At 702 E. Taylor, J. Louis and Maude Boggus construct a Southern Colonial frame house for $9,000 in 1939. Boggus had come to the Valley in 1917, soon setting up a dealership in McAllen before coming to Harlingen two years later. Here he has both Ford and Lincoln-Mercury dealerships, was president of the C of C and promoted highways and schools. The city's largest stadium, east of Memorial Middle School, is named in his honor after his death in 1966. The house is sold in the late 1940s. Forrest Runnels, one of the founders of Tropical Savings and Loan Co. and the Valley Beverage Co. is later to own it.

1933 Boggus Motors Co. is established in Harlingen. J. Louis Boggus' family had come to the Valley in 1917. He started as a bookkeeper at the Ford Automobile Company dealership in McAllen in 1918. This was Daniel Ford. Because of his outstanding abilities as a car salesman, he became a Mission Ford dealer in 1919, and part owner of Brownsville Patteson Motors in 1923. He moved to Harlingen in 1933 and acquired the Ford Agency from H.R. Hollingsworth completing the deal hours before the hurricane struck. After the storm the new Ford V-8 was offered. Lincoln Zephyr models came to the agency in 1935 and Mercury in 1939, the same year Boggus acquired this franchise in Harlingen. It was in 1939 also that he started a tractor company in both Harlingen and McAllen. In 1946 Boggus separated the Valley Motor Co. selling Lincolns and Mercurys and the Boggus Motor Co. selling Fords at its new Harrison Street location. Frank Rocha was one of Valley Motors Co. original founders in 1946. In 1964 its location was 902 W. Harrison. Louis' son Frank was born in Brownsville and graduated from Texas A&M before seeing military duty in the Air Force as a 2nd Lt. Frank. He went on to become a major stockholder and chairman of the Texas State Bank. In addition to being chairman of the Texas Automobile Dealers Association, he won the Mister Republican award in 2004 for his work for this political party in Cameron County. The Boggus organization by the 21st Century is active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and participates in raising money for the Ronald McDonald House and the Salvation Army.

1945 The City purchases the Municipal Water Plant and System from the Central Power and Light Company for $545,000. To finance this purchase the City voted and issued $875,00 in revenue bonds and to secure the bonds, a trust indenture or mortgage was given on the entire water system. The City Commission then created a Board of Trustees to take charge of the properties and management of the entire operations. The first board included J. Lewis Boggus, Hill Cocke, Sr., Earl Breedlove, and Mayor Hugh Ramsey. Gene McCullough was named recorder and attorney for the board.

It is the year 1946 also that Boggus Ford occupies a city block with its new facility at Eye and W. Harrison Streets. In 2001 Boggus will vacate this location for one on the southeast side of the Arroyo Colorado Exp.77/83 Bridge. In February 2005 the Harrison site is cleared of all buildings in order to make it more attractive to potential buyers.
12/21/48  A site is given by R.E. Smith of Houston in memory of his mother Minnie B. Gay of Brownsville. Smith is an oil operator in Conroe. The deed is given to J. Lewis Boggus, president of the school board. Smith is cited as trustee for his daughter, Bobbie Sue Smith, 1 year old, for whom the tract had been given. Mrs. Gay came to Brownsville from Jefferson, TX in 1908. Her husband, Portes Gay, was chief of the Border Patrol at Brownsville. The 40 acre tract was acquired by Mrs. Gay in 1918 and remained in tact until the railroad cut through leaving 37 acres. Of this, 6.8 acres has been given for the school site next to Cardinal Field. Brownsville attorney Robin Pate, a family friend, is credited with generating the gift. On hand are board members Arthur Purdy, F. Earl Davis, T.D. King, J.R. Fitzgerald, Guy Leggett, and W.W. Ballard business manager.

8/51  This year the city welcomes a new facility. The Lon C. Hill Memorial Library (now city administrative offices) opens at 502. E. Tyler. The air-conditioned facility with its 51,000 square feet is built incrementally at a total cost of $107,052. The building fund was first started as a project of the Rotary Club as a war memorial and was later enhanced by the city's $35,000 contribution. These were supplemented by individual donations of $5,000 each by H.E. Butt, Hill Cocke, and J. Louis Boggus, and $20,000 by Lon C. Hill, Jr. and family. Individuals who greatly assisted the project were R.C. Prior, Dr. Ernest H. Poteet, M.H. Connelly and W.B. Briscoe. For the children's room the Harlingen Junior Service League purchased the shelving and furniture. The stacks contain 11,336 volumes; in 1921 the library had 11 books. The collection will rise to 14,000 by 1952, 25,000 by 1956 and more than 37,000 by 1960. On 9/29/51 the city will establish the Harlingen Public Library Board and provide for a librarian for the system. The official dedication is 12/9/51 with M.H. Connelly presiding, Gene McCullough mayor attending, and Hill Cocke, Rotary president participating. An Alice C. Jennings Music Memorial is set up at the library. Gifts are made by the Rotary Club and the Music Lovers Club. The first architects are Cocke, Bowman and York for the $69,545 structure. In 7/60 a screened porch costing $5,575 is added. Additional changes designed by Bowman, Swanson, and Hester are made at a cost of $31,932. By 1966 the library's operating budget is $19,380.

