

4-1-2003

## Interview no. 1571

Faye Terrazas

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utep.edu/interviews>



Part of the [Labor History Commons](#), and the [Oral History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Interview with Faye Terrazas by Fernanda Carrillo, 2003, "Interview no. 1571," Institute of Oral History, University of Texas at El Paso.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Institute of Oral History at ScholarWorks@UTEP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Combined Interviews by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UTEP. For more information, please contact [lweber@utep.edu](mailto:lweber@utep.edu).



## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

Interviewee: Faye Terrazas

Interviewer: Fernanda Carrillo

Project: Bracero Oral History Project

Location: El Paso, Texas

Date of Interview: April 1, 2003

Terms of Use: Unrestricted

Transcript No.: 1571

Transcriber: Myrna Avalos

Faye Terrazas was born on August 6, 1930, in El Paso, Texas; both of her parents were Mexican nationals who immigrated to the United States before she was born; in 1954, she began working as a clerk and typist at *Rio Vista*, a bracero processing center in Socorro, Texas; she worked there seasonally until 1957. Ms. Terrazas recalls responding to an advertisement and being hired to work as a clerk and typist at *Rio Vista*, a bracero processing center in Socorro, Texas; she worked there seasonally during the spring and summer from 1954 to 1957; her primary responsibility was filling out the contracts for the braceros; she offers detailed descriptions of the facilities and the process for filling out the contracts; there were specific insurance specifications that detailed what the braceros were entitled to receive in the event of an injury or accident; her knowledge of the other screening procedures is somewhat limited; she gives an emotional description of what it was like for the families to be separated and how terrible the delousing process was for the braceros; in addition, she comments on how the braceros seemed very shy and fearful upon first entering the United States, but when they went through the center again, they were generally more open and talkative.

Length of Interview 46 minutes

Length of Transcript 21 pages

**Name of Interviewee:** Mr. Faye Terrazas

**Date of Interview:** April 1, 2003

**Name of Interviewer:** Fernanda Carrillo

This is an interview with Mrs. Faye Terrazas on April 1, 2003 in El Paso, Texas. The interviewer is Fernanda Carrillo. This interview is part of the Bracero Oral History Project.

FC: Good afternoon!

FT: Hello.

FC: Where and when were you born Ma'am?

FT: I was born here in El Paso on August 6, 1930.

FC: And did you grow up here in El Paso?

FT: Yes.

FC: Where did you go to school Ma'am?

FT: I went to school at Lamar and Bell Elementary and Bowie High School.

FC: And what about your parents are they from El Paso as well?

FT: My mother and father are from Mexico. They migrated when my mother was one and my dad was eight years old.

FC: And what did they do for a living Ma'am?

FT: My mother was a housewife all her life and my dad was a delivery man for, ah, a milk company, for Prices Dairy.

FC: Okay, and do you have, ah, brothers and sisters?

FT: Yes, I have three brothers and two sisters.

FC: Okay and did any of your brothers or sisters work at the Rio Vista as well?

FT: My sister might, one of my sisters worked for one season.

FC: Okay and how did you know about this job?

FT: I think, I can't quite remember, but I think it was an advertisement and I didn't want to work full time at that time so, ah, so I responded to the add and they hired me.

FC: Okay so it was a part-time job?

FT: Yes, it was seasonal.

FC: Seasonal, okay, and how old were you when you first started working?

FT: I was in my early twenties.

FC: Were you married at that time?

FT: Yes.

FC: Did you have any kids?

FT: I had one daughter.

FC: That's why you wanted to work part-time?

FT: Yes.

FC: Would you please describe your role in the Bracero Program.

FT: I was one of, ah; I think it was about twelve clerk typists that would type the contracts to the different farms that we sent the people to.

FC: What years did you work?

FT: I worked in 1954, 1955, 1956 and I believe 1957.

FC: And you said everything was seasonal?

FT: It was.

FC: What months of the year did you...?

FT: I can't remember. It was usually in the spring, sometime.

FC: What was your job assignment at the Rio Vista Center?

FT: It was typing contracts for the Braceros.

