An election is held and a town government is formed. Twenty-seven voters are for incorporation. John Bartlett, Cameron County Judge declares the town to be duly incorporated. Also a school district is organized and seven trustees are elected. W.H. Kilgore receives 26 votes, R.S. Chambers 26, C.F. Perry 26, H.N. Morrow 26, John Snively 23, J.A. Card 23, W.E. Hollingsworth 20. A.H. Weller with 18 votes is denied election.


The First Methodist Church is founded by 31 charter members. At that time it is affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. With the Rev. R.L. Pyles as its minister, the church's list of members provides an indication of whom some of Harlingen's and its nearby citizens are. They are: Mr. and Mrs. David Allen Barbee and children Lucille and Archie; Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Bullard and children A.T. and Beatrice; W.T. Campbell; Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Clift; Mr. and Mrs. R.S. Chambers; Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Chaudoin and children Eva, Mack, Barney, Morris, and Lily (later Lily Liston Cleary); Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Cunningham; Miss Mildred Davis; Mrs. Bertha Dorough; Miss Moody Dorough; Mr. Bunny Shook Dorough, J.D. Dorough; Mrs. Wil D. Darfy; Mr. and Mrs. S.P. Eaton, Sr. and S.P. Eaton, Jr.; Mrs. E.L. Fender; G.E. Goodykoontz; Mrs. Minnie G.; Miss Katie Mags; M.M. Osborn; Mrs. Nellie Osborn; Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Perry, Mr. G.H. Pletcher; Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Posy and daughter Lola; Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Snively and children Doris, Ed and Berta.

With the town population now 1,126, this makes it eligible under state law to change to the city council form of government. Presiding Judge H.D. Seago certifies that the 26 votes were cast in favor of such a change. E.L. Fender, Jacob Miller, J.M. Denton, and Dr. C.W. Letzerich along with Mayor Cunningham constitute Harlingen's first City Council. It, along with five alderman elected in place, meet twice a month. Members of the first Equalization Board to adjust the tax valuation of property are A.W. Weller, Gordon Hill, C.F. Perry, C.W. Hoot, and R.S. Chambers.

The first money-raising ordinance provides for the licensing of dogs at $1.00 each. Some of the retail businesses are taxed and others licensed.

Mrs. Charles Velma Simmons Perry, as a young woman, is among those who attend the first touring Lyceum Courses conducted between 1913 and 1918 in the Central Ward School. Her daughters will be Virginia I. Perry born in Harlingen 12/17/11 and Vonnie Mae (later Westbrook.) The former will be graduated from HHS and attend Southern Methodist University. Returning to her hometown she will teach at Stuart Place and be connected with its music programs. In 1939 or 1940 she begins her career as a
piano and organ teacher and continues this pursuit until a few years before her death on
11/28/05. She was also organist at several Harlingen churches. This spinster will be
preceded in death by her sister of Brownsville.

10/29/18 Gordon Hill, son of Harlingen’s founder Lon C. Hill, dies of influenza while
being treated in Devine Providence Hospital in Brownsville. He is survived by his father;
three brothers, Captain John D. Hill who organized Company L of the 9th Infantry while
stationed in Harlingen, Hickman H. Hill who is training at Fort Hancock, Georgia, and
Lon C. Hill, Jr. who is CEO Rockwell Aviation, San Diego and formerly in command of
Brooks Field, San Diego; sisters are Mrs. H. K. Morrow, Clarksville, Tennessee, Annie
Rooney Hill and Miss Paul who nursed him. His brother Lon C. (Mose) Hill is to go on
to a distinguished career as builder of the Central Power and Light Company where he
will serve as its president and chairman for many years. He was a promoter of the Valley
Chamber of Commerce and worked diligently to improve the quality of Rio Grande
water.
Harlingenites going to Brownsville to attend the funeral are: B.F. Johnson, Miss Pearl
Botts, A.W. Cunningham, C.F. Perry, A.J. Rabel, Aubrey King, Piner Paine, Lawson
Anglin, Murrell Verser, Burey Sidener, Mr. & Mrs. John Hill, Mrs. Hanson, and R.M.
Chaudoin.

1920 A Boy Scout troop is organized this year. When it celebrates its fifth anniversary in
May 1925, 35 scouts are present. Some will soon attend a ten-day camp located 7 miles
east of Harlingen on the Arroyo Colorado. Scoutmaster Lynn Kellogg is commended for
his work with the boys.

2/27/25 Six blocks of North Fordyce Street are paved in concrete running from the South
Texas Lumber Co. to the properties of John Myrick and Charles F. Perry.

It is 1927 that the Boy Scout camp to be named Camp Perry becomes a reality. Land is
obtained along the west bank of the Arroyo Colorado west of Rio Hondo. Harlingen
realtor Charles Perry donates some land for the camp, which will eventually encompass
260 acres. He takes an active role in building the stone chimney adjacent to the main hall.
Perry is married to Velma Simmons and their daughter is to be Vonnie Mae Perry
Westbrook of 802 N. 1st Street. In 2002 the camp will celebrate its diamond jubilee
anniversary. It continues to serve scouts from across the Valley.

7/14/28 The second annual Valley Scout Encampment at Camp Perry is attended by 300
scouts who will be there ten days.
8/26/28 Camp Perry is officially dedicated in an elaborate ceremony.


1995 The Rio Grande Council (Boy Scouts) conduct the first annual winter camp at
Camp Charles F. Perry.