Dr. Franklin Morris Family Information compiled by Norman Rozeff, Harlingen Historical Preservation Society, December 2006

The scant information encountered came from an obituary printed in the Valley Morning Star (Harlingen) newspaper in January 1962 upon the death of Nola Weaver Morris who died 1/20/62. It noted that she and her husband, Dr. Franklin Morris, had come to the city in 1929 and that he had died in 1958. Two descendants still resided in Harlingen at the time of her death. They were Rachel Morris Pletcher and Louie G. Morris. Information gleaned from the telephone directories of the city provides data on these two individuals and their spouses.

Rachel married the son of a prominent Harlingen florist/nurseryman, George H. Pletcher. Her husband was a junior. In 1935 George Jr. was a student and lived at home through 1939. Apparently in 1941 or thereabouts he married Rachel. His father had made him a partner in the growing business by this year. When in 1942 George was in the U.S. Army Reserve the couple resided at 1717 W. Harrison. At the time this area was still countrified and surrounded by fields. It is now heavily commercial tho the nursery outlet store remained at that location for many years. By 1952 the elder Pletcher had retired and young George became owner. The retail part of the business was spun off in 1962 and George became owner of Pletcher's Wholesale Nursery. Palm trees became a big part of its sales.

In 1977/78 he will serve as a Harlingen Commissioner. The family by the 1960s will move into the spacious residence with swimming pool on South Parkwood Drive.

Dr. Morris and his wife Nola are not listed in the first available Harlingen telephone directory (1930), nor thereafter. Their son Louie, who is married to Gladys L., first appears in the 1935 directory and is listed as an employee of Star Tire Service. By 1939 is has become an employee of the Hygeia Milk Products Co. This firm has a major plant in the city on F Street. By 1941 Louie has risen to salesman and remains as such through 1945.

By 1946 he has changed jobs and become an employee of Boggus Motors Co., the major Ford dealer in the city. He continues here until about 1949 after which time in 1950 he goes on his own as a salesman for L. G. Morris Products, likely produce and food.

By 1952, with son Lloyd as a student, Louie is a food distributor. Lloyd in the Cold War period of 1954 enlists in the U.S. Army Reserve before becoming a college student in 1956 while brother Quentin remains at home. Quentin will attend Texas A & I College, Kingsville by 1959. This school is now Texas A & M University (Kingsville). By 1961 and for a couple of years Louie lists himself as a produce salesman. Before 1965 he becomes route supervisor for the Magee Dairy of San Benito, TX. He retires before 1969. His last phone book listing is for 1981.

The Morris family resided at 120 W. Taft Avenue for nearly all of their stay in Harlingen. The exception was in 1946 when they occupied rooms at 513 E. Van Buren for a year or so before returning to the Taft address. The Taft home is a small, white clapboard structure.