The history of the title site, currently occupied by the FAMSA Edelstein Furniture Store, mirrors the dynamics of the numerous commercial enterprises on Downtown Harlingen's “Main Street”, namely Jackson Avenue. The large outlet now occupies what was once addressed as 110 through 118 West Jackson. The twelve lots of Block 46 of the Harlingen Townsite subdivision were always prime property. Initially, this was because of their proximity to the railroad depot and later because of their location being central to many business firms.

Between 9/2/1908 and 2/19/1909 all the lots in Block 46 of the Lon C. Hill Town and Improvement Company had been sold. The purchasers were: A. H. Weller, lot 13; A. J. Ernest lots 14, 15, 16 & 17 on the south side and 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 & 12 on the north side; Mrs. Frances Chambers lots 19 & 20; lots 21 & 22 Hill's son-in-law, J. C. McBee; and J. W. Meeks lots 23 & 24.

In mid-year 1919 lots 25 through 28 (later to be 110-118 West Jackson) had just been built upon but were yet to be occupied. Prospective tenants as noted by the Sanborn Insurance Fire Maps of June 1919 were dry goods and men's furnishing stores. The buildings did not extend the full 140 feet to the service alley but only about 2/3 of that distance. Neighbors to the west were the Harlingen State Bank at the corner of Hill (now A) Street followed by a grocery store and then a variety store. The lots to the east of 25-28 were without any construction on them.

By February 1925, construction had added second floors to street address 118 (lot 27) and 116 (lot 28) but left two stores in between with only one story. The second floor at 118a would become a rooming hotel. Pedestrian traffic to these facilities was abetted by the Post Office operating, by February 1925, out of lot 29. In fact by this year buildings had been constructed on lots 29 through 33 that had previously been vacant. In this year, adjacent to the service alley behind lots 27 and 28, was an implement warehouse shed, as none of the newly constructed buildings stretched the full 140' lot depth.

By 1930 we commence having documentation on the occupants of stores that one day will become part of the sprawling Edelstein complex. At 110 is the Rainbow Cafe, Inc. O. J. Worm is its president and manager. At 112 is (Arthur L.) Bundy Photographs. This is where Harlingen society has formal portraits taken. Upstairs at 112 ½ is the Traveler's Hotel.

By 1931-32 a number of new enterprises have taken root to become neighbors of the Rainbow restaurant and Bundy. Mr. Bundy this year will share the store with R. B. Roberts, Jeweler. At 114 is M. E. Deakin's Deakins Brownbilt Shoe Store and at 114a the City News Stand of George S. Fisher. At 116 are (Letch & Arthur Cleve Pate) of Pate Brothers Men's Furnishings. Next door at 116a is Fowler's Modern Pharmacy operated by John O. Fowler Jr.

Three years later in 1935, Rainbow and Bundy continue operating, but the latter now shares some of his space with H. Bruce Stone, Jeweler. Mrs. T. L. Gorham manages the Traveler's Hotel as she will for a number of years. The shoe store at 114 has gone by the wayside, and its premise at 114 now holds L. W. Van Pelt, Jeweler and (J. H.) Dalager Radio Service. City News and the Pate Brothers forge onward. At 118 is the (C. E.) Simmons Barber Shop and three other entities -- (O. G.)

In 1937-38 the only changes from the above are for 114 where the Franco Millinary Shop, widow Mrs. Josephine Young manager, has established itself. The barber shop now has 118a as an address, and while still owned by C. E. Simmons is serviced by his brother Lee and George Walters while at 118 is the Ideal Beauty Shoppe of Mrs. H. E. Agar. At the same address is F.C. Barr Electric Fridges, G.E. Mayby, manager.

By 1939 the restaurant at 110 has changed ownership. It has become Andy's No. 2 with Howard Anderson, manager. The Anderson family operates several popular food establishments around town. City News and Stone at 112 now have (R. M.) Teague-(Johnny) Martin Studio. The street numbering has changed slightly because Traveler's is now listed at 114 ½ while downstairs at 114 is Associated Stores Clothing. At 116a is Valley Sporting Goods Store, Bill Clark, manager. At 118 is the Leonard Shop featuring ladies ready-to-wear. Yetta Tatar is its manager. Its owner is likely Leonard Levine.

