

## Unofficial Thumb Nail history of early Temple Crest.

In the Florida Boom Days of the 1920's this section was visioned as an area for better homes of the times. The streets were laid out with curves and angles to suit Coach-and-Four transportation and visioned as the ultimate in social travel. Bonds were issued to finance certain improvements and street paving. Then came the 'burst of the bubble'. Payments on bonds were defaulted and taxes went unpaid. Only a few who were financially able to keep up their individual payments were permitted to retain their properties and homes. Those which were built conformed to the semi-Spanish style of the time, being mostly stucco covered frame buildings and in their background setting of tree covered moss presented a beautiful scene to behold. The assessed taxes and payments on outstanding bonds began to pile up and eventually were in greater amounts than the properties were worth. Then began the stagnation which saw the area deteriorated until there seemed to be no future for this area. Somewhere pressures were brought to bear on the legislature in Tallahassee and what was known as the Murphy Act was passed assuring the bond holders some payment on outstanding paper, taxes were assumed by the State and a title under the Murphy Act could be had on the real properties.

When the public realized what happened interest in this area began to rise. This was slow to make any progress in improvements of permanent buildings for the majority who settled here were of very limited finances. Up to the late 40's when any one came out here the few living here placed them in one of three categories. 1. Either they were hunting as this sectioned abounded in various animals from the wild panther to the lowly 'gopher. 2. they were coming to see you, or 3. They were lost. Improvements made in the early post War '42 period were made of whatever materials were available and certain rationing made this very limited. There were no zoning restrictions so no precautions as to fire-proofing were followed. The birth of the Temple Crest Civic Club, Inc. came out of a fire destroying one of these poorly constructed buildings near the corner of Youkon and 37th Street. The family suffered total loss of their material possessions. There was a great spirit of helpfulness as is generally found in any pioneer section and soon by individual giving this family was partially restored to their former status. From this disaster two ladies, Mrs. Barnett and Mrs. Martin, had a vision and began to work for a volunteer fire department for this area. They began to take donations to that end and were getting along very nicely when some one came up with the bright idea they were violating the law asking for financial donations without a legal organization to back them up. This fired up the neighborhood which by this time was rapidly growing in numbers even tho in limited capital. Legal aid was solicited and a charter was drawn up and with the required number of charter members was sent to Tallahassee and in 1948 the charter was granted to the Temple Crest Civic Club, Inc. Its main purpose was to sponsor a Volunteer Fire Department, along with other activities tending to promote the good and welfare of this area.

Efforts along this line were very successful and a fire truck with water tank and pump equipment was purchased. The young volunteers took training two or three times weekly mostly under the Sulphur Springs Fire Department under Chief Pitts. The volunteers were instructed to be ready for duty call at all hours and many of them when going to bed at night laid out their fire clothes and boots beside their bed. Many calls were made as far away as 10 miles and at no time did they ever fail to save the lot.

Up to this time the only law enforcement, of which a minimum was needed, was by the County under the Sheriffs Department. Sometimes it seemed the County Officials forgot there was an inhabited area out here except when they were candidates and looking for votes.

The Civic Club had the interest and welfare for all living here. It had no taxing or regulatory powers so an appeal to the necessary officers for what we needed in improvements it was necessary to show the Club and its members were back of the idea. These appeals were well received and we enjoyed much assistance. By the early 1950's the City of Tampa was straining for more territory by annexation even tho they couldnt take care of the territory inside the then City limits. They soon found out annexation could not be accomplished by votes so they went to Tallahassee and one morning we woke up annexed. Our Fire department was killed and some of our co-operative spirit was dampened but the Club has survived through thick and thin and at the present time have a very nice club house at 4222 Miller ave. which is the voting headquarters for Precinct 53B. The Northeast section of Tampa now offers the Industrial Park, The University of South Florida, location of two hospitals, one a Veterans, a Medical Center to be located near the University, the closeness to Temple Terrace and thousands of homes and homesites in the most beautiful and dry section of Tampa.

Dear Reader the club needs your support as there are many more things to work and ask for out here. Please make an effort to join and help.