1958  Texas Citrus Mutual is organized to assist Valley citrus growers in all manner of ways. J. Louis Boggus is its first president. The initiation of crop insurance is one of its valuable contributions for on 1/30/59 a serious freeze is to injure the citrus orchards.

1/27/62  The Harlingen Industrial Development Corporation is chartered. Incorporators are J.L. Boggus, E.C. Breedlove, and D.B. Dunkin. One million shares at $1 per share are offered, the purpose: to acquire land and buildings for industrial purpose to meet the needs of firms that may be interested in locating in the city. Numerous prominent Harlingen businessmen subscribe.


12/2/66  After serving as chairman of the Water Board from 1945, J. Lewis Boggus dies. M. Day Young is then chosen as chairman and T. Howard Anderson elected to the board.
System assets at this time are $4,436,104. The city's share of a Valley-wide assessment to construct a waste water diversion canal in Mexico is $14,868. The El Morillo Drain will subsequently remove considerable salinity from the Valley water source.

6/10/71 The C of C establishes a Harlingen Historical Hall of Fame to recognize distinguished Harlingenites. Twenty individuals are honored at an affair where 450 attend. The honorees are:

Lon C. Hill  John B. Challes  Ned Sondock
Albert L. Benoist  J. Lewis Boggus  E.C. Breedlove, Sr.
John W. McKelvey  Howard E. Butt  Eustacia Hill Caul
Hill Cocke  Frank E. Davis  Harry Day
D. B. "Bus" Dunkin  Fred L. Flynn  L.C. "Mose" Hill
McHenry Tichenor  Hugh Ramsey  R.L. Hill
Harvey L. Richards  Mrs. Gerald (Verna) McKenna

9/23/74 The Harlingen State Bank opens for business. Founders and directors include; Howard Anderson, Frank Boggus, Robert G. Farris, W.D. Grayson, G.E. Roney, H.M. Uhlhorn, and Kenneth I. Weaver. At year's end, deposits amount to $1,270,000 and assets $2.5 million. By the first quarter 1985 deposits have risen to $56,657,000 and assets more than $64.6 million. Housed at 521 North 77 Sunshine Strip in this year, it had added six drive in lanes in 1983. In 5/84 it joined Texas State Bank of McAllen to form Texas Regional Bankshares, Inc., a Valley-based holding company owning the two banks. Board chairman through 1985 was G.E. Roney, with W.D. Grayson, president. Branches were at 2501 S. 77 Sunshine Strip, 1902 W. Tyler, and 115. E. Van Buren.

11/30/83 Memorial services are held at the old Hill Home for Lon C. Hill, Jr. He rose to become president of Central Power and Light and saw it grow in every aspect. Giving eulogies are Dick Reese, Frank Boggus, and McHenry Tichenor, Sr. Hill is buried in the Mont Meta Cemetery, north of San Benito.

9/05 La Michoacana Meat Markets, a Houston-based food chain serving primarily the Latin marketplace, opens its large newly constructed facility at the northwest corner of H and Harrison Streets. This is south half of the city block formerly occupied by Boggus Lincoln Mercury whose structures on the site have been demolished. The company now has 70 stores in Texas and one in Oklahoma. It has its own meat market, bakery, taqueria, and highlights foods from Latin America as well as the U. S. On the north half of the block, 918 W. Harrison Ave., Lone Star National Bank is constructing a large drive in bank operation to open 12/15/05. This Pharr-based bank that was started in 1983 will soon have nine branches across the Valley and will have in this motor bank outlet an ATM machine, the first of its type in the Valley, capable of handling bills and checks. This block and the block to the west which formerly contained Boggus Ford facilities were cleared of existing structures in February 2005.

5/4/04 Ford automobile dealer, Frank Boggus receives the Salvation Army's most prestigious award. This is the William Booth Award named for the Salvation Army
founder. The 75 year old Boggus has helped the Army for nearly 40 years, 30 of which he served as a director in Harlingen along side Lloyd Pratt. In an overwhelmingly Democratic Party county, Boggus has been a strong Republican. He was in 1988 a delegate to the Republican National Convention. He served as chairman of the Texas State Bank in which he is a major investor.

2004 A partnership involving the auto industry and others contributes to the school sports infrastructure. Knapp Chevrolet and Valley Baptist Medical Center donate $250,000 each for the project while Hino Gas and Electric adds $200,000. High tech scoreboards are constructed at the Boggus Stadium and also some middle school fields. At Boggus new restrooms, concession stands, and additional bleachers among other items cost the district $625,000.