

JESUS
MENDOZA

His Life Through Letters

Also by **Roger Mendoza**

Non-Fiction

My Little Cowboy

Fiction:

Purging Purgatory: A Ghost Story

Non-Fiction

**Migrants: Exploring the Colors of my Family
History**

JESUS MENDOZA

His Life through Letters

ROGER MENDOZA

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Cover design by Roger Mendoza

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To my Uncle Jesus Mendoza.
He fought in World War II, had an incredible life, a wonderful
family, and always smiled.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to my cousin Joe Mendoza, son of Jesus and Delia Mendoza. Joe let me borrow his collection of 248 letters his parents saved. Most are love letters between his parents, Jesus and Delia, written between 1934 and 1945. Other family members wrote letters too: Papa Chonito (Jesus's father), Severo Garza (Delia's father), Elida Garza (Delia's sister), Mama Margarita (Jesus's mother), Enrique Mendoza (Jesus's brother), and Canacho (Jesus's brother). All but ten were written in Spanish.

Thank you to my cousin Yolanda Mendoza Rodriguez, daughter of Jesus and Delia Mendoza. Yolanda told me stories and let me scan her family pictures and a few more of her father's letters.

Thank you to my cousin Yvette Borrego Johansen, daughter of Marie Nilda and Raul Borrego. Yvette is the granddaughter of Jesus and Delia. My cousin Yvette also let me scan a few pictures and postcards her mother (Marie Nilda) gave her.

Thank you to my parents, Enrique (Jesus's brother) and Carmen Mendoza, for saving their pictures and documents. All of them (including Joe's, Yolanda's and Yvette's) now reside in the La Familia Mendoza archives. These pictures and documents helped provide context for this book.

Thank you, Jesus, Delia, and their children (Jesus Jr., Marie Nilda, Yolanda, Joe). It was so cool when you all would come over to the Aganier house or we would go to your Ruiz house.

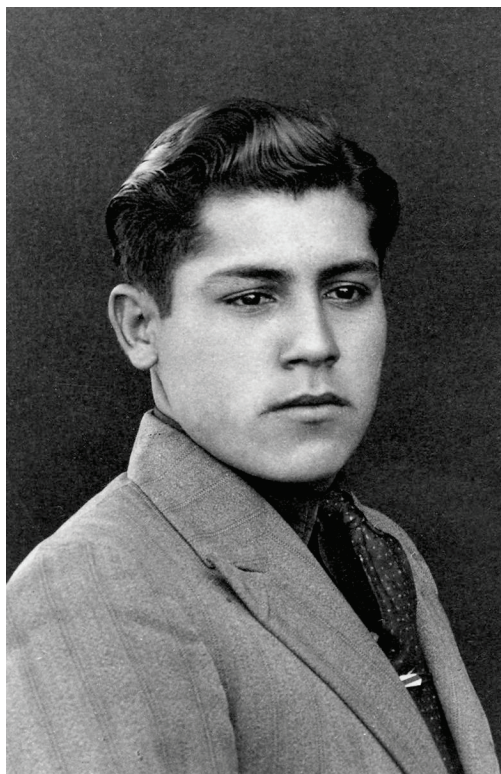
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Introduction

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Jesus "Chuy" Mendoza (b. April 2/16, 1916, d. February 10, 1975)

* * *

JESUS MENDOZA

In writing this book, I have made an earnest effort to translate the letters from Spanish to English accurately. Occasionally some words are unreadable in some of the letters, and I've made my best effort to convey the intent. The letters are presented as headed sections. The heading for each letter contains the date (YYYYMMDD) followed by the original image number. The image number may have a prefix of YR for Yolanda Rodriguez or YV for Yvette Johansen or RM for the La Familia Mendoza archives maintained by Roger Mendoza. Those without a prefix are from Joe Mendoza. Occasionally, I've inserted a picture or a short blurb to provide additional context. Each section continues without page breaks to save space. However, chapters always begin on a new page and provide a logical grouping for the letters.

The letters tell a compelling story about Jesus Mendoza (and others). He worked hard at the Loteria with his father. He expressed his eagerness to work by his father's side at the Loteria and his ambition was to start a small business. His courtship with the love of his life, Delia Garza was extremely important to him. In several letters he worried about whether Delia's father, Severo Garza, would give his blessing to allow Jesus to marry his daughter, Delia. Jesus expresses his love and affection for Delia in each letter to her while also detailing the events unfolding around him. In those days, writing was the primary form of long-distance communication. Most of these letters are similar to today's chatty, long phone calls where they talk about the latest news.

As the letters progressed in the 1940s, a transition began from traveling with the Loteria to immersion in World War II. By 1944 Jesus was in the Army, stationed in Europe (mostly in Germany fighting the Nazis). During the most challenging and horrendously violent battles, he still found time to write to his wife and family. He rarely mentioned the horrors of war to his wife. In Jesus's letter, he expressed a fervently belief that his faith in God and the Virgin

of Guadalupe kept him safe especially when he was in the middle of deadly battles. In one of his letters, he says [translated], “The Mexican Revolution was a toy compared to how it was here.” During his youth the Cristero Rebellion affected him and his family. His wife read one of the letters that Jesus had written to his brother, Canacho. She told Jesus [translated], “Why don’t you tell me what you are going through there like you tell Canacho?” It was terrible, and he wasn’t about to tell her the atrocities of war that he experienced. He didn’t want to worry her. In the letters, he told Delia how fortunate he was that Diositio (God) and the Virgin of Guadalupe had kept him safe in spite of the intense fighting. During breaks from the worst of the fighting he would still manage to write to Delia from the foxhole. He would tell her [translated], “My Hijita, I had not written to you because I have been very busy performing my duties.” Or another letter, at the time of intense combat, he tells her [translated], “I promise, the war will not change me.” And after the war was over, hoping to go home soon, he told Delia [translated], “Many believe that this war is a ball game. But only the ones who fought in the front knows what it is to suffer and evade the artillery.”

What follows is a brief timeline to help provide a biographical perspective for the letters:

When Jesus Mendoza was born on April 15, 1916, at midnight, in General Terán, Nuevo León, Mexico, his father, Encarnacion "Papa Chonito," was 34, and his mother, Margarita "Mama Margarita," was 31.

177 Page number one hundred and seventy-seven, Birth of the baby Jesus Mendoza (Nuevo Leon, Mexico, Civil Registration Births, 1859-1947, Image 330, Ref. Ancestry.com, translated from Spanish)

In the Villa de General Terán, State of Nuevo

León at 10 ten o'clock on May 4, 1916 one thousand nine hundred and ten and six before me, Agapito González G., Judge of the Civil Status of this Municipality, Mr. Encarnación Mendoza married by the two laws major, aged 35 thirty-five years, is presented, merchant and neighbor of this Villa in the Hidalgo Section; and he said that on April 16, at 12 o'clock at night, a living child was born in his house to present me in this office whom he named Jesús Mendoza. Legitimate son of his and his wife Mrs. Margarita Garza of 31 thirty-one years of age who is the 6th, sixth child they have, paternal grandparents Jesús Mendoza and Mrs. Guadalupe García who lives and maternal grandparents Juan Garza, deceased, and Mariana Ybarbo who lives.

He would later put April 2, 1916, as his birthday on his U.S. Draft card. Jesus had one adopted brother, Virgilio, who was 9. Enrique was 5, Encarnacion Jr. "Canacho" was 4, and Heriberto "Beto" was 3. As he grew older, he would have five additional siblings: Jose Armando, Consuelo, Margarita Elva, Ruby Luz, and Leslie.

At the time, his father, Encarnacion Sr., owned a meat market, a general store, a theater, and a bakery. He also ran a "Loteria." The Loteria was a game of chance similar to bingo, where customers played for prizes. Encarnacion ran the Loteria in a tent with his sons and some hired help. He would often set up the Loteria tent next to his other businesses (much to the dismay of his next door neighbor). At other times, he traveled to the neighboring towns, set up his tent, and ran the Loteria for a day or two and then go off to the next town. His businesses were very profitable, and the Mendoza family was living comfortably.

Like the rest of his siblings, young Jesus was immersed in his father's businesses.

By 1920, when Jesus was 4, the Mexican revolution technically ended when Pancho Villa negotiated a peace settlement with the interim president of Mexico, Adolfo de la Huerta. Up to this time in Jesus's life, he and his family had been living through occasional skirmishes near his home, although most of the fighting was in other parts of Mexico. However, many would say that the revolution continued and perhaps intensified when Plutarco Elias Calles was elected president of Mexico at the end of 1924. Within two years, the bishops and Plutarco ignited violence between the Catholic Church and the Mexican government.

