Evangelina Garza, a descendant of early Wright Street residents, was born on that street. Her mother's maiden surname was Vallejo. Evangelina was well-educated and retired as a major in the US Air Force, then became a diabetes instructor. Her ancestor Martin was a mail rider in 1903. The family always called themselves Tejanos, never Mexicans.

The Vallejo family were craftsmen and master carpenters. They were not landowners or merchants. They constructed many houses in Harlingen after moving here in 1909.

Mrs. Garza's mother came from Paso Real and was first found in the 1930 US Census. She had a baptism card saying that she had been born at the Paso Real stagecoach stop. However she was born at 801 Wright Street in 1908. Her grandmother died in 1910. There were initially four siblings, but two boys died later. The grandfather then remarried.

Evangelina's father was born in Mexico. He came here as a political refugee. While he may have had a little land in Mexico, here he was poor. He married in 1930 and was a mason by trade. He would make wine from grapes growing in the back yard. Badly injured in an automobile accident he was to die at age 84. Two brothers in the family left their wives and children behind and never returned. After a while most families residing on Wright Street were related.

A 1933 book was written by a relative. It dealt with Mexicanos in World War I. This relative who was born in 1884 served in that conflict. Hill, Bodenhammer, and one other were the only three Anglos noted in the book. Some Wright Street residents returned to Mexico during World War I. Another relative had Apache bloodlines.

Ricardo Vallejo, 712 Wright, operated the first grocery store in the area.

The family was strongly Catholic and had many "no, nos." One expression they used was to go far away—literally to the distant arroyo area, now Treasure Hills. The Karankawas were labeled as bogeymen to the Vallejo children.

The name Mexiquito for the area didn't arise until later after the bracero program began.

Rachael McLish of Harlingen, who rose to fame as Miss America body builder, is a relative of the family as is Becky Maza from Combes who played the role of the young Selena in the Hollywood movie of the same name.

From the early Harlingen telephone directories we can piece together some family history. In 1930 those living on Wright Street were: Guadeloupe Vallejo his wife Biviana and three children. He was a carpenter by trade, English speaking, and they loved at 733 Wright;
Jose Vallejo, also a carpenter, spoke only Spanish and resided at 731 Wright; Ricardo was a clerk in a grocery store and English speaking. His residence was 712 Wright; Senora, Senova, or Cenobia Vallejo as it appeared written over the years lived at 714 and spoke only Spanish. Nearby at 605 Cook Street lived Juan Vallejo, a carpenter, and his wife Dina (Diana ?) C. They were Spanish speaking with two children. Also at that address was Paula Vallejo.

In 1931-32 Ricardo was at 712-714 Wright while Juan's family had added another child to the family. There was a Pedro de la Garza married to Julia I. living with two children at 701 Wright. A Pedro Garza married to Piedad had one child, and this laborer was living at 824 Wright.

By the 1935 directory Ricardo was still at 712 where he had opened a grocery store. Cenobia was near door at 714. Jose Vallejo was still apparently alone at 731. Juan's family now had four children residing at 605 Cook. Jose Garza, married to Teodora, had two children and was working at the Manhattan Café on Main Street. They were at 827 Wright. A Nicolas Garza laborer, was married to Juanita, and they lived at 824 Wright.

By 1937-38 Cesario Vallejo, his wife Andrea, and four children were living in 714 Wright. He was a laborer. Guadalupe married to Viviana (Virginia?) and a carpenter lived with four children at 717 Wright. Jose was still at 731 while Juan and Diana Cortez with four children were at 735. Ricardo had been married to Teresa and with one child now continued to operate his grocery store but at 705 Curtis Street. A Mercedes Garza with wife Paula and two children were in the rear of 731 Wright. Nicolas Garza and Juanita were in 824 Wright together with Mrs. Ramona Garza.

1939—Cesario Vallejo, wife Andrea Gonzales and four children continued to live at 714. George Vallejo and wife Paula Anzaldua now with seven children lived at the rear of 708 Wright. Guadalupe V. with wife Virginia Solis and five children were now at 314 W. Polk as he plied his carpentry trade. Jose continued to live by himself at 731. Juan V. together with wife Diana Cortez and six children were at 733. Ricardo and wife Teresa Cruz continued to operate their grocery store at 705 Curtis.

By 1941 Cesario's daughter Francisca was over 18 years old and a student. He was employed at Pletcher's Nursery. Juan, wife Dina, and six children continued to live at 735 as he worked in the carpentry trade.