Photos by Alba Bloss of the 1933 Labor Day Hurricane in Harlingen. Photos are from the Collection of his son Richard Bloss. Identification of photos was made by Norman Rozeff, 12/06
In addition there are photographs and scrapbook items from Richard Bloss' Aunt Luvenia Bloss Pace. As a teenager she lived in Harlingen in the Reese-Wil-Mond Hotel built and operated by her mother's brother John Burk and his wife Bessie.

I have provided the identification and the use of the structures as they were in 1933.

P.110: upper left and left side was a residential house still existing at 805 E. Tyler. It currently is run down, vacant, and filled with junk that looks like it was for sale at one point. The large structure to its right has been torn down and replaced with a one-story business office.
lower left: house on left is at 601 E. Jackson and is still there as a bright yellow clapboard house. In the mid-30s four renters lived in it. The house on the right was torn down two years ago and replaced with a duplex. The whole area is in a redevelopment section where older structures are being torn down.
The remaining pictures cant be pinpointed although I have traversed all the neighborhoods they were likely to be. Probably they have been demolished.
Lower left: Alba Bloss is in front of the garage.
Lower middle: Alba Bloss' wife Virginia sits on the front steps.

P. 111: upper right: This is Harlingen's main business street, Jackson Avenue. From left to right in the photo are 111 W. Jackson F. W. Woolworth Co. five and ten; 113-115 McLellands Stores Company five and ten; 117 the First National Bank (both floors); 119 C. E. Stone (a chain department store in Texas); the 1915 S. Lozano and Son Pioneer Building apparently with Andy's Confectionary downstairs and the Harlingen Hotel on the second floor. The Lozano Building burned down two years ago in a suspected arson fire. Across A Street from it is the nine-story, Rio Grande National Life Insurance Building, the tallest in the Valley, and occupied by numerous professionals and doctors. The other buildings still exist but with modern facades. The skyscraper is abandoned and a continuing eyesore to the revitalization efforts of merchants on the street which has become an antiquing center.
Lower left: 105 E. Jackson on left has Badwey's Café next to which is 109 and the Thompson Pharmacy.
Lower right: Sign says "Pierce Building Entrance." This is the Baker Building constructed 11/28 and sold the following year to D. B. Meadows and son.
P. 112: upper right is the destroyed Boggus Motor Company previously Hubbard's Storage (for cars) and Service. It is 101 E. Van Buren. To the left of it is the Embee Building (with an A Street address), the three-story increment built in 1923 and the five-story portion in 1924 and initially called the Wittenbach Building. The latter section had Harlingen's first elevator. In the middle rear is the S. Lozano Building on E. Jackson. All these buildings are now gone.
Lower right: Sign reads "Pierce Building Entrance". This is the Baker Building. People apparently are lined up to receive aid, likely food packages.
P. 113: Upper left is at 204 W. Jackson and is likely Harlingen's second oldest existing brick commercial building though now with a covering modern façade. On its side it now bears a mural of Bill Haley, the famed rock 'n' roller who retired and died in Harlingen. At the time of the hurricane it housed the American Legion Post, Harlingen Post 205 upstairs and the American Legion Professional and Business Men's Club. In 1935 the downstairs was vacant while the Hollywood Style Shop was the likely occupant in 1933. Upper right appears to be the west side of Commerce Street where the railroad tracks run parallel to it and to this day the elevated bed after heavy rains retains water in the area to the west. **A second look reveals that this identification is incorrect. This building does not seem to be in Harlingen but actually may be in an adjacent town.**
Lower left is again W. Jackson Street looking west. From right to left are: 104 J. G. McCrory five and ten; 106 vacant; 108 Turney Drug Co. with upstairs having business men and a doctor; 110 the Rainbow Café; 112 Bundy Photo Studio with the Traveler's Hotel upstairs; 114A City News, 114 Deakins Brownbilt Shoe Store; 116 Pate Bros., men's furnishings, 116A Fowlers Modern Pharmacy; 118 American Barber Shop.
Lower left: 200 block of W. Harrison Street in front of Knapp Chevrolet (to left). This area still floods.

P. 114 Upper left is same as described above p.111.
Upper right: Western Union Office at 111 S. 1st Street and adjacent to the Gaines Cleaners shown later and not far from the Reese–Wil-Mond Hotel which faced 1st Street but had a Van Buren Street address.
Lower left: The Reese-Wil-Mond facing east on 1st Street. The first aid tents are set up in the landscape area of the Madison Hotel (not shown). The five-story Embee Building is in the background, right side of photo.
Lower right: Reese-Wil-Mond with damaged sign as seen from the Van Buren-1st Street intersection.

P. 115: upper left: Acadia Theater is on right. It burned down in the 1950s. Across from it on A Street was two story Junkins Furniture building. After the storm a Union Bus Depot was built on the site. The lower portion of part was retained and is now the New York Delicatessen. In the foreground is the American Legion Sports Arena. It moved elsewhere after this storm.
Upper left: The three-story Plaza Hotel built in 1929 at 214 A Street. It is still there but abandoned except for a photographer occupying its first floor. For many years it housed the down and out before being shuttered
Lower left: The art deco Knapp Chevrolet dealership at 221 W.Harrison. It had recently been purchased from the Hollingsworth Motor Co., also a Chevie dealership. For many years now it has been the home of White Cleaners.
Lower right: This building was built as a high school in 1922 in part of the 6th Street to 8th Street double block between Tyler and Polk Streets. Several years later a junior high was erected next to it. By 1929 the student population had grown to the point that a new high school was built by 1930 on 13th Street. The old high school was then used by junior high students. This means that this is where Luvenia attended her 7-8th grade classes. The design and/or construction of the building may have been shoddy, for the hurricane damage was so substantial that the building had to torn down.
P. 116: Upper left is an unidentified mercantile store. The nearly identical photo appeared in Valley Morning Star (Harlingen) hurricane recollection stories over the years. This may have been McLelland's Feed Store at 508 N. Commerce. It was later rebuilt into a substantial two-story edifice.

Upper right: This is the Harlingen Municipal Auditorium built in 1927. The balcony with its seats can be discerned. It was so badly damaged that it took about four years to reconstruct the 2000 seat auditorium.

Lower right is 122 W. Jackson with Sherman's Grocery (left) and the Central Power and Light office at 120 next to it. At 118 are the heavily damaged American Barber Shop and Sunshine Beauty Shoppe together with the Williams Trans Co.

P. 117: Upper right might be the early motel cabins along South F Street on the traveled rode to San Benito and Brownsville.

Lower left: The concrete curbside marker reads E. Adele, but this street no longer exists if it was in Harlingen.

Lower right: This is William E. Gaines Cleaner at 113 S. 1st Street. Mr. Gaines had rooms in the Reese-Wil-Mond. Is this a photo of John Burk?

P. 121: Upper left is Alba Bloss.

Upper right and lower left: In 1934, Virginia Bloss, wife of Alba holds son Richard and in lower right, a cat.