Mid 1926, when Jesus was ten years old, the Cristero Rebellion began, and lasted for three years. The unrelenting attacks on their beliefs would have been devastating for a profoundly religious family as religious as his. Violence soon erupted among the population throughout Mexico in support of the Roman Catholic church. From young Jesus's view, the Mexican Revolution had been going on his entire life, with no end in sight. Worse yet, Jesus's father was friends with President Plutarco and his son Aco. And the Politics of the President aggressively conflicted with the religious views of Jesus's father. By December 15, 1926, Jesus's family had to flee from their home in General Teran to Weslaco, Texas.

His mother, Mama Margarita, was born in Texas and had many relatives throughout Texas. The family moved to Weslaco and supported themselves by working the Loteria, first in Weslaco and then by traveling to many small towns throughout central and south Texas.

By July of 1929, when Jesus was 13, the family moved to McAllen, Texas, and on September 4, 1929, the Great Depression hit the United States. The family struggled and continued to work at the Loteria. Jesus and his siblings worked in the Loteria, and they

did.

In 1932, when Jesus was 16, the family had to move from McAllen because the owner, a relative, had lost ownership of their house. The family voted to either move to Monterrey, Mexico, or San Antonio, Texas. By September, they decided to move to San Antonio and rented a house at 219 Hill Street near downtown San Antonio.

The house on Hill Street is described in the book, "Migrants: Exploring the Colors of my Family History" written by Roger Mendoza.

As you entered the front door, there was a long hallway. As you walked down the hall, there were four large bedrooms on each side. At the end of the hallway was a bathroom. It was a luxury to have an indoor toilet that Encarnacion and Margarita did not have in Mexico. To the left was a large kitchen. Just beyond the kitchen was a large storeroom. As you walked out of the kitchen, into the hallway, just past the bathroom, was a large room that held a massive table at which the family could enjoy a meal together. They could also hold essential family meetings there when they wanted. The houses in that area were worth anywhere from \$3,000 to \$5,000. But the house at 219 Hill Street in 1933 was not for sale. It was for rent and a perfect place for the Mendoza family to live.

The Mendoza family continued to travel with the Loteria. After getting their permits, they frequently set up their tent as part of a much larger carnival. Sometimes there were multiple Loteria's operated by others. There was always competition. One place where they ran the Loteria was in Mission, Texas. That's likely where Jesus met Delia Garza in Mission, Texas.

The letters between Jesus Mendoza, 18, and Delia Garza

Mendoza, 15, began in 1934.

Delia lived on Miller Avenue in Mission, Texas. Her parents were Severo Garza and Felicitas "Fela" Navarro. She had four brothers: Alfredo, Severo Jr., Elida, Apolario, and Aquilino "Kilo." According to one of the pictures in Yolanda's collection, Delia had five sisters: Aurora, Esperanza, Juanita, Sanjanita, Elida. However, the 1920,1930,1940, and 1950 United States census records show only one sister, Elida. And there is a death record for Juana Teodora Garza from 1907 in Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

On mid-January 1936, Jesus,19, nearly died from a ruptured appendix. He was rushed, via ambulance, to Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio. His family was fearful that Jesus was going to die.

On April 25, 1937, Jesus Mendoza, 21, and Delia Garza, 18, were married at the Inglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in San Antonio, Texas. After they married, Jesus and Delia were both living in one of the rooms at Hill Street.

On Monday, May 31, 1937, Papa Chonito went to Monterrey in an attempt to reclaim his property in General Teran according to Jesus (Ref. Letter: 19370225_img099). The following statement that was notarized on May 9, 1945 explains the properties in question. In this statement, Encarnacion and Margarita's children drafted the following letter. When they wrote this, they didn't know that Encarnacion had already sold the properties in Mexico.

WHO CORRESPONDS, KNOW: HIDALGO COUNTY We, the undersigned, residing in San Antonio, Texas, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, of legal age and in good health, give full authorization to our mother, MARGARITA DE LA GARZA DE MENDOZA, a resident in San Antonio, Texas to that in our representation make the Claim of the properties of our parents, Encarnación Mendoza, and Margarita de la Garza de Mendoza, located in General Terán, N. León

Mexico. These properties consist of a Retail Store, Carnecería La Brisa, Panadería La Alianza, and Teatro Juárez. According to the Primary Deeds of those properties, which were illegally sold by the person in charge. The Rent Collector, Mr. Gaspar Cantú de la Garza, has rented most of the properties to Mr. A. Rodriguez and Brothers residing in the City of Monterrey, N. Leon Mexico. The collection was ninety-five pesos per month, collected by Mr. Gaspar Cantú de la Garza. These properties were illegally sold in combination with the Montemorelos Judge of Letters, N. León. Mexico, to Mr. Salomón Moya, and then they sold them to Dr. Joaquín Tova. Those collections were made since the Year of Nineteen Twenty-seven, and the owners, ENCARNACION MENDOZA AND MARGARITA DE LA GARZA DE MENDOZA, received no payment; and the property was sold in the Year of Nineteen Thirty-one. Whose wording you will find in the files of the Court of Letters of Montemorelos, N. León. Mexico. And for the Legal purposes of this document, we sign this before a Notary Public, in Weslaco, Texas, E.U. of America on the Nine Days of May of the Year of One Thousand Nineteen Forty-Five. ■ Enrique Mendoza Garza ■ Encarnación Mendoza Garza ■ Virgilio Mendoza Garza ■ Heriberto Mendoza Garza ■ Jesus Mendoza Garza ■ Margarita Elva Mendoza de Treviño ■ Ruben de la Luz Mendoza de Reygadas ■ Leslie del Roble Mendoza del Moral

* * *

Jesus Mendoza: His Life Through Letters

On November 10, 1937, Jesus Mendoza had a dream: “I dreamed that I had gone to war, and you had stayed at home....” (Ref. Letter 19371110_img100)

On March 1, 1938, their first child, Marie Nilda was born.

On September 1, 1939, World War II started outside of the United States.

Their second child, Jesus Jr. “Jesse” was born.

On April 1, 1940, the United States Census indicated that the Mendoza family was still living at 219 Hill Street. According to the 1940 Census, they rented the house. Five families lived in that house. Each family paid \$3 rent (total was \$15 per month). The five families consisted of the following (as listed in the 1940 United States Census record):

Unit #1:

Encarnacion Mendoza, head, 62; Completed the 3rd grade; Born in Mexico; Occupation: Proprietor, Carnival Show Staff; Margarita Mendoza, wife, 53, Completed 8th grade, Born in Texas; Heriberto Mendoza, son, 27, Completed 8th grade, Born in Mexico, Proprietor, Carnival Show Staff; Leslie Mendoza, daughter, 17, Completed 6th grade, Born Mexico; Guadalupe Galvin, daughter, 39, Completed 5th grade, Born in Mexico; Jose Galvin, Grandson, 10, Completed 3rd grade, Born in Texas.

Unit #2:

Enrique Mendoza, head, 30, Completed 8th grade, Born in Texas, Bookkeeper, Wholesale Grocery; Carmen Garcia Mendoza, wife, 26, Completed 4th grade, Born in Texas; Enrique Mendoza, Jr., son, 5, 0th grade, Born in Texas; Minerva Mendoza, daughter, 3, 0th grade, Born in Texas • Irma Mendoza, daughter, 1, 0th grade, Born in Texas

Roger Mendoza

Unit #3:

Encarnacion Mendoza, Jr. (Canacho), head, 25, Completed 6 th grade, Born in Mexico. Deliveryman, Drugstore; Enriqueta Chapa Mendoza, wife, 22, Completed 3rd grade, Born in Mexico; Fernando Mendoza, son, 1, 0th grade, Born in Texas

Unit #4:

Jesus Mendoza, head, 24, *H1 Grade, Born in Mexico, Packer, Wholesale Grocery; Delia Mendoza, wife, 21, Completed 6th grade, Born in Texas; Maria N. Mendoza, daughter, 2, 0th grade, Born in Texas; Jesus Jr. Mendoza, son, one month, 0th grade, Born in Texas

Unit #5:

Abel Gomez, head, 35, *H1 Grade, Born in Texas, Plasterer, Own business; Matilde Escobedo Gomez, 18, Completed 6th Grade, Born in Texas; Abel Gomez, Jr., son, ten months, 0th Grade, Born in Texas; Alexandro Escobedo, brother-in-law, 12, Completed 4th grade, Born in Texas *H1 means high school 1st year

On October 16, 1940, the Encarnacion and Margarita's boys (including Jesus) registered for the draft (all in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas). Jesus's record: "Jesus Garza Mendoza (24), 219 Hill Street, born April 2, 1916, unemployed."

The United States entered the war on December 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor.

