



ERNEST H. PHILBRICK

February 11, 1929



In the evening hours of February 11, 1929, Motorcycle Policemen Ernest H. Philbrick and Leo C. Brandt engaged in a pursuit of an auto speeding westbound on East 14th Street from 3rd Avenue. The fleeing vehicle raced through the intersection of Seminary and East 14th followed by Officer Brandt.

As Officer Brandt reached Seminary, a motorist began to turn into the intersection. The driver stopped until Brandt passed by, then continued his turn. The driver never saw Officer Philbrick enter the intersection, and collided with him head-on. The officer was thrown 75 feet from the collision site.

Officer Philbrick died minutes after his arrival at Highland Hospital.

In order to snare traffic scofflaw, motorcycle policemen of the time occasionally patrolled at night without their headlights on. Officers Philbrick and Brandt had been following this practice.

Policeman Philbrick, age 32, was a six year veteran of the Department. He had been assigned to motorcycle duty for only three weeks. At the time of his death, his wife was in a private hospital awaiting the birth of their child.