FC: And you say there were two other people working....

FT: No there was twelve, twelve of us typists.

FC: Okay.

FT: We were elevated in, ah, on a podium with twelve typewriters. The Braceros would line up at each typists typewriter, and we'd type from 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m.

FC: From 8:00 to 5:00 p.m.

FT: A hum. There was a lot, a lot of men passing by.

FC: So there were people going....

FT: All the time.

FC: All the time.

FT: We always had a line in front of our typewriters and those that stayed outside waiting to get....

FC: So it was one after the other?

FT: One after the other.

FC: How many people gathered to say that you filled the contracts for?

FT: Oh, I can't remember. There was, we did at least one-thousand with all of us.

FC: And how long did it take, you know, to fill....

FT: To type one contract?

FC: One contract.

FT: About five minutes.

FC: About five minutes. To type the contract was, ah, one of the steps, as I understood for the different processes.

FT: Yes, first, ah, that was all I had to do with the Braceros. When they first came they would go into medical, I believe, and they would have a chest X-Ray and they would get checked by the doctors, by the medical personnel. Then I think they went on to, ah, get their photos done. They would take their pictures and then they would come to us for, for assignment to different farms in different parts of the country. Usually they stayed around here for cotton-picking farms but we did send them to the mid-west to pick beats and other things.

FC: Did you have a chance to ask where they wanted to go?

FT: No.

FC: You were the one that assigned them and they had to go?

FT: No, we did, I did not assign them. The clerk typist just typed the contracts, which were already pre-made. All we did was fill in the names of where they were from, the ages and their next of kin and their family.

What their family consists of. What happened was, say a farm wanted fifty workers and of those workers there was a man whose name was Mr. Galindo, and he would count off fifty people.

FC: Randomly.

FT: Yeah, and randomly who ever was there first and then he would count off fifty people that would go to the clerk typist and we would send them to this particular farm. In the future, I hope that that is not the way they assign them to work because families would be separated. A father would come with his three or four sons and a couple of cousins and if they counted off fifty or a hundred they would divide with the family and one went one way and one went the other. There were some that said, "Oh, my sons are back there." So we would try to get Mr. Galindo to either add another person who was there alone or leave him behind not to separate the family. But think about how people didn't say anything, they just passed and took it for what they were.

FC: What, ah, you, the employees of the Rio Vista Center were required to speak Spanish right?

FT: Yes, yes.

FC: So filled out all the forms and spoke to the Braceros....

FT: The forms were in English.

FC: The forms were in English.

FT: I remember doing it in English and I remember explaining it to them and, ah, I believe the forms also had, ah, the insurance.

FT: The insurance like, ah, how much money they would get if they lost an arm or a leg or lost sight in one eye or their life.

FC: Was there any insurance agency at the Rio Vista Center?

FT: I don't know, there might have been, but all I really know is about the building where the clerk typist were.

FC: So it was kind of included in the contract?

FT: Yes.

FC: The contract specified their salary or how much?

FT: No, no, that was up to the people that hired them from the farms.

FC: So there was no like a minimum wage or something?

FT: No not that I know or the living arrangements, how they would live, where they would live, what they would be fed, that was once they got to the farm.

FC: You were explaining to me about the screening process, first they had to medical test and X-Ray and then all those pictures. During the day how long, would you say the screening process, ah, took?

FT: We did this, I assume all the medical profession and the photography and the people that, ah, that's another thing... They would get sprayed with some kind of disinfectant.

FC: Oh, the Braceros?

FT: Yeah, they would get off the bus, wherever they came from, to the farm, to the Rio Vista Farm for screening. I assumed that was the last thing that they had to do in the way of paper work before going to their farm and they would get sprayed with this white powder, what ever it was, some type of disinfectant and that was not a good thing, you know. They would have their, that white powder in their ears, their face, their hair, their clothes.

FC: So it was all over? Even their belongings?

FT: Yeah, usually they just had the clothes that they came in.

FC: Oh, okay.

