Information on Taylor Avenue Residents

In the late 1920s and early 1930s as the city's more affluent merchants and professionals seek a more urban location for their homes, substantial and beautiful houses are constructed on Taylor Avenue along the so-called "silk stocking row."

It is in 1921 that Horace Starnes sells his interest in a cotton gin and moves to Harlingen. Born in 1878 in Bechart, TN he is brought to Texas when age nine by parents who die six months later. Relatives then bring him to Leander in 1891. He quits school and later serves in the army in the Spanish American War. Returning to Leander in 1902 he marries Ella Rachel Bryson. They have a daughter Viola Starnes, who will one day attend UT. In Harlingen he buys 50 acres of farm land on Wilson Road (the current site of Gutierrez Middle School.) He is also to own the grocery store at 112 E. Jackson. It is this year that Horace Starnes sells his interest in a cotton gin and moves to Harlingen. Born in 1878 in Bechart, TN he is brought to Texas when age nine by parents who die six months later. Relatives then bring him to Leander in 1891. He quits school and later serves in the army in the Spanish American War. Returning to Leander in 1902 he marries Ella Rachel Bryson. They have a daughter Viola Starnes, who will one day attend UT. In Harlingen he buys 50 acres of farm land on Wilson Road (the current site of Gutierrez Middle School.) He is also to own the grocery store at 112 E. Jackson. 8/3/26 Clarence Sherman arrives from Leander, TX for an extended stay. He is with the Starnes and Sherman System of stores. Several months earlier the Jackson Street store was already bearing the name Starnes-Sherman Grocers. In 1929 Horace becomes manager of the CCWD No.1 and remains so until 1949. He is one of the founders of the Harlingen Country Club, Industrial Bank on A Street, and the Production Credit Union in 1934. After inviting his sister-in-law here she opens the first millenary shop on Jackson Street and is to marry Dan Botts, Sam's twin brother. Horace is to die in 1951 at age 73; Ella in 1982 at age 105; and their daughter Viola in 1983 at age 81. Jay Russell is his grandson who with his family resides at the old home at 601 E. Taylor.

Added by 1930 is James L. and Maude Teas' 602 E. Taylor Mexican hacienda style home. He is general manager for Hollingsworth Motors. Later he will be a salesman for Washmon Motors.

The Italian villa style home built by W.T. Liston at 613 E. Taylor is for Oscar Nathan Joynner and his wife Anne Evelyn. The house was built in late 1925 and early 1926 for the Joyners who had come to Harlingen in 1919 from Rosdale, TX. He became the first Valley agent for the Texas Co. (Texaco) and will later own the Joynner Oil Company. The house was modeled on Boca Raton, FL homes designed by Addison Mizner, a famous architect of the day. The Joynner family owned it to the early 1980s when the new owner completely restored it. O.N. Joynner was born in Rockdale, TX on 9/1/91 and attended high school there. He married Annie E. McCalla on 7/15/13. They came to Harlingen 7/26/19. This Presbyterian member was also a Mason and Shriner. 1930-34 A Valley resident since 1930, C.W. Blackwell has a flying school in the area. Mr. and Mrs. O.N. Joynner's daughter Evelyn is one of his students and is considered to be the youngest
woman pilot in the country. After she earns a flying license, her father purchases a plane. In 1930 O.N. Joyner will serve on the School Board of Trustees.

In 1921 Lawrence W. Hoskins born in Terrill, TX 12/30/87 makes his way to Harlingen. He will be president of L.W. Hoskins Realty. With only a high school education, he serves in WWI as a first lieutenant in the Air Service. He marries Dorothy K. Kuykendall in June 1921. This Episcopalian is also a Mason, Odd Fellow, Knight of Pythias, Rotary, and American Legion member. The pink-colored Southern Colonial brick built by L.W. Hoskins in 1921 is at 614 E. Taylor. 1925 is the year that Miller Harwood arrives in Harlingen. He was born in Gonzales TX 12/18/87. He attended the U. of Virginia and UT, marrying Clair Leverton 11/24/09. He served as city treasurer, was Rotary Club president, and a member of the First Presbyterian Church. Together with L.W. Hoskins he will develop the East Taylor Street area.

