The story of Robert Runyon is presented in the essay under Valley History. Among the thousands of photographs he took over a decade seventy-nine photographs attributed to Harlingen are listed in the Library of Congress posting. There is in fact less than this number because the indexing of some is in error. The photos are available for viewing online at http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/txuhtml/runyhom.html. The Library of Congress has assigned reproduction numbers to the photographs. Following are remarks about the various photos as they are numbered.

02990 was likely taken in late 1911 and is probably the very earliest Runyon photo of the Letzerich Building and Main Street (later Jackson Avenue). The building exhibits its plainest front and advertises a dentist on its second floor windows. It has an empty lot immediately to its east. This lot is joined by one with a wooden building having a false front topped by two ornamental balls. The next lot adjacent to what will later be named A Street is vacant but across the street on the same side can be discerned a two-story brick building. This will eventually become August Weller's bank building. Lastly discernable on this side of the street is the small white bell tower of what started out to be the Seventh Day Adventist Church but was later used by other denominations and as an early school house for Anglo children.

Across the street from the Letzerich Building is the small one story wooden barbershop of A. W. Elmore. Its sidewalk overhang is supported by three timbers characteristically marked as barber poles. The small trees near it have yet to be cut down and the streets still exhibit clumps of native vegetation though some wooden walkways are in place. In a row down the street are five structures, all of two-stories. The first structure next to the barbershop is the enterprise run by Dr. H. E. Whatley. It has his name on it and a sign advertising "Drugs", most likely veterinarian ones. Next to this stands the Ritter General Merchandise Store. This building early on had housed a general store operated by James Lockhart, one of Harlingen's first settlers. Beside Ritters is a furniture store advertising itself with large signs "Furniture" painted on its north and south walls. Its neighbor is a saloon/restaurant with its large "Saloon" sign on the street side second story. It is owned or leased by August Weller. To the east across the narrow street are a two-story white-painted wooden building and its neighbor a crude one-story building. Suspended on Main Street over this intersection is a single streetlight. The photo shows at four vehicles, but one would surprised if they were driven at night on this dirt street. Across First Street is a one-story building with its west side covered by illegible advertising.

03006 is another very early photo. It portrays the Letzerich Building in 1910 or 1911. The post office might have been in its small left side room. Hugo Letzerich operates the Harlingen Pharmacy while his physician brothers, Casper and Alfred have offices upstairs.
Over the years Runyon would take photos of Harlingen's Main Street from the same vantage point, namely the intersection of Commerce and Main Street looking east. 02994 is such a picture. A clue to its date is found in the distant two-story brick structure which is the Central Ward School (later the Sam Houston School). At the very earliest this school was coming up in October 1911. Otherwise the photo is very similar to 02990.

02991 is a photo from another year in the sequence. The Letzerich Building now supports a flagpole, and a large two-story brick building has taken the place of the two-story white wooden building on the south side of the street. The trees near the barbershop have been removed. There are many more automobiles, electric lines, and a wooden walkway now crosses from the Letzerich Building to the barber shop side. 02993 appears to have been taken in the same time frame.

02992 is in 1917 at the earliest because one can now see the Planters National Bank Building where the barber shop once stood. The bank opened in the building this year. Next to the Letzerich Building a one-story brick has also been erected. On the northwest corner of a Street a two-story brick building has arisen. This still exists at the site but sports a 1950s façade. A large two-story brick building has also come up adjacent to the Weller's First National Bank. A single light now illuminates the Commerce Street-Main Street intersection. In 1919 a city ordinance had been passed to prohibit the construction of wooden buildings in the downtown area. This was to reduce the dangers of fires, some of which had plagued other Valley cities.

02988 begins a series of photos taken from an elevated position, very likely the water tower at the southeast corner of Jefferson Avenue and First Street. This 50' tower held a 12,000 gallon tank atop it and was constructed in the latter half of 1911. 02988 was taken in 1915. We know this because the Lozano Building is shown in its initial construction stage. Some of the brick buildings noted in 02992 have yet to be constructed. A sign for the Weller's bank sits on the ground awaiting attachment. In the distance the tents of national guardsmen can be seen around what is now 3rd-4th Streets. Behind the substantial Lon C. Hill Building can be seen the Mooreland Hotel. It already has had an addition made to its east side in order to accommodate the increasing number of visitors to the town. Near the lower left is the noted Verser House, famed for its southern hospitality.

02987 is similar to the above but much clearer and it shows a two-story brick building having been erected south of Ritter's store.

02986 provides a better view of the Verser House and shows the Central Ward School in the upper left side.

03994 is one of a series of panoramic photos taken of the town from the water tower. To the right is seen the new St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway station. Above the Verser House is the Morrow Brothers lumber shed. 03993 and 03992 are similar with the latter possibly showing the two-story Lockhart house on the middle right along with a large storage shed and grain elevator. The little building that served as Harlingen's first
city hall and was located in the foreground triangular area on B Street has been torn down.

03009 shows the train depot looking to the northeast while 03008 taken facing the southwest shows it being landscaped. It was on Commerce at Van Buren which for many years did not cross the railroad tracks.