On October 1, 1943, their third child was born, Jose Humberto.

On January 31, 1944, Jesus entered the Army under serial number 38562432.

On July 3, 1944, the unthinkable happened. Jose Humberto at ten months old, passed away. The Red Cross was contacted and

Jesus was able to obtain a leave from the Army to go home.

On October 10, 1944, Jesus applied for citizenship in the U.S. (Petition for Naturalization) at Anniston, Alabama. He signed the *Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance* on October 14, 1944.

By end of November of 1944, Delia purchased 118 Ruiz St.

On May 8, 1945, World War II ended in Europe. However, the war continued in Asia.

In August 1945, Jesus's brother, Enrique, had been working at Kelly Field since January of 1943 and borrowed some money from Jesus and his wife, Delia, for a small portion of the down payment.

On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. And then they dropped a second bomb on August 9, 1945 on Nagasaki, Japan.

On September 2, 1945, World War II ended after the Japanese surrendered.

On October 3, 1945, the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper (published in Brooklyn, New York, Oct. 3, 1945; Ref. Newspapers.com) featured a front-page article: "8 Troopships Tied Up-Other Walkouts Loom." This article explains why Jesus was delayed in returning home to his family as soon as he became eligible. An excerpt of the article follows:

8 Troopships Tied Up—Other Walkouts Loom

A wildcat strike of virtually all longshoremen was in effect on the Brooklyn waterfront today as part of a citywide walkout which threatened redeployment and return of army personnel.

It was estimated that 30,000 dock workers were participating in the stoppage, 12,000 of them in Brooklyn. All activity was halted at the Brooklyn Army Base, Bush Terminal and Erie Basin.

Capt. Hewlett R. Bishop, Atlantic Coast director for the War Shipping Administration, today announced 56 American ships were tied up in the

port as a result of the walkout. Eight of these were troop carriers, he said. And the situation “impairs the redeployment and return of troops.”

Many of the vessels were destined for European ports with relief cargoes, Captain Bishop stated...

Jesus had three sons and two daughters with Delia Garza between 1938 and 1952: Marie Nilda, Jesus, Jose Humberto, Yolanda, Jose Humberto "Joe."

1 - 1934

19340000_IMG002_ENGLISH

Abt. 1934, From: Delia, Mission, Texas; To: Jesus, San Antonio, Texas; Format: Letter¹

[Note: Written on stationary from Concordia Theatre; 516 So. Dougherty Ave.; Mission, Texas]

Jesus Mendoza

Today I answer your very kind letter in which you tell me that everyone is well, thanks to God. Well, here at home everything is the same. In your letter that you wrote to me you said that you are in Benavidas, but you are going to move somewhere else. And you don't know where that will be. Well, I will answer you and send the letter to San Antonio. But in the other letter, that I received, you said to send it to Benavides. Anyhow, I decided not to send it to Benavides. It's better that I send it to San Antonio.

I'm glad that you sent the letter to me at Box 506. You are so good and kind. Honey, here in Mission there is nothing new, all the same, as usual. I wanted to write much more to you, but I don't have anything more to tell you, except that I love you very much.

With Love

Delia Garza

P.S. A Kiss with all my strength

J.M. Lalse(?)

19341208_IMG079_ENGLISH

December 8, 1934, From: Jesus, Texas; To: Delia, Mission, Texas;
Format: Letter²
Mission, Texas

Ms. Delia Garza,

I picked up the pencil to write to you a few lines to say that I am very happy to have received your very attentive answer, which I do not mind reading it every moment, although the letter was very short. It means a lot that everything you say in it is true.

My love, you tell me in your very kind letter that you cannot bear the passion. You love me very much. Well, rest assured that I cannot bear it either because I love you with all my heart and I adore you with all my soul. In proof of this here I send you my photograph so that you realize that it is truthful what I write and what my heart tells me to write to you.

Corazoncito, you know that when one is passionate, he is not looking at another woman, only at the one that he truly loves, don't believe what others tell you, unless you see it with your own eyes. Because when two people love each other in reality there is no lack of someone to doubt. So do not believe what the doubters tell you. I am only for you, and you are only for me. And God will guide us on the right path and hopefully he blesses our love always. Without more who never forgets you, and your love is faithful forever.

Jesus Mendoza

19341211_IMG003_ENGLISH

December 11, 1934, From: Jesus, Texas; To: Delia, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter³

Delia Garza,

Sweet love of mine, I read your very attentive and kind answer where you told me that you think that our correspondence is frequent and that it is necessary to do so to express what our hearts produce. I also think the same.

Sweetheart, I would like with all my heart to save the love that we have for each other and to be able to keep it, we need to be together, the two of us, to be able to talk together about what we feel in our hearts. Not to hide from your Papa or your family.

And to be able to talk more at ease and at the same time so that you realize that I think and want to have our friendship honestly and faithfully because I am truly passionate about you and my affection is especially and eternally destined for you.

My little love of my heart, you tell me in your letter too, that you love me very much and that you have no way to explain it to me. Well, I understand that you love me so much from what you write to me in your attentive and beautiful letters. Even when I walk by your side, talking to you, it makes me very happy, even for a short time and your house is very close.

Corazoncito, I would like us to talk endlessly and at the same time unfold our love, our affection, our characters, what we feel in our hearts, and for this it would be necessary to be by your side, to be very close, the two of us so that our hearts come together as one. And that God helps us in everything and blesses our true love and unites us forever and never separates, and likewise we will live honorably forever, and in this way we will live contented and very happy, both of us, and hopefully our love will be forever. Without more, never forget who loves you faithfully, and I want to forever be by your side.

Roger Mendoza

Yours faithfully,
Jesus Mendoza

19341213_IMG005_ENGLISH

December 13, 1934, From: Delia Garza, Mission, Texas; To:
Jesus, Texas; Format: Letter⁴

Jesus Mendoza, my Love,

Today I answer your very attentive and adorable letter in which you told me so many things, and hopefully everything you told me was true.

I feel so content and so happy about what you wrote to me in your letter. And hopefully God will help us to fulfill our desires. For I love you with all my heart, as I have always told you. Do not worry, I will never forget you. Every step I take I imagine that I see you here. My Love, so sad and long are the days without seeing you. Every step I take I expect to find you in my gaze which dissolves into a radiant glow full of love, which my heart cannot resist without giving a heartbeat as the radiant glow disappears with time. A futile illusion.

My charm, I did not know what I would do when you left here, I have to settle for what God wants of me and God will help me that you will return.

[I am] the one who will never forget you,

[I am] the one who loves and adores you

Delia Garza

D.P. Forgive me for the letter [spelling/grammar?], please. I have a lot to learn,

Who loves you

A kiss XX

2 - 1935

19350208_IMG050_ENGLISH

February 8, 1935, From: Jesus, San Antonio, Texas; To: Delia, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter¹

Señorita de la Garza

With pleasure, I write to you this letter to tell you hello and at the same time tell you that we are all good. And in your letter you also tell me that in your house everyone is good. This we thank God for giving good health both to you and to us.

Dulce my love, I received your adorable, beautiful photograph which when I saw you brought out a sigh from my heart. There is a saying that says: "The little eyes that are loved from afar greet each other." Right, Corazoncito? There is no doubt that my heart loves no one but you. And I hope that God will help me to satisfy you.

Corazoncito, you tell me in your kind letter that on Monday you had written to me. And you were going to leave your letter at the post office, but that your girlfriends came by. Well, Corazoncito, if you had written to me on Monday or Tuesday, it would have gone well, because we wanted to leave this week. But we had not left because we did not know where the Japanese [carnival owner] was and for that reason we had not left. And my papa has written to a

man who is working in a carnival and has not yet answered. I am very happy that I had written to the Japanese carnival, the one there. And if you do me the favor of writing to me as soon as you receive this letter and hold it your adorable little hands. And write to me and tell me if the Japanese are working there next week, or where he goes next from there. I would appreciate this very much. And with the help of God, we will go there with the Loteria to be close to you. Because I am very sad without seeing you. However, it is, if they are there, do me a favor of telling me what they say. Please, Corazoncito?

Corazoncito, sweet little love, I am going to go to get photographed to send you my picture since you were so good to have sent me yours. I am very grateful and very happy for your photograph that looks exactly like you. It came out perfectly well. I am crazy about it. It is beautiful....

19350314_IMG047_ENGLISH

March 14, 1935, From: Jesus, Freer, Texas; To: Delia, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter²

Ms. Delia Garza,

My dearly beloved and appreciative love, I gladly write you this letter to say hello and tell you that everyone here is well, thanks to God.