FT: They had like; they were from the interior of Mexico. I don't think they were from any big cities or any people that had too much of an education. They were dressed in cotton, big baggy pants and huaraches and, ah, straw hats and the baggy cotton shirts that they would wear.

FC: What was the average age of the Braceros?

FT: They were young. They were in the twenties, thirties and of course we has some of the fathers come. They must have been in their forties or fifties, I would assume.

FC: So there wasn't really an age limitation?

FT: But if there was, I am not aware.

FC: Okay, so there were people from different ages, but mostly young.

FT: Yeah, a lot of them were married. A lot of the Braceros that came over were married. They had left their wives and children.

FC: Were they aware of what was going to come? Like, did they have any idea what they were going to do?

FT: Well those that had been there before me and those that have been there did not like to go to Pecos for some reason.

FC: Oh, to Pecos, they didn't like it at all?

FT: They mentioned that they weren't as well treated as they were in other farms. Like there was....

FC: Discrimination?

FT: No, it was, not any type of discrimination, it was the way they lived. The barracks where they were assigned or where they slept or whatever. Not that they were mistreated physically, but they didn't like the conditions under which they worked there. But the ones that were there for the first time had no idea where they were going. Well none of them had any idea.

FC: What was going on? Were they mostly, ah, obedient?

FT: Oh, yes. They were they listened to the people that, you know, form a line or form two lines or whatever they did. They stood a lot. They waited a lot in line for us to get through with the contracts because there was so many of them and then in between sending them from one farm to another there was a break or we would go to lunch, they waited, they waited. They were very respectful people.

FC: You have, I imagine, a time to go have your lunch?

FT: Yes.



FC: Where there any facilities in the Rio Vista Center?

FT: No, we went out. Usually, we went out to somewhere in Ysleta, we would eat.

FC: And what about the Braceros, Ma'am, during the screening process, were they fit?

FT: I don't really know.

FC: Okay.

FT: They must have been fit but I don't know where or how.

FC: So they mostly stayed in lines for quite a long time and at the time you were filling out the contract did you require any kind proof or identity?

FT: That had been done before.

FC: Before?

FT: We knew that these people were the ones that were going to the farms. Except for, ah, if there was a delay in getting the results of the chest X-Ray and the men were already in the contract section, where I worked, and there was something wrong with an X-Ray, maybe a lung lesion, tuberculosis, or something. Then they would come to the place where they were which was us in the contracting section and pull them out. They couldn't go to the farms.

FC: Okay, perfect. So if something went bad during that examination they were....What role did the Mexican government have in the screening process? Do you remember any government?

FT: No, I don't. I don't remember any inspectors. If there were, they didn't come to the place where I...

FC: To the place you worked. Where did you live while you were working at the building?

FT: Where did I live?

FC: Aha.

FT: I lived in Park Dale, ah, by Ascarate Park.

FC: It was your home?

FT: Yes.

FC: Would you please describe your typical workday?

FT: We would get there around a little before eight and we would have the contracts ready by our typewriters and we would essentially, what we did, was we just typed all day long.

FC: All day long?

FT: All day long. It was never an interval where we had or didn't have anything to do or we talked to each other but typing.

FC: Okay.

FT: We typed and we talked to each other. We turned to who ever was, to the right or to the left and those who smoked, smoked there, you know, at there typewriters. We sometimes drank a coke, water, or whatever but there was no, really, no time. There was a lot of work. There were a lot of Braceros.

FC: Besides filling out the contracts, did you have any other task, like filing?

FT: No. It was clear typing.

FC: Do you remember how much they paid you?

FT: I don't remember but I think at that time it was what a GS2 earned.

FC: What is a GS Ma'am?

FT: Government Service.

FC: And did you normally get paid with checks?

FT: Yes. We did things like assembled papers and stuff like that for the contracts and when they would give us a break from the typing but mostly that was what we did.

FC: You said mostly you worked from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. what happened if like at 5:00 there was still people?

FT: We would stop there. We would work until 5:00 p.m.

FC: Okay. And what about the people that didn't get their contracts that day, what would happen?

FT: They would get it, brought it the next day.

FC: They would stay at the Rio Vista Center?

