Betty Murray information

1919  In this year, two year old Betty Nosler came to San Benito from Indiana with her parents James Bertram and Marie Williams Nosler. He would build and operate the San Benito Electric Gin, the first of its kind in the Valley and which operated until the mid-30s. In 1937 Betty would be graduated from UT-Austin with a degree in education. On 12/27/38 she marries Menton Murray, a young lawyer who has an office in Mercedes but lives in Harlingen. They had two children, Menton Murray, Jr., a District judge for many years, and Betty Marie Murray Smith, now in Tennessee. The senior Murray served in WWII, as a city judge, and in the state legislature from 1947 to 1975. Betty over the decades amassed a splendid record as a school teacher, in various clubs promoting civic endeavors and most importantly as an advocate for history and historic preservation. Through her efforts Texas State Historic Commission markers were obtained for city sites. She led efforts to salvage the old F Street hospital as well as the Ross-Bobo House (121 E. Harrison) by moving them to the RGV Museum. Numerous honors have been bestowed upon her in recognition of her many accomplishments.

1923-26  A small ten room, u-shaped hospital painted white is the first to serve the community. It is situated on the east side of F Street between Harrison and Jackson and faces west. Owned by Mrs. Ida Gilbert, it is staffed by two nurses from Chicago. The first is Miss Mary (Maria)Yeager. She had arrived here to look at property she had purchased. She found it undeveloped and, while staying at Mrs. Gilbert's rooming house on E. Van Buren, suggested to Mrs. Gilbert that she invest in a hospital to serve the community. Mrs. Gilbert and her husband Louis bought the lot on F Street on 3/26/23 from W.W. and Rose Alaniz. She then purchased two identical army barracks located south of the Arroyo near Rangerville and joined the two with another building. Miss Julia Bassart, a dietician, joined her friend and was responsible for hospital housekeeping while Mary handled the floor duties. The seven patient rooms charge $5 a day. The hospital is staffed by doctors, N.A. Davidson, Casper and Alfred M. Letzerich. One incident involving the hospital is when law officer Johnson and Atiliano Sanchez shot one another in a confrontation. After being brought to the hospital and placed in opposite wings, Johnson survives his wounds, but Sanchez is to die 6/2/23. The women's hospital is made obsolete once the new Valley Baptist Hospital up the street comes into full use in 1925. In 1973 land owner Louis Levine donates the "little hospital" structure and, through the efforts of Betty Murray, the RGV Museum board agrees to accept it at the museum site. Mrs. Gilbert is well known in the community for she operates the popular Gilbert House on E. Van Buren. In addition to providing rooms it will become famous as an eatery when it commences serving the city during the Hurricane of 1933. The Gilberts first came to McAllen from Missouri due to her asthma then built the stucco hotel in 1920. The hotel was sold to Mrs. Bell Thaye in 1943, and she in turn sold it to the city in the 1950s to become a parking lot for city hall. The building itself was moved to a site on Airbase Road.

2/20/63  The Texas legislature finally agrees on measures to allow the federal government to establish the Padre Island National Seashore. Rep. Menton Murray of Harlingen is a leader in this effort.
Betty Nosler Murray was a long-time school teacher and served on both the Cameron County Historical Commission and the Texas Historical Commission. She has been instrumental in preserving Cameron County heritage, and especially Harlingen, history. Through her efforts the city's first hospital was salvaged, moved to the museum complex, and restored. She also spearheaded the saving of the historic Ross-Bobo House, home of an early Harlingen mayor. Through her compilation of a Harlingen Cemetery history, it was awarded a state historic maker. Mrs. Murray spent many hours addressing Winter Texans and tour groups on the history and attractions of Harlingen. She has also given of her time and knowledge whenever city and other projects call for input.