Sweet love of mine, with so much pleasure and with great enjoyment I take my pencil in my hands to write to you these few lines and tell you what my heart is feeling and wants to tell you.

Corazoncito, we left San Antonio with the Lotteria on Thursday, last week and we were going to go to Rio Grande City, but we went to a carnival in San Diego, Texas and we stayed there. We worked until Monday, and we came here to Freer, Texas where we are right

now and from here, we are going to go to the nearby town, Benavides, Texas. Do me the favor of writing to me at Benavides, Texas where I am anxious to read another letter from you. But more than anything I would like to see you, with me by your side, rather than to write to you. But I hope, with the help of God, that I go to see you. My heart is very sad without seeing you. What I tell you is not just talk but comes from my poor heart that is passionate about your sweet and appreciable love. That is the only thing that comforts me. There is nothing in the world that I adore as much as your love. My love for you is real, pure, and true. There are many people who want to break up a love with stories or gossip that they tell you, even if it's not true. But for a love that is true love, don't believe those things as long as you do not see them with your own eyes. Anyhow, do not believe all the things that others tell you. Believe in what you see, not by what others tell you.

You are a beautiful, pure, divine woman and the one that my heart is crazy for. And God will help both you and me to unite our hearts into one. Write to me in Benabides, Texas please.

Without more who wants to see you better than write to you.

Jesus Mendoza

19350326_IMG050_ENGLISH

March 26, 1935, From: Jesus, Benavides Texas; To: Delia, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter³

Senorita Delia Garza,

With pleasure and much happiness I take the pencil in my hands to write you these few words and at the same time tell you that we are well, thanks to God.

Corazoncito, with so much pleasure I read your letter in which you tell me that you did not receive the letter I sent to Box 506, that it had to be returned to San Antonio. Then I sent another letter to

Roger Mendoza

General Delivery, and it is the one you received. And I sent the other letter to you from Freer, Texas, so that you could answer my letter and send it to Benavides, Texas. This is where we are right now, with the Loteria at another carnival. We are going to leave here tomorrow, but I don't know where we are going. So, if you do me the favor to send your answer letter to San Antonio. Someone there will send it to me where I am.

Sweet, sweet, sweet, here I send you the letter that returned to San Antonio, the one I sent to Box 506, dated 2/8/1935.

Corazóncito, yes, I have so much desire to see you. You do not have an idea that it is a great sacrifice for me not being able to see you. My heart is sad for not being close to you. I'm doing my best to go to Mission, but only if God allows me.

Honey! On Sunday there was a ballgame, and I went to see it because the players were from Mission, Texas. And I was going to see if I knew someone, but I did not know anyone there. They were going to play with Benavides, Texas here in Benavides. The players from Mission were "30 a 30" and they came to play 2 games. The first game was won by Mission, 7 to 6 and the second game, they lost 6 to 7 so they came out boards [tied?].

I went because my heart was happy to hear that the players "30 a 30" were from Mission and I thought that some family of yours came, but I did not recognize any of your family. I did not recognize this league of players "30 a 30".

Without more who is desperate to see you and be by your side and who loves you until death.

Jesus Mendoza

19350424_IMG053_ENGLISH

April 24, 1935, From: Jesus, George West, Texas; To: Delia, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter⁴

* * *

Jesus Mendoza: His Life Through Letters

Miss Delia Garza

Dear and appreciable Corazoncito, with pleasure I write this letter to say hello and to tell you that we are well, thanks to God.

Corazoncito, I have quite a bit of news for you. I had not written to you because I was waiting for your letter. I was waiting for you to answer me to San Antonio, Texas. But I have not received a letter. And now write to me here at this address: Jesús Mendoza, George West, Texas. And if you do me the favor and write on the envelope: If it is not received in 5 days, return to Jesus Mendoza, 219 Hill St., San Antonio, Texas. For if I don't get it here in George West, Texas, I will receive it in San Antonio, Texas. But please don't forget.

Well, I have some news for you. My brother Virgilio, who was at the other carnival that arrived before us to Mission, who was working in a loteria of an Italian, is going to get married and they already went to ask for the girl's hand in marriage. She lives in Floresville, Texas and next Sunday they will give the answer. And Papa told me that after Virgilio is married then I would get married next and to be patient. I am very happy about that. And are you still thinking the same, Corazoncito? I am!

Corazoncito, about the big portrait, I had my portrait taken and it came out very badly because of the light. But I'll send a small one. The photographer told me that later he was going to take another large portrait. As soon as he takes it, I will send it to you, Corazoncito.

Without further ado, I await your answer.

Who loves you until death,

XXXXXX

Jesus Mendoza

19350426_IMG048_ENGLISH

April 26, 1935, From: Jesus, George West, Texas; To: Delia,

Mission, Texas; Format: Letter⁵

Miss Delia Garza

My very dear and appreciable Corancito, gladly I write this letter to say hello and tell you that here all is good, thanks to God.

Yesterday I received your very kind letter where you tell me that you had not answered me because you had no time and to do you the favor of forgiving you. Because from my heart came a profound sigh which indicates that a woman like you is forgiven by a heart that loves you until my last moments of my life.

Sweet amorcito, you tell me also in your unforgettable letter that they were showing a very nice film and that I wish that I had, by chance, been there. Well, I would have gone to the Mission but not to go to see the movie but to go see you because I do not love anything else in the world as much as I love you. You are my only illusion.

Corazoncito, you also told me in his kind letter that last Sunday they had shown the film that was titled "The Pure Truth" that you and I saw. I do not remember the film very well, but I do remember the title and also that you were sitting next to me and both you and I were both very happy so much that we saw it again and my heart did not fit in my chest. It seemed to me that we had a very short time together, but the time we spent together was the happiest in my whole life. By chance the movie we saw was titled "The Plain Truth," and that's what I'm writing to you in this letter, that I'm telling you the plain truth and my love for you is The Plain Truth also.

Honey, you also told me in your adorable letter that you have been very sad and that on the 13th the son of the owner of the theater died. Do me the favor to give him my condolences, despite not knowing him well, but it's good that he has treated you well.

And you also tell me to tell you everything that is new. I have much news. It seems that God put in your heart that you should

ask me what is new. Or in other words that your heart warned you that I had news for you. Next Sunday they will give the answer regarding the marriage of my brother, Virgilio on April 28, 1935. That last Sunday or April 21, 1935, they went to ask for the girl's parents for permission to marry, I would like that day to come for us. And you, Corazoncito? I would like that day to come. Are you still thinking that you will be mine?

And as I was telling you, the girl is called Genobeba Saunders and lives in Floresville, Texas. She is not very pretty. But she is very good for my brother. She loves him very much and he also loves her. And you know that when it comes to marriage it is because they love each other, because they love each other and because they adore each other. Just like how I want you, the love, I adore you until death. And you, Corazoncito? You are also in despair, and you ask me if I no longer love you. Well, you are my only love, my only illusion. Without you I could not live. I am also in despair to be with you. But it is for the same love that we have for each other. You should see that I love you very much and you love me very much. And I am just thinking of you, and you are thinking only about me. And for that reason, we cannot stop loving each other.

My Papa and my Mama never liked it for us to misbehave with girls. I tell you because a brother of mine who is in San Antonio is a little in love with two and mama and papa spend time getting after him. Mama and Papa advises us never to have friendships with two because they will never help. And I consider you as a companion and do not fear that I would have another. I will never do that. I say this with all my heart, and I am frank in telling you this. And if you love me as you tell me it will be the same. We both will live very happy and very content lives. I love you with all my heart, and I also forgive you with all my heart for not having written to me. God will help us to fulfill our humble wishes. Papa already told me that as soon as Virgilio is married, he would help me in any way. I have many hopes of getting married this year. And

I still with your are thinking the same. Answer this letter to San Antonio please. On Monday or Tuesday, I will send a letter telling you about the marriage of my brother.

And regarding the large photograph, do not despair. I'll send you a large one. I had a large one done, but I didn't like it to send you. I will order another one and send it to you. But it has to come out good, because the one you sent me was very good. Every day I see it. That is all for now. Many memories to everyone in your house and receive a very tight hug and a few kisses from your lover XXXXXXXX and without more, who loves you to death.

For you little heart

My love. Right?

Jesus Mendoza

19350508_IMG049_ENGLISH

May 8, 1935, From: Jesus, Poteet, Texas; To: Delia, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter⁶

Miss de la Garza,

My very dear and appreciable Corazoncito, with pleasure I write this letter to say hello and tell you that we are all well, thanks to God.

Sweetheart, I write these few lines to tell you that we arrived in this town of Poteet with the Loteria working with a lot of [ahoinco?] work and at the same time I am saving a little money to get married to you because without you, I cannot live. Because my heart is directly destined for you. It's very good, very kind, and very frank and my heart wants to join with yours to be united forever.

