

To: Susan, Albie, Rory, Charlie, Brendan, Nick  
From: Robin  
Date: 8/13/09  
Re: Texas July/August diary

The impromptu casting trip to the panhandle of Texas after we interviewed Jessica Rios turned out to be one of the strongest shoots to date. Irene Favila is an exceptional outreach worker and we were able to get interviews with 4 kids and one extraordinary interview with Juanita Torres, mother of Maribel Torres who gave a good interview as well and shows promise as a fuller character in the film.

The interview with Jessica Rios went well, but she was extremely nervous. I took the first day there to review the questions with her and help ease her tensions. She did well enough, but not as good as her first interview. Perhaps it was the new environment of the University. I also interviewed her father, who spoke of the difficulties all the families have faced this summer and of his hopes and dreams for Jessica.

My only regret is that we didn't have more time there and both Jack and I were exhausted at the end. This is a rich environment in all the areas in which we are interested: kids, agriculture, access.

I suggest that you look at the interviews and discuss the footage with Charlie as it is my recommendation that I return to Plainview.

A day by day is listed below with mileage to give you a sense of the distances that migrants travel to work (and filmmakers travel to cover migrants-Jack and I drove over 2000 miles in Texas):

Wednesday July 29 - Fly to San Antonio with Jack Kendrick and drive to Edinburg (228 miles). Meet with Sandra Garza, CAMP counselor and Nick Taylor, Media Dept. Pan Am UT.

Thursday July 30- Meet and greet with staff at Pan AM UT. Visit Jessica's class and talk with Professor Young and his students about what we are doing. Take care of paperwork. Have lunch with Jessica Rios and talk about the interview. She is very nervous. Decide to review questions with her for an hour and then shoot some b-roll of her on campus.

Friday July 31 – Shoot Jessica in class and after lunch set up for her interview. Arrange to go to her home the next morning to interview her mother and get more b-roll of her home and family life.

Saturday August 1, Interview Jessica's father, shoot family portrait, drive to Laredo (160 miles), meet with Veronica Burgoa to discuss Zulema's situation, continue north to Junction Texas (267 miles).

Sunday August 2 – Drive to Plainview (321 miles)... arrive @ 6 PM, shoot some b-roll, make calls to Irene Favila and others, and settle in.

Monday August 3 – meet Irene Favila at 8:30

Head to Kress (13 Miles) to meet Torres family... but they are not track able

Drive south to Lorenzo (60 miles) to meet Garza family and then drove to Floydada (30 miles) to shoot interview with Sandy Garza

Drive back to Plainview (30 Miles)

Tuesday August 4 – Shoot Torres family weeding cotton field in Claytonville (30 miles),

Shoot Lupe Gonzalez in Edmonson (15 Miles) in Sorghum Field- shoot interview with

Lupe Gonzales at her home in Plainview.

Wednesday August 5 – Drive to Lazbuddie, TX (67 miles) to talk to other kids in field....

Return to shoot interview with Junior Alegre but tire blows out, call to reschedule interview and head directly to dinner with Torres Family in Lockney (80 miles). Stay with Torres family that night.

Thursday August 6 – Shoot Torres Family in Claytonville (24 miles) working and

Interview with Juanita Torres. Drive to shoot Junior Allegre working in Cotton Center,

TX (36 miles)- Return to Plainview (15 miles) to shoot interview with Junior Alegre

Friday August 7 – Shoot Garza Family in hoeing cotton field in Sandhill... Shoot

interview with Maribel Torres back in Lockney, TX

Saturday August 8- Drive back to San Antonio (431 miles)

Sunday August 9 - Fly to NY

August 10 on.... Continue to work on Sanchez family and Zulema Lopez shoot in MI.