In 1925 Emery Polk Hornaday II comes to Harlingen. This Valley native was born near Clarksville, TX 12/9/88. He attended UT, North Texas Normal College, and the University of Montpellier France. His WWI service was two years, four months in the army. He married Lucille Caswell 9/1/23. A partner of Hornaday and Mayfield in 1928, he is Cameron County representative in the state legislature as well as president of the Lions Club. In 1926 614 E. Taylor was occupied by attorney Emery Polk Hornaday II and his wife Lucille, who was principal of Austin School. Hornaday was elected in a special election to the 39th State House of Representatives and then served in the 40th and 41th, and his son Emery, who would later attend TCU, was state mascot for one year. He was city attorney for six years and served on the Charter Commission. A daughter was to marry famous magician, Harry Blackstone, Jr.

At 617 E. Taylor is the Georgian style 1927 home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Franklin Johnson. He is a banker. In 1917 the Planters State Bank goes into operation at southeast corner of Commerce and Jackson. A two story brick building is erected where Mack Crenshaw once ran his barber shop in a small frame building. About this time the Harlingen State Bank had deposits of $78,919.81 and the Planters State and Guaranty Bank $22,516.84. The Planters State Bank organized by B.F. Johnson takes over the assets of the Harlingen State Bank and is later purchased itself by S.A. Thompson on 1/1/19. In 1923 the Planters State Bank closes its doors. Its assets are taken over by the Valley State Bank, organized by B.M. Holland, a former bank examiner. The Bushes will later occupy this house.

At 618 Lawrence W. and his wife Dorothy K. Hoskins own their own two story timber frame Georgian style house which they build in 1929. They have five children. While he initially worked here as a land agent by 1931 he had become the agent for the Pan-Am Life Insurance Co. By 1935 he and his wife were no longer residing in Harlingen. The house in that year was occupied by J. Sewell Lawson. In the 1940s the home is purchased by Mr. and Mrs. McHenry Tichenor. In 1931 the VMS is owned by the March-Fentress Group but in 1933 is sold to McHenry Tichenor, who came to the Valley from
Oklahoma. Tichenor, who came to the Valley in 1930, served as an administrator for the VBH and was a member of the Elks and Rotary. It was his purchase of a radio station here from Judge Hofheinz of Houston that sent him on the road to becoming a multi-millionaire. Several years later Hubert Hudson, father of the 1930s state senator from the area, purchases the VMS along with the Brownsville Herald and McAllen Monitor. Tichenor is said to have paid $50,000 for the VMS and sold it five years later for $125,000. Soon after Hudson builds a new newspaper plant at 213 South 2nd Street and installs an efficient rotary press to supercede the flatbed one. KGBS (later KGBT) radio owned by the Harbenito Broadcasting Co. opens with a 250 watt signal and a staff of eleven. McHenry Tichenor gives its call sign the initials of his wife, Geneviere Beryl Smith. In January 1944 it will become an affiliate of the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS.) April 1960 Harbenito Broadcasting Co. has McHenry Tichenor as president, J.C. Looney of Edinburg (and a stockholder) as vice-president, and Troy McDaniel is secretary-treasurer and general manager of the station.

1980 McHenry Taylor Tichenor, Sr. moves Tichenor Media System in buying spree of radio stations and changes their format to Spanish language.
1996-97 Tichenor Media System merges with Heftel Broadcasting Corp. and by 1999 changes name to Hispanic Broadcasting Corp. (HBC). McHenry Tichenor, who was born 12/21/97 in Morganfield, KY, is to die at age 98 just before 10/25/96. Starting with one radio station in 1940, he grew the company to 20 stations at the time of his death. Here he founded KGBT AM, KELT FM, and KGBT-TV 4. This Baptist left his son Mac as his heir.