Sweet Corazoncito, you are so kind to have sent me your photographs, I am very happy with them. They came out very nice and as soon as I saw them I gave each of them a kiss and I thought I would like to have you by my side because you are a very beautiful

little woman.

Corazoncito, I have some news for you. The photographer who accompanies us is the one who took the portraits that you sent me. You were photographed in January. I showed him the portrait of you, and he told me that he had photographed you, Corazoncito. He gave me some portraits that he had there and also gave me the large portrait that you had ordered. And also, the portraits that I sent you are portraits that he took. You and I have been photographed by the same photographer. I am very happy that he has sent me the photographs. One of them is in my wallet to have with me all the time. The lady of the photographer and the photographer told me to invite them to the wedding when I got married. Because he told me that I was going to marry a very pretty girl, very honest, very serious and that they knew you well when they were in Mission, and he is going to get me a portrait just like yours. He took one but said that it had turned out bad and that he had to repair the camera to get better portraits. Afterward, I'll send it to you because I love you and I adore you with all my heart. My brother is going to get married in 2 more weeks and the girl is asked and given. The letter you sent me was really from McAllen, Corazoncito.

Honey, last night, we were robbed here. They took the trunk where I had the money that we had made in the lotteria. And this morning we found the trunk on the side of the train tracks. They did not take any clothes, nothing more than the money which was \$15.00. My dad is in the house. Just me and my brother are here. Without further ado my heart says goodbye by closing this letter and sending many kisses for you and many memories for everyone at your house.

Who loves you,
Jesus Mendoza

Here I send you another photograph instead of sending yours. This too was taken by the photographer that photographed you. A

tight hug and more kisses. Nothing more than for you,
Corazoncito. XXXXXXXX

Delia Garza belongs to Jesus Mendoza because she loves him,
she adores him with all her heart. Right, Corazoncito?

19351016_IMG052_ENGLISH

October 16, 1935, From: Jesus, San Antonio, Texas; To: Delia,
Mission, Texas; Format: Letter⁷

Senorita Delia Garza,

With much pleasure I received your very attentive, unforgettable
answer to my letter, Which before opening it, a sigh broke from my
withered heart, After opening I quickly learned what you answered
me.

You write to me in your very attentive letter that you did not wait
for the letter that I sent you and you believed that I had forgotten
about you. I will never forget you for as long as I live. And
hopefully God will help me to see you soon.

Corazoncito, you tell me also in your beloved letter that you
received five of my letters and that you did not answer them
because you were a little hurt by me because of some untruths that
your friends told you. But God helped me for you to believe me,
because I speak and beg you with the pure truth. These three words
was a film that you and I saw at the Concordia Theater that was
titled "The Pure Truth" and is the one with which I am speaking to
you. I did not pay much attention to the film just because I was
watching you. You are so beautiful and so cute for my "Truth!"

Sweetheart, I have the same affection for you. And today we
were in Mission, we never went to Rio Grande, neither before nor
after. And I talked to you because I did not have any girlfriend. My
heart told me to talk to that young woman because since before I
went to Mission, since I went the last time, I was very passionate

about you because I knew that you loved me, and my heart loved you. But, hopefully please do not believe more stories. I love you very much and I will never forget you, and if you think the same, we will live very happy for all time, with God's help.

We plan to go around the Valley, with God's favor. Do me the favor of telling how it is over there so we can go with the loteria. This week we are here in San Antonio. Please write me as soon as you receive this, Corazoncito, I do not get tired of seeing your kind answers. That's all for now. It is 12 o'clock at night right now. In the next letter, I will write you more slowly with the favor of God. Many memories to all those of your house and those who remember me and for you. My sincerest affection from the one who never forgets you and hopes to see you.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Who loves you

Jesus Mendoza

19351029_IMG051_ENGLISH

October 29, 1935, From: Jesus, 219 Hill St., San Antonio, Texas;
To: Delia, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter⁸

Señorita Delia Garza,

With much pleasure I have written this letter to say hello and tell you what follows. With anxious despair I find myself wanting to know of you and waiting for one of your many kind letters which I have not yet received.

But God wants you to listen calmly to my humble words because I am passionate about you, and I can never forget you. For I have always adored you, you are always unforgettable.

And today I am writing to remember those happy days that we spent together. You and me in Mission, Texas, the time the carnival was there. Those days that we spent together were the happiest in my life.

Roger Mendoza

The Sacred Heart that you gifted me was the thing that reminded me to write to you because it is a memory for which I will never forget you.

Every time I look at the photograph of you, it seems that I am seeing and hearing you talking very close to my ear, saying that I will always be yours. Those words I will never forget since the distance between us made me suffer, but I have high hopes of seeing you.

Delia, I have dreamed of you several, I mean many times. And every time in the dream your heart takes over mine and an immense passion is born that my heart cannot resist. And I thought to write to you to ask you to please answer this letter.

If you were kind enough to not hold grudges from the past and follow our loving friendships with a little more calm, it would be satisfying for me.

Without more who expects a kind answer.

219 Hill St. San Antonio, Texas

Jesus Mendoza

19351126_YVIMG019

November 26, 1936, From: Jesus, San Antonio, Texas; To: Delia;
Format: Postcard⁹

Srita Delia Garza

Baby Mia,

With all my pleasure I celebrate this day to give thanks to God and the Virgencita. They are the ones who help us in our sacred thoughts. I have a surprise for you, about when I will go there. We are here in San Antonio. We arrived yesterday but I didn't forget you. Forgive me for not writing on a paper because I'm writing this at the post office.

Honey, that's all.

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Without more, wishing that our wishes come true as soon as possible.

Yours,

Jesus Mendoza



Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe
Patron Saint of Mexico

19351231_IMG054_ENGLISH

December 31, 1934, From: Jesus, Port Isabel Texas; To: Delia,
Mission, Texas; Format: Letter¹⁰

* * *

Miss Delia Garza

Unforgettable love of mine, I gladly write this letter to say hello and tell you that I received your very kind letter where you tell me that God will take care of us and help us in everything. With how much pleasure my heart receives these words from a kind maiden who shows that she says it with all her kind heart.

Corazoncito and sweet love of mine, you told me also, in your adorable letter, that the time we came to Port Isabel you thought the same as me and you went into the church and prayed to the Sacred Heart that you would see me sooner than when we were set to meet. And then you had some good luck when the Sister [nun] sent you outside to sow some seeds. And that is when I saw you because alas, God is helping us in everything so that we bring together our hearts and we create our place.

My Amorcito, I had not written to you because I did not know where we were going to go to from here because the Japanese said that last Tuesday, we were not going to Rio Hondo, but he did not get permission there. And then he said he was going to go to Brownsville, and he did not get permission there either. And just now, he got permission for San Benito. We are going to go there from here tonight, with the favor of God. Do me the favor of sending your next letter to San Benito.

Corazoncito, do me the favor of telling me if you received the letter that I sent you by mail or not. Because I sent you another letter with a man. If you did not receive the letter that I sent you by mail, then tell me what name I should write. But do me the favor of telling me another name I should write because I think you did not receive the first letter. I think that someone took it, and that's why you did not receive it. And if I write another name, no one could bother it. And I could write to you more often to tell you what our hearts produce and for this reason I had not written to you.

Corazoncito, a Happy New Year to you and to everyone in your

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house and do me the favor to forgive me for not sending the Christmas presents because I was not sure that you would receive it, but do me the favor of forgiving me, Corazoncito.

A happy New Year for you, from who loves you and will never forget you'

Without further ado, who awaits your kind answer in San Benito, Texas. A few kisses for the year 1935 from someone that loves you.

Many XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX [kisses]

Jesus Mendoza

3 - 1936

19360129_IMG064_ENGLISH

January 29, 1936, From: Jesus, 219 Hill St., San Antonio, Texas;
To: Delia, PO Box 506, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter¹
[Postmark: San Antonio, Texas; Jan 29; 8-PM;
1936]

January 29, 1936
Miss Delia Garza

With much affection I write this letter to you to say hello and wishing that you are in good health. I am very well healed. I am at home 5 days now since I was brought from the hospital and now the Doctor is coming over every day and he told us that I am recovering well from the operation and that I should take good care of myself and that I should not get out of bed. He says I'm okay and he said that for 2 or 3 months I shouldn't lift heavy things or that I shouldn't work hard.

Corazoncito, I am desperate to see you, who I dream of every night. And I am begging the Sacred Heart to unite our destinies to be very happy, you and I.