FT: Oh, yes. They must have had a place to eat and sleep there.

FC: Would you please describe the buildings at Rio Vista?

FT: There was several buildings and they were all big buildings, ah. Ours was a long, a very long building that had....On the side of the building they had a chain linked fence around a portion of the outside and that's where the men stood but most could get in because as I say all the clerk typist had rows of men in front of their typewriters. We would pass them, would give them the contract, do the contract, do the papers walk them in. They would pass somewhere else. I assume to leave whenever they would leave and the others, in this place that there was the chain-linked fence, were so many that they would stand in line but in a snake like line like this, it's because there was so many. They would sit; you know they would sit on the ground and take brakes there. And they did get water when they were waiting because it was hot here, you know.

FC: Usually, you said, it was seasonal. You were working seasonal it must be around summer time?

FT: Yeah. In the springtime, this is whenever they picked the cotton, you know, I tell you that I remember from the clothes we wore and they were usually summer clothes, spring clothes. We never, I don't ever remember wearing a coat or anything like that.

FC: And it was hot at the....

FT: Not in the building, it was hot outside.

FC: Yeah we have that kind of weather you know.

FT: I don't remember ever being uncomfortable typing.

FC: Okay and, ah, did potential employers come personally to the reception centers to obtain workers? Like you said, a rancher or something, he can decide a certain number...?

FT: That was already pre-determined and Mr. Galindo was the one that knew how many workers were gonna be sent to a special farm. There was plenty of people that hired them.

FC: Okay, there were many contractors?

FT: Yes, there was.

FC: And before, you said you fill out the contracts but before the contractor must contact someone else, you know to specify the amount?

FT: Well, I don't think the men had anything to do with where they went. It was, ah, the people that worked there. The staff who were assigned to negotiate between the contractors and us. But on the way back, when we went back to sent them back, we were hired again to finish the contract. They were sent there four months, say three months, depending on how many months they were to be hired. Then they would go back to Mexico. On the way back, it was very different because they all wore Levis, boots and western shirts and carrying baby strollers and, you know, they would take back to their families.

FC: So they seemed different?

FT: They seemed different and they talked differently. They weren't as meek. Like some would call us si señoria and stuff like that. But when they came back they could relate more on a higher level. So that was very neat to see them go back to their country.

FC: There were many Braceros going back to the United States again, I mean not their first time?

FT: Not as many because now they would go back if a farm wanted them for three months....Well they would go, but however many we sent to that farm, and the others either were working or had already passed, so there wasn't a congestion of so many people when they finished their contract.

FC: And was the Bracero required to go through the processing center again in order to go back to Mexico? I mean to go back to Rio Vista?

FT: Yes, okay yeah, because we had the open contracts where they had been sent.

FC: Did they have any proof that they worked in the United States, any kind of documents?

FT: No, no. I assumed they did because it was a country to country....I mean we knew how many we had sent and how many came back.

FC: What would you say in general that the personality of the Braceros would be, ah, you know standing in line, talking with each other? Did they ever try to, you know, talk to you?

FT: Yes, they did but they were very respectful in the beginning when they first arrived. They were, actually, they really didn't know. (She clears her throat) We spoke English and they didn't understand so they were a little intimidated I would say by the whole thing, by the whole process. I don't think they were mistreated although there were some things, that if there is ever a guest worker program, that they could better of some of the things we used to do there.

FC: What would you say those things....?

FT: Well the severing of the family ties to send them to different farms. The spraying them with this disinfectant, whatever it was. I think they were unaware that they were going to be sprayed.

FC: Oh, okay, they didn't know.

FT: Because some of it was on their faces, you know, they would cover their eyes and it was all over their nose.

FC: So they didn't know what was going on?

FT: I just don't think so. I never saw them getting sprayed but by the time they came to us they were already sprayed.

FC: Oh, okay.

FT: Whatever it was. Maybe you have a staff member that responded, that did the spraying or....

FC: That they were in charge. Is there any particular incident that you remember from the time you worked there?