The first Harlingen Ford automobile dealer Bob Hollingsworth and his wife Eleanor own the 1927 Georgian brick mansion at 701 Taylor. It boasted Harlingen's first private swimming pool. In this year too, after being away two years, L.Robert Hollingworth of Brazoria County, TX comes back to San Benito, where his father has a cattle business. Here he works six years for banks, including three at the Farmers State Guaranty Bank as assistant cashier. In WWI he served four months in the aviation section. In June 1922 he establishes the Hollingsworth Motor Company, an agent and distributor of Ford and Lincoln automobiles and Fordson tractors. At 220-222 W. Harrison he builds a two story structure with the showroom downstairs and family quarters above. In the 1930s he is to construct the handsome art deco showroom at 221 W. Harrison. Hollinsworth was born in Valasco, TX 10/9/99. After attending the Wentworth Academy, he served in the Signal Corps in WWI. He married Eleanor Campbell on 3/15/20 and together they sired three boys. One of the first to have a radio set in the 1920s, he is a Mason and Shriner. He left the Valley for San Antonio where he ranched and was involved in real estate. He is to be buried in Beeville. J. Louis Boggus moved to Harlingen in 1933 and acquired the Ford Agency from H.R. Hollingsworth completing the deal hours before the hurricane struck. In 1935 the Hollingsworth home was purchased by real estate developer Sid Berly and his wife.

1920 Sid Berly is attracted to the Valley. He is a native of Mansfield, LA having been born there 8/23/96 to a father, C.J., who was a stockraiser. Berly was to marry Marion Elizabeth Walker of Lake Charles on 3/18/17. They had one daughter who was given the same name as her mother. Although he studied law for two years he never completed his
studies. Instead he became a representative for the Willys-Knight Motor Co. As president and general manager of Valley Properties, Inc. located in the Reese-Wil-Mond Hotel he becomes a potent factor in the development of both agricultural and city land in the Valley, especially around Harlingen. In 1926 he is a partner with the Anglin Brothers in a real estate firm. He serves as Chamber of Commerce president in 1946-47 and is a Rotary member. In 1952 he is president of Adams Gardens. [See link "The Adams Gardens Connection – Ball to Berly".]

At 702 E. Taylor, J. Lewis and Maude Boggus construct a Southern Colonial frame house for $9,000 in 1939. Here he has both Ford and Lincoln-Mercury dealerships, was president of the C of C and promoted highways and schools. J. Louis Boggus' family had come to the Valley in 1917. He started as a bookkeeper at the Ford Automobile Company dealership in McAllen in 1918. This was Daniel Ford. Because of his outstanding abilities as a car salesman, he became a Mission Ford dealer in 1919, and part owner of Brownsville Patteson Motors in 1923. He moved to Harlingen in 1933 and acquired the Ford Agency from H.R. Hollingsworth completing the deal hours before the hurricane struck. Boggus Motors Co. is established in Harlingen. After the storm the new Ford V-8 was offered. Lincoln Zephyr models came to the agency in 1935 and Mercury in 1939, the same year Boggus acquired this franchise in Harlingen. It was in 1939 also that he started a tractor company in both Harlingen and McAllen. In 1946 Boggus separated the Valley Motor Co. selling Lincolns and Mercurys and the Boggus Motor Co. selling Fords at its new Harrison Street location. Frank Rocha was one of Valley Motors Co. original founders in 1946. In 1964 its location was 902 W. Harrison. Louis' son Frank was born in Brownsville and graduated from Texas A&M before seeing military duty in the Air Force as a 2nd Lt. Frank. He went on to become a major stockholder and chairman of the Texas State Bank. In addition to being chairman of the Texas Automobile Dealers Association, he won the Mister Republican award in 2004 for his work for this political party in Cameron County. The Boggus organization by the 21st Century is active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and participates in raising money for the Ronald McDonald House and the Salvation Army. The city's largest stadium, east of Memorial Middle School, is named in his honor after his death in 1966.