My Sweetheart, I have the Sacred Heart that you gave me on my headboard. And every morning, I give it 4 kisses, 2 [for the Sacred heart] to help you and 2 [for the Sacred heart] to help me. I also

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have pictures of your family. I have them on my headboard. I have 4 and to each one I give many kisses.

Corazoncito, here at home everyone wants to meet you, all of my sisters and my mama too. My mama is very Catholic, and I told her that you were too. She told me to behave well with you and that Diosito will help me for us to get married and live happily, that we never dislike each other for any reason.

Corazoncito, another brother of mine wanted to go with papa with the Lotteria. My brother had left a business that had a market. But they couldn't leave because my papa got sick from a medicine. He is well now, but it's [candeliando?] and it's very cold and they couldn't leave.

My sister Margarita sends her many memories and to please do her the favor of answering her letter.

Many memories for all of you. Receive many kisses of mine.
XXXXXXXX

One who never forgets you and loves you to death. More kisses for you. XXXXXX[kisses] I dedicate them to you with all my heart.

Without more. From one who adores you and loves you very much XXXXXX[kisses]

Jesus Mendoza

19360203_IMG056_ENGLISH

February 3, 1936, From: Jesus, 219 Hill St., San Antonio, Texas;
To: Delia, PO Box 506, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter²
[Postmark: San Antonio; FEB 3; 4:30PM; 1936;
TEX]

Miss Delia Garza

With my everlasting affection I am answering your very kind letter which I have read several times. I never get tired of reading your letters. In your letter you say that all are good and in good

health in your house of which, I am glad. This letter leaves me well – all of us. And as for my illness, I am very much better and recovered and hopefully, God willing, I will be discharged by the doctor in 2 or 3 days.

Delia of my heart, you told me in your kind letter that there in Mission it is very cold and it has been raining. Well, here in San Antonio it has also been very cold except yesterday and the day before when the sun was shining. Even so, last night at 8 P.M. there were very strong winds and it has been very cold.

Dear Baby, you also told me in your unforgettable little letter that you will always refer to me with love as *Chuy*. Well, that gives me a lot of pleasure. You are very good, very sincere, and very kind. My heart burst a sigh when I saw the words you wrote me, that you will always call me *Chuy*.

What is your affectionate nickname, *Corazoncito*? So that I, too, can call you with love, forever.

My *Corazoncito*, in your letter you told me you were remembering of what we talked about that time, about what happened to the boy that was working with us and me. Here at home, we also talk about that, and they laughed a lot. Poor boy, he helped much in the loteria. Although it was very timely, he said that he did not know how to pray, but when we were caught in a rainstorm, he knew how to pray.

Corazoncito, there is nothing more and in 6 or 7 weeks I will do my best to go to the valley and to go to Mission to see you, God willing.

That's all for now. Many memories to all those of your house and for you to receive many kisses from the one who truly loves you and will never forget you.

I say goodbye with the same affection as always.
XXXXXXXXXX[kisses]

Jesus Mendoza

* * *

19360225_IMG061_ENGLISH

February 25, 1936, From: Jesus, 219 Hill St., San Antonio, Texas;
To: Delia, PO Box 506, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter³
[Postmark: San Antonio, Texas; FEB 25; 4:30PM;
1936]

Miss. Delia Garza,

Dear Sweetheart:

I am just fine too, honey! I am glad you're fine too, Bebel!

With much pleasure I received your very kind letter, in which you tell me that the Japanese carnival is there, and that I was very pleased that your brother told you that the Japanese were there, because he remembered me. What happy days we spent that time! Isn't that true, my baby of my heart?

Baby of my life, here there is nothing new, the only thing sad is regarding my operation. I am doing perfectly very well. Today I completed 40 days since having the operation that was very dangerous as I remember it. And I give thanks to God who gave me my health and also to you and all those who prayed to God for me. Corazoncito, my mother wrote to Father Montero of McAllen, Texas regarding my illness and he sent me many greetings and that he had prayed for me too. As I was a member of the Catholic society A.C.J.M. in McAllen and Father Montero was the director.

My baby, the day before the operation of the appendix, I had been working with the truck and about 4 P.M, I got a pain in the stomach. I told them that I would be okay if I lied down. They gave me different medicines, but the pain stayed, I slept and about 6 o'clock in the morning the pain continued and they sent for the doctor. He came in and said to immediately take me to a hospital because I needed an operation. They took me in an ambulance to the Santa Rosa hospital, a hospital of all Nuns where they did the operation. They took me to the operating room, they put me in a bed in the operating room, they did not let anyone from my home see me, and they asked me that if wanted to be put to sleep with

chloroform. I told them not to put me to sleep [with chloroform]. They only gave me several injections, to not feel the operation. It took 1 hour 30 minutes. Three doctors and two assistants were operating on me. I remembered you because I did not believe that I was going live because the appendix had burst. The doctor could not assure me for 5 days that I was going to be okay. But with the help of God, I did very well.

When they finished the operation, I was very well, I did not hurt at all. Ten days after the operation, they let my mother visit me, and the doctor could not be sure, until 5 days passed, because they had taken out the burst appendix and that he was going to do everything possible to save my life. And thanks to him for saving me. They treated me very well in the hospital, everyone at home came to see me. Papa cried because he thought I was going to die. Later, on the day of the operation, at night, they watched over me all night, and they did not give me anything to eat or water because it was dangerous. I was doing well, except that I had to be on my back, because they had operated on my stomach.

Another day the priest came by for me to confess. I told him all my sins. My mother was there all day too. And at 10 in the morning my little sister Margarita came to visit me. I told her to please write to you and she did. I was very happy because a letter had arrived from you and they brought it to me in the hospital. I read it several times and put it at my bedside.

I was very thirsty on the third day after the operation, but the doctor said that they could not give me water or any food. They gave me water by means of an injection that they put in a vein [intravenously] from a bag of about half a gallon of water. It took about 1-1/2 hours to get all of the water into the vein. After 4 days, I was very desperate for the water. I was very thirsty. The doctor said that I could have a small drink. They moistened my lips, but I did not swallow any. Every night they watched me, mama, and an aunt of mine. The hospital did not let many enter. There are certain

hours allowed to see the sick.

I just received a letter from you, and I was very pleased. When my lips were wet, I remembered when we went to the Theater. You and I saw "The Pure Truth" and when we were going to leave the Theater you wiped my lips with your little mask of sweet kisses that you gave me Do you remember little baby of my heart? That time was a very happy time in my life.

After 5 days the archbishop went to give me Communion. He gave the host to me, but it would not dissolve because my mouth was dry. I had it in my mouth for a long time. Then a nurse came and gave me a little bit of warm water and the host dissolved.

In the afternoon the doctor came by. He told mama that I was already out of danger that I had already been saved. I thanked God and the doctor. At 8 days they brought me home and said that I was very strong to endure the disease. Because I didn't gujaba[complain?], and that I had very good blood which was what helped me a lot.

I thank God, the doctor, you (because you prayed for me) and to all who prayed for me. I hope that God helps us to get married, you and I. Memories to all. Without more, I love you until death and never will I forget you. Many kisses for you,

Jesus Mendoza XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX[kisses]

19360317_IMG007_ENGLISH

March 17, 1936, From: Jesus, San Antonio, Texas; To: Delia, Texas; Format: Letter⁴

Delia Garza. Dear Baby of mine,

How are you honey? I am just fine Sweet Baby!

I send you this letter to say hello and tell you what follows. All at home are in good health, thanks to God's Grace. I'm wishing that

Roger Mendoza

when you receive this letter in your adorable little hands you will be enjoying full Health.

My Baby, I received your very kind letter in which you said there was nothing new and that you were very sad. Nothing new here except they celebrated the Centennial of the Alamo here in San Antonio, which was 100 years since the gringos took over Texas and the Alamo. It was where they fought. The gringos won, put Santa Anna in prison, and forcing him [on behalf of Mexico] to rent [Texas], for some time, by paying \$15,000,000 to Mexico. Santa Anna betrayed the homeland so that he would not be killed. It was what they celebrated here in San Antonio and there was a great Float Ride and several music bands playing different national anthems.

My Delia of my heart, that's all for now. Without more who loves you passionately and sends you many, many kisses in your sweet little mouth. Without more, I'd would rather see your cute little eyes than to write to you.

Jesus Mendoza

XXXXXXX

FOR D.G.M. with all my heart J.M.G.

Baby Sweet, Darling. Please forgive me for my writing please.
J.M.

More kisses for you. Little Baby. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX J.M.G
+ D.G.M.

19360317_IMG007_4_ENGLISH

March 17, 1936, From: Jesus, San Antonio, Texas; To: Delia,
Texas; Format: Insert 1⁵

MENDOZA

Heraldica

By Antonio de Moguer Blasón Hispano

MENDOZA

Of Castilian origin, this surname had its original plot in the town of the same name, in Castilla la Vieja, Spain.