FT: No, ah, that was so neat to see them come back on the way back and the way they related or when they returned to work the next year or another year they already knew what it was gonna be and they, they would tell the others the first timers that were coming over "Ah, pus ahora venimos por acá y horita nos vemos ahí." They would explain.

FC: Oh, they were telling them what was going on.

FT: Yeah, telling them what it's all about.

FC: Yelling to each other?

FT: To each other they were.

FC: Mostly they would come like in families or groups or they were people all by themselves?

FT: There were people all by themselves. There was a lot of friends coming over, a group of friends and families, whole families.

FC: Whole families?

FT: I imagine from....because I remember typing the contracts we would say where they were from. A lot of them would be from the same little town. The same pueblito, you know, so they all knew each other.

FC: Do you remember the most common cities that they mentioned, they were from?

FT: Oh, I remember. I remember one of the girls was shocked where the man was from and she said, "Look Faye, he's from Michigan." (They laugh). More like Michoacán. (They laugh).

FC: She thought he was from Michigan?

FT: Yeah because It was M-I-C-H.

FC: So they were mostly from the center?

FT: Oh, they were from the interior definitely.

FC: Did any time happen that some of them looked different from each other, like, you know, coming from different parts of the country? The way they dress was different, or the way they speak was different.

FT: They, they did, ah, mostly they wore this type of rural outfits that they wear in the mountains or in the, this outfit that I described. They all wore huaraches, like big tires, the soles were very big and, ah, they wore no socks. A few could not write because we had them do the X but most of them would write. It was funny because when we would say "firme aqui" after explaining. They would say, "Con firma?" And then well we didn't know so we said "Yeah, con firma." Then they would go like this (tapping is heard) "Oh, no, no señor no lo desbarate" "A pus esa es mi firma." You know these pearly teeth.

FC: So they have to have their signature?

FT: Yeah.

FC: While you worked at the Rio Vista, do you remember if they caused any problems, you know if there was any....

FT: Fighting or anything like that? No, no everything was normal. It was, ah, everything was usual like.

FC: What about the other girls that worked with you as clerk typists. Were they usually young and married?

FT: Most of us....there was a lot that weren't married. But in my day girls married in their early twenties or late teens. So there was several of us that were already married and then there was a few, well not a few. There was some that were not married and then there was a couple of older ladies now then in the group.

FC: Okay.

FT: But we all got along very well together.

FC: So did you have this bond?

FT: Oh, yes. We didn't keep up. Well I didn't keep up with any of them because in 1958 my husband was in the Air Force so we, we left El Paso and we were gone seventeen years. So I lost contact with everybody.

FC: The typists were mostly girls right?

FT: They were all girls.

FC: Were there any male employees working?

FT: There was male employees there, like I remember the supervisor that was called Mr. Galindo and a couple of assistants that would help him do....

FC: You mentioned that he was in charge of the contracts right? In deciding where....

FT: I think so because he was the one that would count off the men, you know, to go to this farm but all the clerk typists were women.

FC: Okay. How many employees would say worked at the Rio Vista Center?

FT: Oh, I wouldn't know because we all worked in different buildings. Medical worked in its own building so I never went there.

FC: Okay, so....

FT: Unless I would go there to run an errand or something but I, I just we really didn't have time. We each were in our own building doing our own thing. There was a lot of employees because we all came in at....we would all park our cars in the same places. We would all head to work. You could see we were starting to work but we would all head to our different buildings.

FC: Okay, so most of the times the employees had their own cars so they drive to work?

FT: Yes. Well it was far. It was in Clint somewhere I think.

FC: Yeah.

FT: Oh yeah, I haven't been there in well since....

FC: They still use it, some parts. You know I saw the buildings that you describe, like the long building. Lots of the buildings are closed, you can see that.



FT: They're deteriorated?

FC: Some of them.

FT: Yeah because in later years well in 1990 to 1997 I worked at....later on I became a nurse so I worked at a Psychiatric out Patient Clinic and we would service Clint and San Elizario and Fabens, in patients. They had a hard time coming to the clinic so the doctor and I would go to Fabens to Rayos de Esperanza the, it's a Thomason run medical building, and we would go see the patients there but we never did go to....I wouldn't know how to find it anymore.