The house is sold in the late 1940s. Forrest Runnels, one of the founders of Tropical Savings and Loan Co. and the Valley Beverage Co. is later to own it. When prohibition ends Forrest W. Runnels founds Valley Beverage to distribute consumable alcoholic products. On 12/14/03 Gordon Hill, who has general managed 21 years for the firm, announces its sale by co-owners Neal Runnels of McAllen and Jane Clark of Harlingen. Its assets were purchased by Glazer's Wholesale Drug Co., Inc. of Dallas. Glazer is Texas' largest distributor of malts, spirits, and wines. It operates in six states and in 2002 had revenues of $1.75 million.

At 717 E. Taylor Josephine and Fred Flynn own the 1929 Spanish stucco house until 1957. By 1930 Fred lives in it with his wife Josephine. At this time he is secretary-treasurer of the Rio Grande Building and Loan Association. In 1957 a building is erected at 900 E. Harrison to house the Rio Grande Building and Loan Association, Flynn
Investment Co., and the Flynn Insurance Co. Clyde Fincher, head of Fincher Investment Co., is an investor in these. 7/8/59 Fred Flynn urges the Capital Improvement Board to re-submit $30,000 bond issue for municipal golf course improvements to the electorate who defeated it in 1955 while passing six other proposals.

In 1930 John D. and Ruth W. Townsend build at 718 E. Taylor a two story brick Palladian-style Italian villa. It originally had a blue tile roof and still retains Austrian glass chandeliers, ornate plaster moldings, a stained glass window, spiral entry columns, and parquet and oak floors. This year he is the district agent for The Kansas Life Insurance Company. A few months after its completion it is purchased by Howard E. Butt founder of the H.E.B. grocery chain. He added the tennis courts on the west side. Mr. Butt assisted greatly in developing the new Valley Baptist Hospital, the Harlingen Public Library, with boy scouting, in the establishment of the TB Hospital here, and donated the original building housing the RGV Museum. Howard and Mary Butt live in the house until 1940 when they move to Corpus Christi. They retain the house until 1943. In 1944 Col. John R. Morgan, commander of the Harlingen Army Air field since 1941, is living in the building. He will later retire and make his home in the Harlingen area. In the year 2000 the Texas State Historical Commission authorized a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark plaque for the house.

In January 2004 a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark plaque was erected in front of the home at 718 East Taylor Street. It was authorized by the Texas State Historical Commission in 2000. The legend on the marker reads:

Howard E. and Mary Butt House

In 1929 entrepreneur Howard E. Butt moved the headquarters of his developing grocery business to Harlingen. The following year Howard and his wife, Mary, bought this house from its builders, John and Ruth Townsend, a few months after its completion. During the 1930s, Howard's business (H.E.B. Grocery) grew to more than 28 stores in the Rio Grande Valley and South Texas. Known also for their philanthropy and civic work in Harlingen, Howard and Mary Butt lived here until 1940 but owned the house until 1943. Distinguished by its Palladian windows and spiral entry columns, the architectural style of the house is best described as Italian Renaissance.

John D. Townsend, who had the house built, was an agent for the Kansas Life Insurance Co. The two story brick house originally had a blue tile roof and still retains Austrian glass chandeliers, ornate plaster moldings, a stained glass window, spiral entry columns, and parquet and oak floors. The Butts added the tennis courts on the west side.

Brief histories of both Howard and his wife Mary are worth recounting. He was born in Tennessee in 1895. His father was a pharmacist, who because he suffered from tuberculosis, moved the family to Kerrville where the climate was thought to be drier. Howard's mother, Florence, opened a small grocery store there in 1905 in order to support the family of five. By age sixteen Howard, the youngest of three boys, began to manage the store. He was a smart young man and was valedictorian of Tivy High School when he was graduated in 1914.

He gave himself the middle name Edward before enlisting in the U. S. Navy in World War I. Howard served in the years 1917-19 and for part of his service was an aide to the
commandant of the Great Lakes Naval Station. Returning to Kerrville he joined his mother in managing the store which in 1921 he converted to cash and carry, then a risky venture when his competitors were still offering credit.

