Moving Company Celebrates

75 Year Van Line Affiliation, July 2009

Jones Moving and Storage has been serving South Texas as an agent for Mayflower Transit for the past 75 years, according to Mark Groves, president of the Harlingen-based company. Initially incorporated in 1922 as Jones Transfer, the company was issued some of the earliest Texas Railroad Commission permits to haul household goods and oil field equipment within South Texas and between the Rio Grande Valley and other Texas points. In the 1930's the number of interstate moves generated in the market was very limited and an independent mover would have found it difficult to provide satisfactory scheduling at a reasonable cost on state to state relocations, so in 1934, Jones Moving signed on as an agent of Mayflower to provide the community with reliable and reasonably priced interstate moving services.

“We’re proud to have had such a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Mayflower,” Groves said, “They are professionals in every sense of the word and they demand the same level of professionalism from the agents who represent them.”

"We are proud to have Jones Moving and Storage as part of the Mayflower family," said Casey Ellis, vice president of sales for Mayflower. "We look forward to many more decades of working together."

Mayflower Transit, LLC coordinates a worldwide network of agents from its corporate headquarters in Fenton, Missouri. Established in 1927, Mayflower has developed superior brand recognition and has become one of the largest household goods carriers in the industry.

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In this year Fulton Jones comes to town. His first enterprise is ice delivery. Two years later he starts the Fulton Jones Moving and Storage Co. when he purchases a truck with solid rubber wheels. By 1924 he is occupying a warehouse on N. Commerce near J.W. Rhone's seed store (later to be Jackson Feed). By 1930 he is at a larger facility in the
1000 block of West Harrison. His drayage business becomes Valley-wide, and he uses the names Jones Motor Freight lines and Jones Transfer and Storage Co. for his businesses. As the downtown Harlingen area becomes more congested and additional space is required, the now Jones Moving and Storage Co. builds a warehouse facility at 2404 Wilson Road. Living at 320 Pecan, McAllen in his later years, he dies at age 65 on 12/16/62 leaving his wife Ottie and brother George of McAllen. This Church of Christ member left no children.

1/13/21 The Harlingen Study Club, a literary organization and the first culture club in Harlingen, is established. Mrs. J.C. Myrick is president. Other officers are Madams H.E. Sumners and S.P. Nicholson, vice-presidents; Mrs. I.C. Webb, recording secretary; Mrs. Morris Chaudoin, corresponding secretary; Mrs. H.D. Seago, treasurer; and Mrs. A.L. Brooks, parliamentarian, and who also chaired the constitution/by-laws committee. At a meeting at the First Baptist Church the club commences a library project upon the suggestion of Mrs. F.L. (Ina) Crown. Initially this is a single bookcase, containing eleven donated books, in the American Legion quarters. Later this is moved to the Commerce Street office of Fulton Jones, then the offerings are expanded in a downtown space rented for $6/month. Over time the library moves from Loeb's Feed Store to the small City Hall on Commerce to the newer combined City Hall and fire station at 2nd and Van Buren Streets. The Club continues to operate the library until 1925 when it presents the library to the city. In 1927 the library is in one room in the Women's Building in Bowie Park on Monroe. In 1941 an east wing room is added to triple the space. The club's 1922-24 president is Mrs. H. E. Sumners and for 1924-25 Mrs. A. Goldammer. On 5/25/78 after 57 years of existence the Study Club of Harlingen disbands.

3/27/25 A.L. Brooks completes the building to the north of the Rhone Store. Part of it is leased to the F.D. Ray Motor Co., a Chevrolet dealership, Household Furniture, and R. Fulton Jones Transfer. At this time more than 50 lots are sold at auction by the Harlingen Development Company. Prices paid range from $271 for a lot to $675. They are located on Mexico Street next to the new hospital.

3/9/30 Jones Transfer moves from 185 N. Commerce to 1006 W. Jackson. It opened a branch in Edinburg in 1926 and one in Brownsville 1929. It operates 19 trucks.