Starting from the left of the photograph we see a side door to the Ewing and Phillips Hardware Store, later to become Harlingen Hardware. It was in the year 1912 that F. Finley Ewing of Ballinger, Runnels County, TX came to San Benito. After four years there he worked for the government in border construction projects. Then, in 1919, he comes to Harlingen to enter the hardware business as manager of Ewing and Phillips Hardware Company, Inc at the northwest corner of Commerce and Jackson. Later he is president of the Peoples Gin Company. By 1929 he is president of the Harlingen Development Company. This is the relic of the original townsite company which was acquired by local interests from foreign capitalists in 1924. At this time in the original townsite there are 1000 building lots left which this company owns and controls. He is elected Mayor on 4/6/26 and serves until 1928. His term is remembered as one with great progress for the city. His partner, Frank T. Phillips, commuted from his San Benito home and the hardware store which he owned there. By 1931 and for or at least six years the hardware company that occupies the premise goes by the name Rio Grande Hardware and Machinery Company then in 1936 becomes Harlingen Hardware. Harriette Armacost, whose family was long-time owner of Harlingen Hardware and who herself was a familiar face in the store before it was sold several years ago to Broadway Hardware, claims both Phillips and Ewing as ancestors. In its very early days the hardware store building housed the Eastern Seed Company owned by Clark Seed of Corpus Christi. When it closed, its 25' frontage was incorporated into the hardware store.

The Harlingen Hardware still occupies the 1919 building at the corner of Commerce and Jackson and retains that name though it is owned by the progressive McAllen firm of Broadway Hardware.

The miniature fry pan you have is a sales promo item. We see them here at flea markets and offered from time to time on E-bay. Likely it was produced in the late 1940s but could possibly be pre-WWII.