1910  Tom Yates is to come here this year. He was born in Missouri on 9/24/90. He will purchase 160 acres of Wilson Tract land from Jesse Avery. He will farm it and later be involved in cotton ginning, produce buying, and be associated with both federal and state departments of agriculture.

His wife to be is Rachel Brown born in Duluth MN on 1/1/94. She arrives here in 1912. Her father, Frank R. Brown, is sent here by a northern bank which has loaned Lon C. Hill money and wants to check on how things are going. He will stay to become associated with the water district office. Rachel will teach at the Wilson School. Rachel and Tom's son, Frank, will be a long-time employee of CPL. Brown's second wife, Katherine Clarey Brown, is a doctor who has worked in Hopkinville, KY and St. Louis, MO before coming to Harlingen with Frank in 1911. She and the widowed Frank had been married in 1907, honeymooned in Alaska, and stayed there six months before moving on. Here she is not a practicing physician but does offer the first in-patient care in Harlingen when she takes patients into their spacious 1222 W. Harrison Street house. When the first F Street hospital opened in 1923 she may have ceased this service. By 1930 the Browns are living in an apartment on Madison.

1/16/20  In competition with Brownsville for the site for the erection of a Baptist hospital, Harlingen pledges $75,000 according to a Brownsville Herald article on this date. This would allow the building of a $150,000 facility or twice the cost of the originally planned one.

Robert Hamilton, Sr., who had lived in Little Deer Creek in Falls County, TX before moving to Harlingen in 1917, and Jack Earnest Stack were among leaders who saw a need for a hospital here. Hamilton worked as a bookkeeper in the Texas State Bank of Harlingen 1917-20 before opening an insurance office selling Home Insurance. He and others approached Lon C. Hill and the Harlingen Townsite and Improvement Company, and Hill pledged $15,000 toward the building. Short of cash, the company conveyed four lots just south of where the hospital would eventually be built. Two stipulations were that: the hospital would cost more than $50,000 and be built in three years (3/2/23). Incorporators were Dr. N.A. Davidson, G.S. Stringer, and Judge Fred Bennett of Mercedes. When the Baptist Sanitarium of Harlingen was not built within this time frame, the lots were reconveyed on 9/27/24 to the Cameron County Realty Co. based in Dallas. In return the hospital pursuers received lots on F Street without conditions.

The white stucco building is built in the 600 block of F Street by W.T. Liston and Sons to designs by local architects Elwing and Mulhausen. Birger A. Elwing was born in Linkojsing, Sweden on 6/13/67 and educated at Chalmera University in Gothenburg. He married Sigus Hedstrom on 12/16/89 and settled in the Valley in 1919. The 35 bed facility opens 1/22/25 and fully in May 1925. Its charter members are S.C. Tucker, Brownsville; Frank Robertson and Dr. Clarence M. Cash, San Benito; J.T. Foster, S.G. Stringer, C.S. Wroten, and Dr. N.A. Davidson of Harlingen; Dr. R.E. Utley and Fred E. Bennett of Mercedes; E.C. Couch of Weslaco; Dr. L.M. Davis of Donna; and G.T. Balch.

11/30/20 Reasons are offered in the Harlingen Star for the setbacks and obstacles delaying the building of the Baptist Sanitarium in Harlingen.
of McAllen. The capacity of the steel-framed structure is increased in 1943, and again in 1946, so that by 1956 it is equipped to care for 135 people. The facility closed in 1957 with the erection of a new hospital complex near S. Ed Carey Drive. Dr. David Nickell, who came to work in the F Street hospital in 1947, is the last of the F Street doctors to retire when he does so at age 73 on 10/29/84.

1923-26 A small ten room, u-shaped hospital painted white is the first to serve the community. It is situated on the east side of F Street between Harrison and Jackson and faces west. Owned by Mrs. Ida Gilbert, it is staffed by two nurses from Chicago. The first is Miss Mary (Maria) Yeager. She had arrived here to look at property she had purchased. She found it undeveloped and, while staying at Mrs. Gilbert's rooming house on E. Van Buren, suggested to Mrs. Gilbert that she invest in a hospital to serve the community. Mrs. Gilbert and her husband Louis bought the lot on F Street on 3/26/23 from W.W. and Rose Alaniz. She then purchased two identical army barracks located south of the Arroyo near Rangerville and joined the two with another building. Miss Julia Bassart, a dietician, joined her friend and was responsible for hospital housekeeping while Mary handled the floor duties. The seven patient rooms charge $5 a day. The hospital is staffed by doctors, N.A. Davidson, Casper and Alfred M. Letzerich. One incident involving the hospital is when law officer Johnson and Atiliano Sanchez shot one another in a confrontation. After being brought to the hospital and placed in opposite wings, Johnson survives his wounds, but Sanchez is to die 6/2/23. The women's hospital is made obsolete once the new Valley Baptist Hospital up the street comes into full use in 1925. In 1973 land owner Louis Levine donates the "little hospital" structure and, through the efforts of Betty Murray, the RGV Museum board agrees to accept it at the museum site.