In the year that WWII began, 1941, a number of changes had occurred at the site. Andy's stayed unchanged. At 112 H. Bruce Stone, Jeweler had a new photographic neighbor, Charles F. and Kathryn Holbrook's Holbrook Studio. (H. R.) Bupp's at 114 specialized in gifts, books, and magazines. Into 116 had come Children's Vogue with Mrs. R. (Iona S.) G. Crow; Louise Shop, Mrs. Wilma Robinson, owner; and the Clark Hat Shop, widow Aultria Clark, owner. Yet another section of 116 was vacant. At 118 George Walters was now doing the clipping at the Palace Barber Shop.

The years 1942-43 saw a few more tenant changes. Splitting 114 were Bupp's and Max's Shoe Shop, P. M. Jentsch, owner. The 118 barber shop was now owned by T. C. Johnson. At 116 Clark and Courts, the stationers, were in business with George E. Maxey its manager. At 116a Valley Paint and Wallpaper was busy under Louis Seligman, president and manager.

1944 was to see the evolution of a Harlingen-favorite eatery. Andy's at 110 became Phil's Grill. Though owned by J. R. Fitzgerald, the Tri-Pak Machinery Service owner, it was the capable P. R. (Phillip Robert) Edie who was manager. Phil was also managing Johnson's Cafe. Fitzgerald was the owner of Johnson's Cafe along with the Cadillac Grill and Valley Bowling Center. He was also busy with the Gas Rationing Board and a member of the Board of Education.

The site's occupancy remained quite stable through 1947. By 1948 the hotel had closed, and the upstairs was converted into offices. 112 ½ was named the Professional Arts Building and soon had 13 tenants. Alongside the Pate Brothers at 114 came (David G.) Anderson Jeweler.

In 1950 Bert Keyes had set up Bert's Fine Foods in 110. At 112 Max's Shoe Store now had (V. L.) Booth Studio close by. 112/1/2 had lost tenants and was down to five occupants. This was the last year for Clark & Courts at 116. It would move to a new modern building on East Harrison. Valley Paint had moved west several doors to 118.

1952 saw Rogers' Photography managed by Ruth Hudson take the place of Booth Studio. Max's at 112 was still the neighboring business. Into 116 came Lee Wilson's Wilson Sporting Goods Store. The Palace Barber Shop had Walter Eulenfield as its owner. He had been that since 1948 after sharing 1947 partnership with R. A. Smith.
The year 1954 would see a major change in the complex. That year the national department store chain of W. T. Grant undertook construction changes of 110 through 116. That year the telephone directory listed the Crawford Shoe Mart, Alan Broadway, manager, at 112. David Anderson, Jeweler was reported to be in 118 and Lee Simmons, at the 118 barber shop. All stayed unchanged in 1956, 1957, 1958.

By 1959 the barber shop had closed and the jeweler's neighbor became the U.S. Army Recruiting Station. Little changed over the next five years except the former office complex was vacated. 1966 saw 114's occupancy by Robby & Lyn Children’s Store with Lew Levine as its president and Dina Levine vice president. Neal Bonner was secretary-treasurer of the firm while his wife Donna Bonner was also involved.

In 1969, 118 become vacant. Two years later Grant's was listed by its trademarked name Diskay Discount Mart. It would continue under this name through 1974. In 1971 Walter Lashley was its manager and Abel Flores its assistant manager. Grants, which was organized in 1906, was running into trouble as it extended credit without due diligence to the status of creditors. It would file for bankruptcy in 1976, then the second largest U. S. bankruptcy ever. In 1975 Robby & Lyn would move across the street.

By 1978 Edelstein was in the complex and by 1980 Edelstein's Better Furniture, with an address of 110, occupied much of the complex. It was operated by partners Ben and Ruben Edelstein. Ben and his wife Charlene resided at 249 Riverside Drive, Harlingen. At 114 was Morse Sewing Furniture and Appliances, Inc. with J.A. Huerta as its president.

The Edelstein business was started early in the 1900s in Brownsville by Morris Edelstein, and had been in Harlingen as early as 1923, with a store on Commerce Street several doors north of the Jackson Feed Store. It would later move to the 207 W. Jackson location on the south side of the street and for a time also had a discount outlet in the old Letzerich Building at 212 W. Jackson.

Over time Edelstein's was to expand until it occupied the whole complex that once was 110-118 W. Jackson. It even instituted a sizeable second floor display area served by a freight elevator to the rear. As of July 2015 the Edelsteins still own (now renumbered) Lots 17 through 22 in Block 46.

It is amazing to contemplate the complicated history of this site and reflect upon the great number of enterprises once here and the many individuals who served customers over the decades. The site has been dynamic indeed.