FC: And at time that you worked there at the Rio Vista Farm, you have a daughter you mentioned. You had a husband in the Air Force. Who took care of your....

FT: My mother.

FC: Oh, your mother. So you never took her to the Rio Vista....

FT: Oh, no she was a year old.

FC: Okay.

FT: And that was almost fifty years ago. (She laughs). No wonder I don't really remember where the Rio Vista Farm was. (She laughs).

FC: And did you drive every day?

FT: Yes, I drove everyday.

FC: Okay. What do you think were the effects of the Bracero Program?

FT: Well I think they helped the country a lot, they certainly helped the Braceros, and they certainly helped the Mexican economy. I would like to see something, not that I ever saw them being mistreated or anything, but mostly it should be updated.

FC: So do you think it would be a good idea to bring back the program?

FT: Yes, the guest worker program. I read in the newspaper that they were having that; the Mexican President wanted the guest worker program.

FC: He wanted to have it at this time?

FT: Yes. Now I don't know how it was that in Mexico they came. I don't know how it was that they got, if there ever was a mechanism in place where they would get chosen from wherever they lived to come to Juarez and then transport....

FC: Oh, they have recruitment centers in different cities in Mexico.

FT: Oh, they did?

FC: They all went to the same place and then they would bring them. Actually, one of the recruitment centers is in Chihuahua and from Chihuahua, they took them to the Rio Vista.

FT: From Chihuahua? I remember them coming in buses.

FC: Yes in buses. That's what I mean that they're from Chihuahua.

FT: There was a point. I remember them telling me but I don't remember where it was but it was in Mexico that when they were standing in line people would sell them water.

FT: They didn't want to leave the line, they were in Mexico, and that was their Mexican counterparts that wouldn't give them the water they would sell them the water.

FC: They would sell them the water.

FT: There has to be some, a better type of humane treatment for both in both sides.

FC: What would you think were the advantages and disadvantages of having this program?

FT: Well the advantages as I say it helped, it helped the people here, the people with the farms. They were very good workers. They stayed, they stayed here you know. I did hear about some of them running away from the farms but I don't know what happened to them, if they stayed away, or if they just went into other parts of the country. I don't know but they did help this place. They helped themselves, they helped their families, they helped their towns where they were from and they helped the

- Mexican economy because they would send money to their families while they were working here.
- FC: So they did bring things for the economy. They carried stuff from....
- FT: They would buy a lot of things here to take over there. I don't know how it was when they got there. I guess they let them pass all those things because they took them, a lot of them.
- FC: What would you say a very common thing they would bring back from the United States to Mexico?
- FT: There were clothes, children's clothes. Baby things, strollers, high chairs, the folding high chairs, and some types of jewelry I guess for their wives because they would show us what they had.
- FC: Oh, they would show you what they got for their....
- FT: I would say how nice it was, you know, and at that time the strollers did not fold, you know, they were just big.
- FC: Okay so you had to carry the whole thing?
- FT: So they were holding the strollers and over here, they would take toys, so we assumed it was for their children.
- FC: So mostly they bring things for their families?
- FT: They took back. They bought wherever it was that they worked and then by the time they got back to us, they were already with all these things and their clothes were different, you know. So I guess it was a great benefit from their stay here.
- FC: Any disadvantages with this program?
- FT: Well in the respect that I say in the way the families were separated. There might have been more. There might have been different things that we're not aware of. In that spraying that they did and I don't remember how long it was by the time they got sprayed to the time they go to us but if they must have that, then they should be provided with a bath or you know a lot of them didn't have a change of clothes.

FC: So that was the only thing that they had to....and if they did have their belongings they were able to keep them?

FT: Oh yes, they did keep their belongings.

FC: Did you ever saw them bringing something from Mexico, like something they didn't want to leave, like a guitar, you know?

FT: No, no, I don't remember seeing people....I remember seeing harmonicas. They had harmonicas. I think that they wanted to travel light coming over so I did never saw a guitar but I never saw anyone take away anything from them.