Mrs. Gilbert is well known in the community for she operates the popular Gilbert House on E. Van Buren. In addition to providing rooms it will become famous as an eatery when it commences serving the city during the Hurricane of 1933. The Gilberts first came to McAllen from Missouri due to her asthma then built the stucco hotel in 1920. The hotel was sold to Mrs. Bell Thaye in 1943, and she in turn sold it to the city in the 1950s to become a parking lot for city hall. The building itself was moved to a site on Airbase Road.

1934 A Maternity Hospital is established at 705 N. 1st Street. Dr. Paul R. Maxwell, who has an office on the third floor of the Rio Grande National Life Insurance Building and is listed as a physician, surgeon, and bone specialist delivers some babies at this hospital. He and his wife Leah M. had come to Harlingen in 1930. He will later move up another floor in the building and by 1950 start an office in the McClendon Building. His practicing will end around 1953. The Maternity Hospital will move to 1117 W. Harrison by 1937 and be run by Dr. Martin Bernfield, who may also work in the adjacent Valley Clinic at 1115 W. Harrison. By 1939 both facilities are gone.

10/40 It is this month that Dr. Cornelius Olcott, Jr. comes to work at the VBH on F Street. Born in Fort Worth on 4/25/11 he will be graduated from Princeton University in 1931 and Harvard Medical School in 1935. He leaves Harlingen in 1941 to see military service as a doctor on a hospital ship. Later he will rise to the rank of Lt-Col. and Chief
of Surgery in hospitals in England and France. He returns here in 1947 and practices until 1977. This St. Alban's Episcopal Church member is to die 11/15/84 at age 73.

7/54 The $2 million Valley Baptist Hospital and Sams Memorial Children Center combination is under construction. The goal is a completion date by late 1956.

1954 The Valley Diagnostic Clinic in Harlingen commences service to South Texas. It covers a wide range of medical specialties including rheumatology, internal medicine, nephrology, cardiology, radiology, gastroenterology, dermatology, endocrinology, occupational medicine, and family practice. Still going strong in 2004 it celebrates its 50th anniversary. At that time 21 doctors are practicing at the clinic.

1/56 The new Valley Baptist Hospital on Ed Carey Drive is completed and occupied at a cost of $2.25 to 2.5 million. It occupies an 18.5 acre site. In 1959 the Reber Memorial Radiation Clinic is added through the gift of John O. and Louranne Reber in memory of their sister Winnie Reber. On 5/16/59 the hospital opens a heliport facility.

6/22/62 At its 6th annual open house Valley Baptist Hospital releases some statistics. Its current payroll is $52 million. In 1956 at its new location the value of services was $707,000 and is now $1.25 million. There are 85 doctors and dentists on the staff. The Sams Foundation polio clinic, original cost $483,000, has been transformed with the addition of $29,000 to a general children's unit. $10,000 has been spent on a laboratory, $250,000 applied for construction of a nurse's training school and dormitory, added storage and an incinerator cost $33,000, and other changes $30-40,000 annually.

1970 At the Valley Baptist Hospital an expansion and remodeling program is completed to bring it to a 190-bed capacity. The campus includes a dormitory and teaching facility for nurses and a 20-unit apartment complex having a $9.5 million replacement value. The yearly payroll is in excess of $2,250,000.

1979 The VBMC undergoes a $1.2 million expansion to increase bed capacity from 202 to 280. Other hospital changes add up to $12 million total in improvements.

7/71 Dr. Marion R. Lawler, Jr. establishes Cardiovascular Associates of Harlingen for the practice of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery. He is joined in this practice in 8/78 by Dr. Thomas A. Clark. In May 1999 Dr. Ruben M. Lopez becomes an associate and on 11/11/01 Dr. Jamie F. Villareal does. It is on 7/12/77 that Dr. Lawler performs the first open heart surgery ever conducted in the Rio Grande Valley.