He attempted to expand into other towns and even into animal feed, but all his enterprises failed. His marriage to Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth of Kerrville in late 1924 appeared to change his luck. In 1926 he opened a successful store in Del Rio. Borrowing $38,000 he purchased three small stores in the Rio Grande Valley. By 1935 he began calling them the H. E. Butt Grocery Company but by then had already begun expanding, such as entering Corpus Christi in 1931. It was in 1946 that the stores began to carry the H.E.B. sign, later updating the logo to H-E-B.

In Harlingen he teamed with R. L. Hill, the ice manufacturer here, and together in 1928 they built the giant canning factory of several hundred thousand square feet. It still stands at Jackson and F Streets. This factory served the company well for it produced over 55 products and was especially valuable in the World War II food effort. It employed over 1,500 people during its peak periods. Van Snell, who served the city in numerous civic capacities, was cannery manager for decades.

As early as 1933, Mr. Butt who was a Mason and devout Baptist, established the H.E. Butt Foundation which helped pioneer philanthropic foundations in Texas. Together with his wife Mary, who had been born in Loma Vista, TX into a large family, they began projects that would address the health and educational needs of South Texas families. They provided seed money for libraries, tennis courts, and swimming pools for smaller South Texas communities. Later he would serve on several college boards.

Mr. Butt assisted greatly in developing the new Valley Baptist Hospital, the Harlingen Public Library, boy scouting, in the establishment of the TB Hospital here, and donated the original building housing the RGV Museum. He died at age ninety-five on March 12, 1991.

Mary Butt, when living in the Valley, worked vigorously to promote programs dealing with crippled children and child welfare as well as pushing tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment. She brought the first equipment to the Valley to evaluate hearing and vision for elementary school children. After moving to Corpus Christi she continued with numerous charitable and civic endeavors. Her work was recognized with honorary doctorate degrees and many awards. She died October 6, 1993 at age 90.

It was in 1935 that the home at 721 was built by William E. Armstrong for Thomas Read Williams, Sr. and his wife, Jimmie Davis Williams. It is a Georgian style frame house. Williams, who came here in 1925, was a pharmacist and opened the Rio Grande Pharmacy on the ground floor of the Baxter Building in 1929. He is said to be the city's first college-educated pharmacist. His descendents live in Palm Valley.

James C. and Ethel Elmore reside at 722 E. Taylor in 1930. He is secretary-treasurer of the Harlingen Independent School District. It is in January 1919 that the J.B. Elmores with children James, Margaret, and Maurine arrive in Harlingen. With all hotels full they
share, with another family, an empty store next to the Tope Building. Later they will occupy a house at 722 E. Taylor. Margaret will later marry a Ballard and Maurine a Rader.

At 801 this year is Matthew O. Ewing and his wife Anna M. He is pastor of the First Christian Church.

Across the street at 802 are George E. and Emma K. Phillips. He is transportation department manager for McLoed-Hood Co., land promoters.

In 1930 G.W. Springer and his wife Harriett live at 813. He is a traveling salesmen.

Opposite them at 814 is the home of Frank R. Lee and his wife Ella Louise. He is a clerk in the post office.

In 1925 Dr. and Mrs. J.M. Green construct the two-story Colonial Revival house at 822 E. Taylor. They have been here two years. Born in Weimar, TX 11/19/87, he was educated at Northwestern U. in Chicago. He married Ruth Rylander 1/5/14. He is in investments and real estate. This Baptist is also a Rotarian, city commissioner of streets, and will have an office in the lobby of the Reese-Wil-Mond Hotel. In this year and for the next two the city moves forward with street paving and the installation of sidewalks and curbs. Lot owners are assessed most of the costs for these activities. By 1926 major lot owners are Osco Morris, J.M. Green, A.E. and A.L. Benoist, A.L. Brooks and the Harlingen Development Co.