FC: Oh, okay.

FT: They mentioned "I had this with me." But I couldn't take it to the farm.

FT: Their personal belongings, whatever, some of them came in, you know those, those "redes" that they haul to buy groceries. They had those and there they had, if they had a change of clothes or a harmonica or whatever they had. They would always have it with them and, ah, packages where they had belongings. I don't know if they were inspected or if they were. It was okay to come to us. I think, us, where we were, we were the last....

FC: You were like the last step of the whole process?

FT: Yeah. Well the last step would have been to go to the farm.

FC: And by the time they go with go even though you were the last step, they still had some signs of the spraying?

FT: Oh, a lot. Their hair was full of it.

FT: Everything was white, it was white, like I say, it was on their hair, on their clothes, on their belongings, inside their ears, everywhere. There was no sign that they ever were washed or bathed before they got to us. If they went like this the white powder would, just you know, you could see like dusty, the white dust.

FC: Some also kept remained in their clothes?

FT: The only time I ever saw them pull them out and sent them back was when something medically was wrong with them.

FC: Okay.

FT: Like I would say, well it was something to do with the chest X-Ray so it might have been any, anything contagious. I think that would stop them from coming.

FC: From sending them out?

FT: Yeah, you know from going on and working here. I think that must have been, well it was a great disappointment, you know, when they had to go back but we would just stop the contract. They would pull them out and, I don't know how they sent them back.

FC: Okay.

FT: But we just knew that they weren't....

FC: Were not able to....

FT: But that was not too many of them. There was some but not too many so most of them did go.

FC: Okay, so it was not a regular thing, not a normal nothing?

FT: Most of them weren't aware that there was anything wrong....

FC: Oh, they didn't even know that there was something wrong....

FT: If, ah, I don't think wherever they lived they ever had a chest X-Ray. But they all looked pretty healthy, you know, like, ah, well enough to work because they did back breaking work.

FC: And you say most of the contracts were like to pick cotton and that kind of stuff that requires hard work?

FT: It was from here, Texas, and all of that, it was cotton, mostly the cotton season. It was, I remember the beats, that a lot of them went to pick beats and I don't remember where it was somewhere in the Mid-West and, ah, that's about all I remember. They might have had other farms that had other, ah, harvesting to do, but mostly it was cotton.

FC: Are you saying it was the region in Texas?

FT: Yeah most of them was in the region.

FC: And after this time that you worked with the Bracero Program later on in your life did you have contact again with them, you know, the farms?

FT: I never went anywhere to, to any....I never visited any of the farms and so I never did see them again and there was so many, you would not have recognized, you know, and, ah, it was a time with them was fleeting, you know just.

FC: It was impossible for....and you say a thousand in a day?

FT: Some of them did stand out, you know, like a father and a son with blue eyes, stood out, and we remembered them.

FT: As long as they were there but I don't think I would have recognized them if I had seen them somewhere else, especially if their clothes were different.

FC: Is there anything Ma'am that you would like to add?

FT: Let me see what I can remember. I told the lady that called, you know, I just can't....the only thing I can say is from my perspective as a clerk typist, what we did and what we saw. But the different services, the different teams that worked in, in the Rio Vista Farm, we never had too much contact with them, except we knew their faces and walking to our car we would say "hi" or whatever, you know but it, it was...we were never in a group to have any meetings. That's another thing that maybe should be....Like to have a weekly meeting.

FC: Oh, so you never had that kind of....

FT: No, and to tell us like what the medical profession found, what we should look for, that types of thing. I can't even remember if we would get immunized or anything, if we didn't, we should of. Can you imagine at least at the end we could get a TB test and we might of gotten a chest X-Ray or something like that because tuberculoses is air-born. Now this is from being a nurse, but then I wasn't so I dint know, so there were, there has to be some different way of protecting both the Braceros and the

workers, the staff workers. I guess the medical personnel knew but the others didn't.

FC: I would like to thank you very much for the opportunity to interview you.

FT: You're quite welcome. I hope I was of some help.

FC: A lot, thank you very much.

DRAFT