6/87 The biggest employers in the city at this time are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Employees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCISD</td>
<td>1,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Baptist Hospital</td>
<td>1,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Carter Company</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It makes children sleepwear</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The City</td>
<td>497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Levi Strauss Company</td>
<td>379</td>
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<tr>
<td>It makes ready to wear clothing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rio Grande State Center</td>
<td>314</td>
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<tr>
<td>A mental health institution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorges Meat Company</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processes institutional meat products</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varmicon Industries</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete and concrete products</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sears, Roebuck and Company</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National retailer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Morning Star</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
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Construction Phase 3 was underway in the creation of the four floor East Tower of the Valley Baptist Medical Center. It will have a heliport on its roof. The $30 million construction project of 250,000 sq. ft. will have an emergency department, outpatient services, women's care, day surgery, obstetrics/gynecology, and central sterile supply. Nearby two other hospital facilities are arising. One is the Family Practice Residency Clinic and Center. In it family practice residents (to start July 1996) will provide primary medical care. Dr. Bruce Liebert is director of the program. Adjacent to it is the free-standing Outpatient Rehab Center to be operated as a partnership between the VBMC and the Institute for Rehabilitation and Research.

2001 James (Jim) Springfield, 37, joins the Valley Baptist Hospital System as executive vice president and chief operating officer. Prior to coming to the Valley he held a variety of positions with the Houston-based Memorial Hermann Healthcare System from 1988 to 2000. He is named president and chief operating officer in 2003. In early 2004 it is revealed that Springfield has been named the nation's "Young Healthcare Executive of the Year" by the American College of Healthcare Executives. This former financial analyst is board certified in health care management. He and his wife Teri have four children.

10/18/02 After 15 months of construction, Su Clinica Familia opens its 61,000 sq. ft. $6 million facility at 1706 Treasure Hills Blvd. It has 54 examining rooms. Dr. Elena Marin is executive director of the facility which will have a drive-through window for an outside pharmacy. This non-profit organization provided service to more than 24,000, primarily low-income, patients in 2000 and generated about 119,468 medical visits and 10,314 dental visits through 15 physicians.

2/21/03 The Children's Center at the Valley Baptist Medical Center is dedicated. This unit is the first of its kind in the Valley. The 42,000 sq. ft. facility offers comprehensive pediatric service with its 62-bed unit designed specifically with children in mind. The facility cost $8 million with the community raising $1 million of this. It is located on the fourth floor of the East Tower. Its state-of-the-art facility is designed to accommodate children and parents.

5/3/03 The Treasure Hills Country Club is gifted to the Valley Baptist Medical Center. In an exchange for an annuity Gene and Bettye Estillette donate 273 acres of land which includes 55.87 acres of undeveloped land, 22 developed lots, and the golf course. Part of the land will be used for the development of a wellness center and the construction of a conference and meeting center. The property was purchased at an auction for $1.85 million in July 1999 by Banco Nacional de Mexico and then from it by the Estillettes that same month. The VBMS will likely lease the golf course.

12/03 Employment in Harlingen has grown from 23,604 jobs in 1998 to 28,015 in 2003. In the same period new building permits have averaged $79 million annually. The top ten employers at the end of the year were:
Employer                               No. of People                      Business
Harlingen CISD                         2,538                        School District
Valley Baptist Medical Center          1,810                        Hospital
EchoStar Communications                860                         Call Center
Texas State Technical College          540                         Technical College
City of Harlingen                      525                         City Government
Advanced Call Center Technologies      403                         Call Center
Harlingen Medical Center              393                         Hospital
H-E-B                                  373                         Retail Grocery -3
Rio Grande State Center               364                         Mental Health
West Corporation                       350                         Call Center

1/15/04 Valley Baptist Health System announces that it has acquired a 23-acre site at the Sharyland Plantation, south of Mission. It plans to develop another hospital there in Hidalgo County. In Harlingen it has purchased a building to provide additional services, including an out patient diagnostic center and a new pharmacy. The Valley Baptist Hospital currently is a 611-bed facility. It employs about 2,200 people and generates about $680 million in revenues annually.

5/18/04 It is announced that the Valley Baptist Health System will purchase the Brownsville Medical Center from the California-based Tenet Healthcare Corp. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, BMC has been serving Brownsville since 1923 and currently has a 243-bed facility and 900 employees. The sale is expected to be completed by June 30.

1/10/06 The Valley Baptist Health System announces two major developments. The first is the groundbreaking of the Valley Baptist Wellness Center on a 273 parcel owned at Treasure Hills. The facility will have an indoor exercise pool, workout areas, exercise studios, multi-purpose gym, baby sitting, etc. The second announcement is a $20 million strategy investment on 12/28/05 by the VBHS in the Harlingen Medical Center, which had an initial investment of $60 million. The owners of the latter, MedCath, indicated the loan would be used to pay down debt.