By 1930 the house is occupied by Tyre H. Brown and his family. His background includes: 11/26/21 Tyre H. Brown joins the Planters State Bank as cashier. The bank is reorganized as the Valley State Bank on 4/10/24, and Mr. Brown is made active vice-president. By 1929 he is president of the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce. Brown is a native of Luling, TX, having been born there 12/15/79. His community service includes promoting Boy Scouting and the Kiwanis Club. He is a member of the First Christian Church. In 1925 Tyre Brown is president of the Kiwanis Club. 1927 Hygeia Milk Products Company is organized by Dr. James Traylor, whose wife is principal of the Alamo School. Dr. Traylor's partners are Tyre H. Brown, B.M. Hollon, and Link B. Martin. In 1930 Brown is president of the Chamber of Commerce and also president of the Rio Grande Building and Loan Association while still vp at the bank. 5/31 The Valley State Bank has as its officers John T. Lomax, president, B.M. Holland and Tyre H. Brown, vice presidents, D.L. Page cashier, T.C. Jeffrey and Ray Stephenson assistant cashiers, G.G. Hensen and G.W. Ralston, directors. The residence is occupied by Lt. Col. Virgil L. Zoller of the Gunnery School at the Harlingen Army Air Field in 1942 along with his wife Mary Anne. They are there until the end of WWII.

In 1923 Otha Alton Wyrick, around 18 years old, arrives here. This native of Emerson, AK is to become a citrus grower and cotton farmer. Over the years he is deeply involved in civic endeavors including boy scouting, serving on boards, and with the Church of
Christ. When he dies in April 1986 at age 81 he leaves his wife Anna Mote, son Michael of Harlingen, and two daughters. By 1945 the Wyricks are to own the house at 822 after vacating their 805 W. Lincoln residence. On 12/28/05 Mrs. Wyrick, 95 years old, is to die after having lived at 822 Taylor for 60 years. Born in the Oklahoma Indian Territory she had moved to Harlingen in 1924. A member of the First Christian Church for over 75 years, she was known for her flower and gardening prowess.

At 902 is the 1926 Spanish Colonial Revival home of Byron Manning and Eris Holland. The Valley State Bank in 1929 has John T. Lomax as president, Byron M. Holland, active vice-president, E.O. Anglin, cashier and Evie Chaudoin as assistant cashier. Its deposits approach $1 million. 5/31 The Valley State Bank has as its officers John T. Lomax, president, B.M. Holland and Tyre H. Brown, vice presidents, D.L. Page cashier, T.C. Jeffrey and Ray Stephenson assistant cashiers, G.G. Hensen and G.W. Ralston, directors. In 1923 the Planters State Bank closes its doors. Its assets are taken over by the Valley State Bank, organized by B.M. Holland, a former bank examiner.

In the early 30s Grafton I. and Pearl Burdette live in a two story Southern Colonial frame home at 905 E. Taylor. In 1936 their daughter Bettie Jeanne becomes a charter member of the Junior Music Club. He is a mortician and partner/owner in Stotler-Burdette Mortuary and then by 1944 the Grafton Burdette Funeral Home at 1002 E. Harrison. Later it will be sold to the Kriedler-Ashcraft Funeral Home. Ashcraft is to arrive in Harlingen in 1944. D. B. Dunkin, the banker, is then to occupy the 905 premise.

Sam B. and Prudie Willis reside at 913. He is in real estate and personal loans and has an office in the Reece-Wil-Mond Hotel.

At 917 E. Taylor John and Anne Morris live in their 1930 two story Spanish Colonial stucco house. It has solid wood-hewn beams in its living room. He is a produce buyer, packer, and shipper working out of 322 N. Commerce. It remained in the family until 1968. The house is now owned by Attorney Graham McCullough and his wife Anne. Graham, whose father was once mayor of Harlingen, is an attorney who specializes in real estate law. His wife is an accomplished artist.

Walter C. and Ethel Brumley are at 1010. In 1930 he is general manager of Brumley's Inc., a department store at 114-116 E. Jackson Street.

No occupation is given for George O. Alexander who lives with his wife Ada at 1014 in 1930.

F. H. and Mildred Ford live at 1018 in 1930. He is employed by the USDA as a plant quarantine inspector with the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration. In the same position down the street at 1117 is W.R. Heard who lives there with his wife Maybelle.
A.J. Wittenbach and his wife Pearl live in 1930 at 1021. He runs a grocery at 115 South A Street.

