The Hext family is not listed in the available 1931-32 telephone directory of Harlingen. There then follows a gap of five years in available directories. The earliest documented item I have located on the Hext family in the Harlingen area is an entry in the telephone directory of 1937-38. It lists W. A. Hext as a tenant farmer living 2 Miles Briggs-Coleman Road. This is currently that portion of FM 507 running north from FM 508. This would put the farm site in the Agua Dulce Farms Subdivision of the Ojo de Agua Grant and not too far north of the Briggs-Coleman Gin. This gin was owned by Forrest Garling, Sr., a good friend of Walter Archelaus Hext. It was in this gin that Walter likely had his cotton processed.

Archelaus is the name of a famous Greek philosopher who was the last cosmologist philosopher and a teacher of Socrates. It is unlikely that Walter's parents named him after the Jewish King Archelaus, the son of King Herod and a disastrous leader. Archelaus means leader of the people. Walter's friends called him by the nickname Cheli (pronounced chill-lay) derived from the middle part of his middle name.

In the 1938 telephone directory the Hexts have moved considerably closer to town. Their new address is 1-8 Mile Grimes Road. Forrest Garling, Jr. remembers their wooden frame house as being set back on a lot not too far from the current intersection of Grimes and 77 Sunshine Strip (Business 77). He believes that they either owned or farmed a large parcel of land extending from Grimes north to Rio Hondo Road. This area is presently all residential, but a large part of it is covered by the Harlingen High School complex and playing fields erected on Marshall Street in 1957. The family is listed at the Grimes address in available directories through 1946.

In 1948, and maybe sometime during 1947, the Harlingen Gin Company comes into existence with its gin at the intersection of Grimes and Air Base Road (later to be called Morgan Blvd.). Being adjacent to his farm land this would have been the most convenient place for Walter to have his cotton crop ginned. By 1961 the Harlingen Gin Co. will have been relocated to the Port of Harlingen area along FM 106.

What follows is the history of the "Silk Stockings Row" house the Hexts occupied for sure in 1950 but possibly as early as 1949:

Under construction for R.L. and Ola Hill as the Hurricane of 1933 strikes is a Spanish Colonial Revival home at 1102 Taylor. It has notable architectural elements including arched doorways, and windows and a hand-carved front door. The panels of the mesquite door show brush as the explorers found it here, ranch scenes, brush clearing and the introduction of water, and citrus and palm trees. Eleanor Roosevelt was entertained here as was Gov. W. Lee O'Daniel. The Hills had come to Texas in 1926 from Stroud, OK and Harlingen two years later. He was born in Lowell, Indiana, 8/13/90, and she was from Oklahoma. He ran the ice plant partnership with J.B. Morton of McAllen, and they have prosperous branches across the Valley. He is also to be a partner with H. E. Butt in constructing the huge food processing factory at F Street and West Jackson; later he is its president as well as a vice president of the First National Bank. He owned the Commerce
Building as well as property on Jackson Street. Struck suddenly with appendicitis in December 1941, Robert Luther Hill is to die at age 50 leaving a wife and two daughters. A surviving daughter in 2005 is Mrs. Betty Nickell. The house's subsequent owners are Walter Archelaus Hext and his wife Lillie Miller Hext (1949 or 1950 to 1968). He was a cotton farmer here from the late 1930s and later owned the W.A. Hext and Sons Gin, Inc. in Combes. Leonard D. and Flora Levine next occupied the house from about 1972 until 1988 or 1989. He was a partner in the Man's Shop and managed Hartogs. Ervin Burton was in the house by 1990 and there until 1995-96. Dr. Aldolfo Rama and his wife Clarissa are to restore and beautifully decorate the premise by 2004 and then open Casa Rama, a bed and breakfast enterprise.

In 1954 Dallas J. Hext, listed as a farmer, and his wife Billye are noted to be living west down the street at 509 E. Taylor. By 1956 they have moved to larger quarters at 1621 E. Taylor. In 1954 brother Gordon H. is noted to be a college student but has a separate phone at his parent's address on 1102 E. Taylor. By two years later (1956) he, now listed as a farmer, is married to Clemmie, and they reside at 1605 E. Taylor.

1950 onward to about 1965 Walter A. Hext, Jr., a farmer by occupation, resides with his wife Nita at 206 West Taft Street. This is a relatively new subdivision not far north of the Arroyo Colorado. In 1966 they have left Harlingen for the nearby town of Rio Hondo at 305 Paloma. In the 50s Nita is a bookkeeper for Cummer-Graham and by 1965 for the Harlingen National Bank.

In 1966 James Dallas Hext is noted under occupation to be a teacher at the Austin Elementary School while his wife is also a Harlingen school teacher. They reside at 1102 E. Taylor. He goes by the name Dallas. He was born on July 10, 1930 in Harlingen. He was graduated from Harlingen High School in 1948 and began his teaching career in the 1960s at Austin Elementary before earning his Master of Education degree from Stephen F. Austin College, Nacogdoches in 1971. After 30 years in the education field he retired. When he died at age 79 in Newton, Texas on November 24, 2009, his obituary will note that he was survived by his wife Helen and daughter Amanda. The death of his brothers Gordon and Walter preceded his, but his sisters-in-law Ruby and Nita Hext still were alive.

In 1961 is found the first listing for W. A. Hext and Sons Gin, Inc. It is located near the southwest corner of intersection, HWY 107 and Business 77, Combes. Walter, Sr. is listed as owner of the firm, Gordon as president, and Dallas as vice president. Combs area farmer E. J. Billings says Mr. Hext went broke in the 1960s.

In the 1969 telephone directory for Harlingen not a single Hext is listed. Forrest Garling, Jr. believes that some of the family returned to their East Texas roots of Jasper, TX. With the continued consolidation of gins into larger units, the Combes gin was shut down by at most 1972. Its machinery was moved elsewhere or scrapped. The building housing the gin still stands more as less in a skeleton state but retains a roof used to shelter odd items. One of the issues which impacted the economic viability of smaller gins was the instituting of EPA regulations regarding cotton gin emissions into the air. Many gins discovered that it would be uneconomical to make the necessary capital expenditures necessary to bring the gins into compliance. Closure was the next logical step.

On 7/24/05 an e-mail was received requesting information on the Hext family. It was from out-of-state resident Estelle Hext Locklear. Later information revealed that she was the daughter of W. A. Hext from his second marriage to a younger Latina woman whom
he married after the death of his first wife. She was to be Paula Viola Contreras Dart. Estelle, and her brothers John J. Hext and Dr. George L. Hext, were the offspring of this "second" family.

John, after being in poor health for many years, was to die at age 62 in Harlingen. He had been born August 8, 1945. He attended Hardin-Simmons University but left to serve two tours in Vietnam with the U.S. Navy. He continued to serve in the reserves until retiring in 1988. He received a degree in chemistry from Pan American University after which he was employed by Career Planning Placement and Testing, later teaching in the HCISD before ill health forced his retirement. He was a member of the San Benito Elks and Calvary Baptist Church. He was survived by his mother and siblings.