03007 looks NNE and reveals the water tower from which Runyon likely snapped his panoramic views.

03000 is one of many photos of the impressive and relatively new Central Ward School on Main Street in the 500 block. This one was taken probably in 1915. By 1930 the attractive bungalow to the left has been demolished, perhaps to extend the schoolyard to the whole city block. 02990 is similar as are 02999, 02998, and 02996.

02997 and 02995 of the school were taken at an earlier date at the same time. Note the decorative plants atop the front of the building. The building still appears in a constructive phase so 1912 is the likely date for these photos.

03003 and 08707 shows August Weller's Harlingen State Bank in 1915 at the corner of First and Main Streets. A sign for it has yet to be hung. In later years it was occupied by Feder's, a fabric store.

08704 presents a scene from the Arroyo Colorado. At this bend the water is slow and fairly clean. We note a car, a small wooden boat, and a diving board.

03775 is another Arroyo scene likely looking west. Note the wooden shack on the left.

03774 faces east on the Arroyo.

03776 and 03777 view the Arroyo at a flood stage on 10/2/1919.

08703 is called Deer Park. This fenced in area may possibly be part of Bowie Park. This park was one of Harlingen's first and occupied the city block where the Casa del Sol and Tourist Center on Madison now stand.

02989 is the Harlingen Lake or Reservoir. The photo looks toward the south and was snapped in 1915 or later because the Anglin's two-story house on the right didn't come until up late 1917.

03761 shows the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway Bridge across the Arroyo Colorado at Harlingen. It is the longest bridge on the line and was completed in 1905. This view looks to the south. Some people have erected a rickety shallow water crossing for pedestrians.

03660 is the F Street Bridge across the Arroyo Colorado looking west as is 03759. This single lane structure was erected in 1911.

03762 shows the same bridge looking east. Note the well-worn path on the right foreground. When the water was low this was used by vehicles to ford the stream.
08715 is the Watters home at 317 E. Madison. It is representative of the modest wood frame cottages being built around 1910 and thereafter. The house is still there in 2007. The Watters ran a variety store but ceased operations when the chain 5 and 10 cent stores came to Harlingen in the 1920s.

08714 is similar to the above and shows the S. A. Connor at 301 E. Taylor. It remains there in 2007.

03004 and 03005 The Mooreland Hotel started out as Harlingen's first hotel when the railroad company erected it. C. S. Moore purchased it in the fall of 1908 and was later to expand it to its east side. It was razed in 1928 after Moore built the Madison Hotel on the adjacent lot on Van Buren.

03339 portrays sugarcane being loaded from gondola cars onto the mill feeder table. A crew pulls odd stalks from the feed apron onto a conveyor. This is the Hill Sugar Company factory once located where the Municipal Baseball Stadium now stands. It commenced its first grinding season in November 1911. Other Hill Sugar Co. scenes are in 03320, 03321, 03322, and 03323. The mill was said to have been burned to the ground by Mexican Bandits on 7/17/17.

03001 and 03002 These are of the community center built by land developer Thomas F. Lee for his Leeland Subdivision. It would later pass to the Stuart brothers for their development of Stuart Place and become its clubhouse. The building exists today on Business 83 west of Harlingen proper.

03012 and 3011 show a landscaped residence in Harlingen. The fencing indicates it was erected to keep out medium and large size animals.

03010 This is the Lon C. Hill house which was erected in 1904 at what was to become Fair Park. Its site was the Casa de Amistad. It was Harlingen's first residential house. Later it was moved across the street and in the 1970s to the Harlingen Heritage and Arts Museum complex.

08712 and 08713 This is Harlingen's first official train depot, the first one being a boxcar. It had a standard railroad design. This is looking north. Note the semaphore signal atop the roof and the train schedule posted on the building.

08708 is the J. W. Rhone Seed Store on N. Commerce Street just north of Harlingen Hardware. It became the Jackson Feed and Grain Store when F. G. Jackson purchases it in 1925. The date is about 1910 or 1911. On its south side is the Western Union office and on its north side the Lochridge Millinery shop then Edelstein's Furniture featuring the same logo on its sign that it does to this day.

01741 is labeled the 12th Cavalry camp and is near the Harlingen Depot, but this unit was not known to have been stationed in Harlingen and may have been in transit.
01739 and 01740 are of the Sixth Cavalry camp between 3 and 4th Streets on the very south side of town as it was in 1915. 02030 and 03031 are similar.

08031 and 08032 are troops ready to embark on a train at the Harlingen station. The two-story building with a porch is the Ogan Hotel on N. Jackson. The date of these photos is 1915 or 1916.

03444, 03445, 03446, 03447 and 03462 are of citrus orchards in the Harlingen area.

08705 is named Lighthouse, Harlingen. It is not something recognized in the town but may be part of the Harlingen Canal pumping plant on the river.

08709 and 08710 are mislabeled. This decorated commercial building is in fact located in Brownsville.

08706 is noted to be a Harlingen school but does not fit anything known to exist in Harlingen at the time of these photos.

The eleven photos labeled Lake Loma Alta are of a shallow lake northeast of Brownsville and shouldn't be catalogued under Harlingen.