Mendoza is derived from the ancient Lords of Llodio, descendants of the Sovereign Lords of Biscay.

He proved his nobility repeatedly and in all military orders.

A branch passed to Cuba and from there to New Spain (today Mexico) and Argentina with Don Diego Hurtado de Mendoza who was created Count of Priego in 1565 by King Enrique VI.

Another branch passed to Nuevo León, Mexico in 1704 with Don Juan Agustín Hurtado de Mendoza, created Marquis of Gauna on May 12, 1667, by royal decree of Santillana de Salamanca. His only son, Don Pedro de Mendoza, born in Monterrey, was created Marquis of Fontanar in 1761 for being a knight of the Royal Company of Marine Guards, Grande of Spain. Married in Spain to Dona Rosa-María Torres y Salazar, returning to Monterrey, where they founded a new plot, being one of the founding families of the nearby Villa de García.

Your arms: Shield quartered in sotuer, first and fourth in field of gules, a band of sinople, profiled of gold, and second and third in field of gold. The Agelical salutation "Ave Maria, Gratia Plena" in azure letters.

Note: This shield belongs exclusively to this noble family since the Mendoza have 12 different

shields.

19360317_IMG007_6_ENGLISH

March 17, 1936, From: Jesus, San Antonio, Texas; To: Delia,
Texas; Format: Insert 2⁶

GARZA

Heraldica

By LEOCADIO CASTANO

Hispanic-American Blason

GARZA, this noble surname is from origin gallego, for having had its primitive plot in San Juan de Tor, judicial district of Monforte de Lemos, Lugo-Spain.

He has proven his nobility repeatedly and at different times in the Royal Chancelleries of Valladolid and Granada, in the Royal Audience of Oviedo and in the Royal Company of Marine Guards.

A branch passed to New Spain (today Mexico) with the third expedition of Hernán Cortés with the name of Don Francisco dela Garza, Marques de Garcilaso y Garza, founding new plot in Monterrey, Mexico.

They were children of the aforementioned Don Manuel, Don Antonio, Don Francisco, Don Andrés, and Dona Asunción Garza.

Don Andrés Garza, Marques de la Almudena by Royal Decree, went on to found a new plot in Delicias, Chihuahua, Mexico.

Its arms split shield: first in azure field, a golden heron and second in silver field, six azure roels

placed on so sticks.

19360321_YVIMG007

March 21, 1936, From: Jesus, San Antonio, Texas; To: Delia, PO Box 506, Mission, Texas; Format: Postcard⁷

Srita Delia Garza,

I wish you a thousand congratulations on your saint's day. I want you to live many, many years,

Jesus

From J. M to D. G.

This postcard-portrait doesn't compare to your pure beauty. Your beautiful image illuminates the tender love that my soul hides.

Jesus M.

19360402_YVIMG008

April 2, 1936, From: Encarnacion and Margarita, San Antonio, Texas; To: Jesus Mendoza, 219 Hill St., San Antonio, Texas; Format: Postcard⁸

A loving greeting for our dear son on this day of his birthday. Wishing that you see many years of health and a prosperous and happy life.

Encarnacion y Margarita

19360423_IMG067_ENGLISH

April 23, 1936, From: Jesus, San Antonio, Texas; To: Delia, PO Box 506, Mission, Texas; Format: Postcard⁹

* * *

Life of mine,
I send you this postcard in proof of my love for you.
Jesus Mendoza
[Heart]
D.G.

19360430_IMG065_ENGLISH

April 30, 1936, From: Jesus, San Benito, Texas; To: Delia,
Mission, Texas; Format: Letter¹⁰

Delia Garza, my Corazoncito,

With great pleasure and with great love I write this letter to say hello to you and at the same time wishing that you are enjoying full health that all is good because of God's Graces.

Baby of my life, we left San Antonio yesterday morning, we were going to stay in George West, Texas. We were waiting for a carnival to join and at the same time we were going to celebrate on May 5. We were there all day, but we did not want to do business with that carnival] Then we went to San Benito from where I am writing right now, Corazoncito.

Here in San Benito, we are going to celebrate no more than 4 days and God will help us so it doesn't rain and that it goes well for us.

In San Antonio, the fiesta was very nice. It was on Friday and Saturday and more than 150,000,000 souls. There was not much business. There were 6 days of fiesta. The first 2 days it rained and for the other 4 days, 2 were regular and the last 2 days we did very well. We raffled a goat and free provisions. The people did not fit in the loteria. The last night they stopped the carnival and all of the other stands at 12 at night and we got 2 more hours to continue working and no one else was working. Our loteria lasted until 2 in the morning when the policeman came and told us to close. We

had to take the loteria tablets from the people because people wanted to keep on playing the lotteria. And all the people said that in San Antonio there had never been to a loteria like ours. And you too, Corazoncito! That we gave away goats and provisions. There were more than 12 lotteries in the fiesta. Also, people said that we gave more beautiful prizes than the others, that we played very legal. And that we did not have any botches like the other lotteries did.

The mayor of the city congratulated us and told us that he was going to give us a letter of recommendation for wherever we went. And he told us that at the other fiesta we wouldn't need to ask for permission of the owner of the carnival. He said he would arrange everything for us and that it would not cost us as much money as what we paid to this carnival.

Corazoncito, we paid for the permit \$100.00 and for the light \$10.00 and the microphone cost \$10.00 of rent and other expenses at the start. But thank God we earned enough to pay all the expenses. We did well. On the last night when the loteria finished, the policeman told us that by 6 in the morning we should take away the loteria. We worked all night and by 6:30 AM in the morning we were at home. We had not slept all night.

And yesterday we came from San Antonio for the fiesta here in San Benito. Pray to God that we do well, Corazoncito.

Baby of my life, on Saturday I will go to Mission with the favor of God, and I will stop by your house. I'll see if I can talk to you and if I cannot talk to you in your house, I will wait for your mail. I will go on Saturday or Sunday with the favor of God.

Answer me to San Antonio. I will write to you where we are going to be. Lovely Corazoncito, many memories to all of you.

Without more who loves and adores you until death.

Yours

Jesus Mendoza

P.S. Special

Many kisses for you (many, many) and with all of my heart

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Baby of my heart so beautiful you are.

19360514_IMG063_ENGLISH

May 14, 1936, From: Jesus, San Diego, Texas; To: Delia, PO Box 506, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter¹¹

[Postmark: San Diego; May 14; 5PM; 1936; Texas]

Delia Garza, Dear Baby,

I am just fine my Sweet darling, I am just thinking of you every second, just you, you, and you, my S. H. [Sweet Heart].

I wish you to be perfectly well, my Vida.

Today I received your very kind and respectful letter in which you tell me that everyone is perfectly fine, of which I am very happy.

As this letter leaves, we are left perfectly fine, Honey. Thanks to God.

Baby of my life, I am very sorry that the brother of don Juan's wife died and do me the favor of giving her my condolences, poor them, in the past they had been very lucky.

My Corazoncito, you tell me in your kind letter that you do not remember who Ramon is. He is the boy with whom I went to your house with when your little brother was sick. Do you remember, my Vida?

My heart is all yours. I love you very much, I will love you always, and God will help us to get married soon. I am working only for that, and we have almost paid off the truck. Hopefully that it goes well for us, Corazoncito and that God bless our love.

My Baby, do me the favor of writing to San Diego, Texas (General Delivery) to receive the correspondence quickly. Do the same as in San Benito. I want to receive your letters quickly.

Jesus Mendoza: His Life Through Letters

Here we are going to spend a week, with God's favor.

My baby, here I send you another postcard as proof of the much affection that I have for you, a pure and true love.

That's all for now. Many memories for all, and you, Corazoncito of mine. Receive many kisses from the one who loves you with all my heart.

Yours,

Jesus Mendoza

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

For you Darling

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

P.S. I look forward to your response here in San Diego, Tex. J.M.

19360514_IMG066_ENGLISH

May 14, 1936, From: Jesus, 219 Hill St., San Antonio, Texas; To: Delia, PO Box 506, Mission, Texas; Format: Postcard¹²

Dear Sweetheart,

With all of my love and my heart, I send this postcard.

Jesus Mendoza

19360603_YVIMG003

June 3, 1936, From: Jesus, 219 Hill St., San Antonio, Texas; To: Delia, PO Box 506, Mission, Texas; Format: Postcard¹³

Corazoncito, Delia Garza,

I dedicate this postcard as proof of my love. Your little eyes that I love from afar. I greet you.