The Trammels are new to Harlingen in 1926. William L. Trammel is the president and general manager for the Valley Baking Company. He is originally from Almore, AL having been born there 12/17/95. He was educated at Almore High School and in Long Beach, CA. He was 16 months in the army in WWI before marrying Claribel Dorringer of Illinois 5/17/2. They reside at 101 W. Buchanan with daughter Billie Faye before moving on to E. Taylor. Around 1928 William L. (Bill) Trammel moves into the English stone house at 1022. He is now owner, president and general manager of the Valley Baking Company and later was in top management with the Holsum Baking Company here. The Valley Baking Company Inc., which will later market bread under the Rainbo label, is in a two story building at 1025 W. Harrison. On December 8, 30 it will have moved into a new and larger plant at 1600 W. Harrison. The new factory of 30,000 square feet cost $300,000. It features a gas-fired 75' conveying oven, a 60' smokestack, and employs 60. W.L. Trammel, its 34 year old president and general manager, began his work career in California before coming to Texas where he struggled to succeed. In 1926 he came from Freeport to San Benito where he purchased the 25' frontage Anderson's Bakery. In July 1927 he organized the Valley Baking Company with $20,000 capitalization. This rose to $100,000 in 1928 and $300,000 by 1930. The brand name for the bread is Butter-Nut. Trammel will move into the same positions with the Holsum Baking Company by 1944.

At 1102 in the year 1930 reside Winston and Augusta Harwood. He is retired as manager of the CP&L ice plant.

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 M. (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. 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-ay) 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.

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, but 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 Hext is noted under occupation to be a teacher at the Austin Elementary School while his wife Dallas is also a Harlingen school teacher. They reside at 1102 E. Taylor.

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.
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 H. Locklear. Later information revealed that she was the daughter of W. A. Hext from his second wife after the first died. Estelle and her brother John are the offspring of this "second" family.

1926 Frank E. Davis arrives from Kansas City, MO. He becomes a pioneer in the gift fruit business and is president of Pittman and Davis Shippers. He serves as president of the school board 1929-42, is Rotary president for a spell, and on the Ration Board in WWII. This First Presbyterian member dies 10/14/62 leaving his widow, Katherine, and two sons, Edward (Ned) C. and Richard D. of Harlingen and others elsewhere. In 1930 he is residing at 1105 E. Taylor.

Claude F. and Edie Lee make their home at 1113. He is a salesman at the Waterhouse Motor Co. located at 422-24 W. Harrison.

Nearby at 1114 are Burgess B. and Elizabeth P. Brier. He is engineer in charge of the Morgan Engineering Co. with an office at 227-231 Commerce Building.

Sam and Seeta Foster are at 1121. He is owner of Sam Foster Motors, a Chevrolet dealership at 516 W. Jackson. Sam Foster starts the first Chevrolet agency at 516 W. Jackson. In July 1, 1934 he sells his business to the Knapp Chevrolet Co. Shortly thereafter its W. Harrison building burns to the ground. The dealership moves to the Wroten Building where Harlingen Motors later was located. George Wroten, in addition to operating Wroten Motors, together with Phil Edie, operated the Cadillac Grill. In 1944, after he had left the dealership behind, he was employed by Browns Express Co. as a claims adjuster. He left the Valley in the fall of 1955. He died in San Antonio at age 81 on 2/8/61.

In 1930 William M. and Mary Wolf are at 1217. He is a land owner.

This same year Harry and Viola Wendt live at 1218. He too is listed as a land owner.

Sid and Bera Howard are at 1221. His occupation is contractor.
Alfred and Emma J. Swanson make their home at 1222. He is a plasterer. They share the residence with Boyd and Cleo Caddell. He is a truck driver for Edelstein's Furniture Store.

A nurseryman, W.A, Stephens, and his wife Ida live at 1305.

Farmer Lee Moore with his wife Mary live at 1309.