas had fallen. Later identified as 64-year-old Woodrow Wilson Jr., he was also pronounced dead at the scene.

One of the seven shots fired by Thomas, after he was hit with the shotgun blast, had struck Wilson in the head.

Further investigation lead Chief Webb to conclude that Wilson was in the process of reloading the shotgun when Thomas' handgun fire hit him, thereby saving Lattimore's life.

In the opinion of the medical examiner who performed the autopsy on Thomas, he should not have been able to draw his weapon, much less fire it that many times.

Wilson's 12 gauge shotgun had been loaded with 00 (double aught), the same load used by Eagle Lake Police in their shotguns.

Bible Verse of the Week

"Be not afraid, only believe."

— Mark 5:36

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

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The entire altercation started when Wilson found Holloway, his alleged girlfriend, at the Jazz Room, took her outside and shot her six times.

Wilson then took the handgun to his car, got his shotgun and walked to a nearby house, telling the resident to call the police. He returned to the original crime scene and apparently hid in the grass, waiting for the officers to arrive.

At the conclusion of Saturday's services, Department of Public Safety Sgt. Gary Chandler answered the "Last Call" from Colorado County Sheriff's Department Dispatch Super-

visor Jackie Waddle: "County, 307... (pause). "County, 307... (pause). "County, 307... (pause). "County, all units. Hold all traffic. "County, 307..." "2507, County. Authority 300, Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb, effective 1:30 a.m. June 18, 1998, 307 is 10-42 (has ended tour of duty)." The heart-wrenching version of "Amazing Grace", played on bagpipes, echoed as mourners filed out and took up positions of respect, lining both sides of McCarty Avenue, to "escort" Tobin's family home.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON COLORADO COUNTY CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The Colorado County CAD will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 1999 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on July 14, 1998, at 1:30 P.M. in the Colorado County Courtroom, 1st Floor.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget is \$501,750.

The total amount of increase over the current year's budget is \$30,540.

The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget will be 9 employees.

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities, and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

Colorado County Central Appraisal District
P.O. Box 10
Columbus, Tx. 78934

Phone 409-732-8222