1/11/06 VBHS in partnership with Solara Healthcare, a Dallas-Ft. Worth long-term healthcare facility, breaks ground for a $9 million 41-bed hospital just north of the Harlingen Medical Center. It is said to employ 120 and have a $6.3 million annual impact on the community.

9/23/04 Groundbreaking occurs for the construction of a 15,000 square foot public skatepark. The location is part of the parking lot next to the Harlingen Boys and Girls Club at Fair Park. Later the remainder of the 77,000 square foot parking lot will be transformed into a sports complex. Recently the club received $300,000 in financial commitments from the Valley Baptist Health System and private donors according to Club Executive Director Gerald Gathright. The city committed $50,000 toward the project. Area skateboarders were thrilled by the development that will be the most complete in the Valley. On 1/3/05 $30,000 worth of materials arrived from American Ramp, a Joplin, MO company that specializes in that equipment.

10/02 The Harlingen Medical Center at 5501 S. Expressway 77 opens. It is a full-service hospital developed by community physicians in partnership with the Med-Cath Corp. of North Carolina. The general acute hospital is a $64 million state-of-the-art facility with 112 private patient rooms and additionally six labor and delivery suites, 16 day patient
rooms, and a nine bed emergency center. It starts with 100 employees and will eventually have a staff of 500. Its payroll is expected to be about $17 million in FY 2003.

5/16/04 The Harlingen Medical Center unveils its chronic wound treatment center in which $300,000 has been invested. Four employees have been hired to run it. Four days later the VBHS announces an agreement with the Driscoll Children's Hospital of Corpus Christi. The latter will bring specialize children's treatments here.

6/29/04 The Valley Baptist Health System becomes owner of the Brownsville Medical Center. While the acquisition price was not announced, Cameron County shows it with a market value for land and buildings of $15,825,679. The Center has 243 beds and was founded in 1923 by the Sisters of Mercy and is Brownsville's largest hospital.

9/15/04 Shane Spees is named CEO of Valley Baptist Medical Center-Harlingen. He comes from Memorial Southwest Hospital in Houston. He served there as Assistant VP of Operations and has had 10 years experience in healthcare administration as well as legal background. This Mississippi native earned his under-graduate and law degrees at the University of Mississippi and his Masters in Healthcare Administration at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. James Eastham moves to the position of Executive Vice President and CEO of Valley Baptist Health System under its President and CEO James G. Springfield. On October 4 Randy McLelland is to become chief financial officer. He previously served as chief operating officer for Lone Star National Bank, following many years of executive leadership at JP Morgan/Chase and its predecessor bank, Texas Commerce Bank. Meanwhile Greg Harb, formerly of Houston, takes the position of CEO for Valley Baptist Health Center-Brownsville, previously the Harlingen Medical Center while Jim Salyer is senior vice president for corporate services.

11/15/04 VBMC opens the Harlingen Heritage Program which offers senior citizens help with mental and emotional problems. The facility is at 2121 Pease Street.

4/1/05 The Treasure Hills Imaging Center opens at 1717 Treasure Hills Blvd. It is a joint venture between the VBMC and Valley Radiological Associates. Under Executive Director Ethel Morton, the facility will have 15 staff members including nine technicians and a radiologist.

4/8/05 The VBMC through its Valley Baptist Health System acquires the Athletix Gym, a six year old business owned by Wendy Brons. A new center to open in the spring next year will have about 30,000 square feet.

10/17/06 Solara Hospital, a long-term acute care facility with 41 beds and owned by Solara Healthcare of Dallas, opens on Victoria Lane near the Harlingen Medical Center. It has 40 employees but this is expected to rise to 120.

6/30/07 The Valley Baptist Health & Fitness Center in Treasure Hills has its Grand Opening. The state-of-the-art 38,000 sq.ft. health club has numerous amenities.

6/30/07 Dr. Marion R. Lawler, Jr., surgeon and cardiovascular specialist,retires after 36 years practicing medicine in the Valley.

10/14/08 This is the last day for Jim Springfield as CEO of the Valley Baptist Health System. He is succeeded by James Eastham, formerly COO and executive vp of the VBHS.

2/16/09 Valley Baptist Medical Center's CEO Dan McLean resigns after a one-year tenure. The hospital system is struggling after $25 million in damages from Hurricane Dolly and another $11 million in lost business.
10/12/09 After being in operation for 55 years the Valley Diagnostic Clinic announces that it will dissolve. The individual doctors involved will go into private practices.