In the course of his work with BFI, Harlingen's Marin Moreno found himself at the Brownsville Recycling Center. There he encountered a woman who was unloading boxes containing a considerable number of dusty, decrepit-looking binders. These aroused his curiosity. When he approached her and inquired what they were, she replied that years ago her father had retrieved them from the county courthouse as they were about to be discarded. After sitting for decades in her home she was about to do the same with them. An examination of the box contents revealed that within the heavy black cardboard covers were yellowing, stitched copies of a Brownsville newspaper he had never heard of—*The Daily Sentinel*. His interest piqued, he asked the woman if he could have them. She granted his request, and he loaded them into his vehicle. Some boxes, however, had material that was badly deteriorated and disintegrated upon touch. These he had to throw away.

When he arrived home, his son Martin Jr., a 15-year old high school student, was intrigued then flabbergasted by his father's find. Having a special interest in history, he immediately and carefully started to delve into each binder to peruse its contents. After scanning the first five he realized that each binder contained two to three months of daily issues dating as early as 1912 and running through 1921. While he cherished his unusual gift, young Martin was convinced by his father to donate the papers to the Harlingen Public Library where the senior Martin had a long-standing acquaintance from his youth in librarian Linda Flores. Martin did donate first five, then two more of the binders. He still retains ten more binders of the 1920-23 era that he is reviewing.

It turns out that the newspaper began to be published in Brownsville in 1850, only four years after the US-Mexico boundary was established at the Rio Grande following the Mexican War. In 1868 John Salmon "Rip" Ford moved to Brownsville to edit the paper. During the Civil War Col. Ford was to gain fame as a Confederate military man in South Texas and the victor of the war's last battle at Palmetto Hill. The original *Sentinel* ceased publication in 1890. *The Daily Sentinel* commenced publication in 1910. H. M. Skelton, Jr. was the owner and publisher of the editions in the retrieved binders. By the 1920s the paper was advanced in that it carried the national and international press services of United Press and Universal Service. At the time the paper cost 50 cents per month or $5 per year.

The papers are being expertly archived, a slow, laborious, and costly process, by research librarian Tim Reynolds and volunteer Marlene Pegg. First, the fragile pages are separated when the binding tread is removed. Next both sides of a page sheet are sprayed with a compound that de-acidifies the paper. It is the paper's acid content that accelerates deterioration. Lastly, each sheet is placed in an expensive oversized Mylar envelope. The library with its limited funding for supply of the latter must await new appropriations and would likely welcome donations specific for this purpose.
I was able to review the contents of the first seven binders that have been donated. Some fascinating material that has come to light includes the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, the confusing activities transpiring south of the border in the revolutionary days of 1915, the operations of American soldiers and Texas Rangers during the tumultuous decade, the building of the Point Isabel Wireless Station, and the 1920 Spring training in the Valley of the St. Louis Cardinals and Philadelphia Athletics.
Future historians will find the newspapers very valuable. The Morenos, Senior and Junior, are to be commended for recognizing the importance of these documents and generously donating them to the Archive Room of the library.