Jesus

* * *

Roger Mendoza

19360611_IMG110_ENGLISH

June 11, 1936, From: Jesus, Florence, Texas; To: Delia, PO Box 506, Mission, Texas; Format: Postcard¹⁴

Srita Delia Garza

I dedicate this postcard as proof of the love I have for you.

Jesus Mendoza

19360611_YVIMG010

June 11, 1936, From: Jesus, Florence, Texas; To: Delia, PO Box 506, Mission, Texas; Format: Postcard¹⁵

[Postcard caption: "This graceful concrete structure is the Southern entrance to the City of Austin and spans the Colorado River at the same spot where "thundering herds" of cattle crossed as they were driven to northern markets in the '60s."]

Srita. Delia Garza,

I dedicate this postal card as proof of our loving friendship and true affection

My Corazoncito,

Jesus Mendoza

19360821_IMG062_ENGLISH

August 21, 1936, From: Jesus, Benavides Texas; To: Delia, PO Box 272, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter¹⁶

My Life Delia Garza,

How are you honey? I am just fine Darling?

I gladly write this letter to tell you what follows, that I received

your lovely letter in which you tell me that everyone there is good, thanks to God. We are well too.

My Vida, we are in Benavides, Texas right now. From here we go to Robstown, Texas. Everything has been okay here, thanks to God. We are not going to go to the Valley until after September 16, with the favor of God. I really want to see you. But today papa is a bit ill, and we have to work in the carnival until he gets well and then we'll see what he says.

Baby of my heart, you tell me that you no longer work in the theater and that you are very sad there. Well, I am the same here. And more so for me because I can not go to the Valley to see you. But we hope in God that one day we will go there.

That's all for now. Without more who loves you and wants to see you in person better than writing to you. Many memories to everyone in general. And to you, receive many kisses from the one who loves you, and one kiss on your little mouth that I really want to give to you.

Your Lover,
Jesus Mendoza

XXXXXXXXXXXXX For You Corazoncito XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Be Good, Beautiful baby

19361107_IMG058_ENGLISH

November 7, 1936, From: Jesus, Rio Grande City, Texas; To:
Delia, PO Box 272, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter

Miss. Delia Garza, My Dear Bebita.

I feel so happy for your unforgettable letter that I received today here in Rio Grande, that they sent to me from San Antonio, Texas, in which you tell me that last Sunday a 4-year-old girl died that was operated on for her appendix and who felt very much for her since she did not have a mother and that her father is a heavy drinker.

Too bad for those left alone as orphans. Right, my Vida?

My wonderful little baby, the loveliest that I have found in my life, the most beautiful, the one that is always engraved in my thoughts, in my heart. And every time I go to Mission my heart is happy. But there are times that we cannot see each other. On Tuesday I was in there and I looked for you all over the streets and I could not find you, maybe by God's will. But God will help us to see each other soon some place where we will be able to talk a lot, to see each other up close. Each time we talk, it seems like it has been very brief. But maybe I have to suffer to deserve you. And hopefully soon our hearts will come together, and we can be happy. But I exist to satisfy your divine love. Your kind letters that you write to me makes my heart happy.

My Vida, you tell me that you are already forgetting to write because nobody writes anything to you but me and I have been very delayed in writing to you. My Baby, it's not that I write delayed. As soon as I receive your kind letters, I immediately answer them. And when you write to me to San Antonio, and I'm not there, then they forward them to me to where we are. But sometimes at home they do not know where we are going to be until we write to them and tell them. Then they forward your letter to me, and I receive it within 2 days, so that is why you receive my letters late. But my Vida, do not believe that I no longer have the desire to write you. I adore you with all my soul. I am the same and I love you with more love, true love.

My baby, answer me at this address as soon as you receive this one, so that I can write back.

Jesus Mendoza

P.S. Rio Grande City, Tex

My Vida, in 10 or 15 days we will put the loteria at the fiesta, with the favor of God, answer me right away. I am the same as always. I love you with all my heart. I want to tell you that in Mission where we are going to set up the loteria.

That's all, My Baby

Without more, who loves you until death. Yours,

Jesus Mendoza. XXXXXXXXXXXX Kisses D. G.

19361112_IMG055_ENGLISH

November 12, 1936, From: Jesus, Rio Grande City, Texas; To:
Delia, PO Box 272, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter¹⁷

[Postmark: Rio Grande City; NOV 13, 3:30PM;
1936; Texas]

Miss Delia Garza, Dear Baby,

My baby, I am very happy for your very kind and beautiful letter in which you tell me much news that makes my heart happy.

Beautiful baby, you tell me in your very kind and unforgettable letter about what a happy day we spent on Sunday. Well, it's true! We have never talked as comfortably as that day. Do me the favor of thanking Don Juan and the lady. And that we are very grateful. Right, My Vida?

Corazoncito, we arrived well on Sunday without any issues on the trip, and I arrived very happy. I worked with much energy, and I was only thinking of you. It seemed to me that you were here at the Loteria. I thought that I saw you here at the Loteria.

My baby, we, I want to tell you about the friend who is working with us, and we went to San Antonio on Monday, at night, to take a trip with turkeys. We passed through Mission at ten o'clock at night we drove all night and arrived at six in the morning in San Antonio. We slept 2 hours and got up to go and sell them. We took 51 turkeys, that weighed 600 pounds, that we expected to sell at 18 cents a pound. But it was impossible to sell at that price. We bought it at 12 cents pound and if we sold it at that price, we would lose \$ 15.00 of expenses. I decided to leave them at home and not sell them. I bought enough corn to give them and sell them in 10 or twelve days so that the sell price can go up, and that's what I hoped

for. It would make me happy. Hopefully God helps us to do well in our business. My Baby, in San Antonio it was a little cold and raining. We left on Wednesday at about 12 noon and passed at about 6 pm by Mission. We passed by your house but did not see you, and we came to Rio Grande. We arrived well at 7 at night. Honey, at the house we talked a lot about you, and I told them that I had sent you many mementos and that you had remembered Margarita and she sent you many mementos of you, and mama also sent you a lot of mementos.

Honey, you also told me, in your kind letter, that Don Juan was sick with a pain. Well, tell him I feel for him and that hopefully by the time you receive this, he will be in good health.

My baby, you also tell me in your unforgettable and beautiful letter regarding our marriage in February, you ask if I think that there is plenty time or if there is not enough time. And you say that you think that you have very little time because there are many things to get done, and that you are rushing to prepare everything.

Well honey, to me it seems the time is ok, I mean regarding the deadline that you set. But I was thinking about what you told me regarding the Loteria, that you do not like that I work in the Loteria and that I shouldn't leave you alone. And you want God to help me. That he would help me to set up a business of commerce in San Antonio, so we (you and I) don't suffer when we live together. And I was talking to mama, and she told me that no matter what I decide to do, they would help me.

But, Honey, if by that time God helps me, I am willing to do what you want me to do. If not, then April is a good deadline, My Vida. Just like God helped us with the truck, hopefully he'll help me do what you want me to do. For my part, I would like to be by your side, but I want God to help me and start that business and that we are both happy.

Honey, if I can go on Sunday at one, we will see each other in the usual place, to talk and if this is okay, then answer me right

away; That's all, my baby. Many memories to all those at your house and you receive many kisses, many from your fiancé who loves you until death.

Yours Always.

Jesus Mendoza

Answer to Rio Grande

19361209_IMG057_ENGLISH

December 9, 1936, From: Jesus, Weslaco, Texas; To: Delia, PO Box 272, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter¹⁸

Ms. Delia Garza, Dear Bebe. How are you Honey?

I am just fine:

Bebita mía, today I write these lines to tell you the following that we are in Weslaco and not working the Loteria. God will help us to be able to work.

My Baby, we left Mission to here in Weslaco on Monday afternoon. The American told us that he already had arranged everything here in Weslaco [with the permits], and we had already set up everything for the Loteria. We had the Loteria ready when, the employees came and told us that the owner of the carnival wanted us to move everything. They talked about the contract that the owner of the carnival had. We had to take down the Loteria. And they told us that they were going to look for another town, but so far, they have not succeeded. And the owner of the carnival wanted to pay for our expenses, but we did not accept it. Because we told him that it was not his fault. It was the fault of the employees of the city that I told you about, My Baby. But God is very great and helped us to work in another town here in the Valley. Baby, if we are close to Mission, I will see you on Sunday.

Beautiful Baby, Papa and the other boy from Rio Grande went to San Antonio to make a goat trip. They left because the owner of

the Carnival told us that he would move the loteria to wherever we go, but right now we do not know where. And Beto and I both are alone with all the load here in Weslaco.

My Baby, I love you like no one and God will help us to be together, to be mine. And you really love me. Right, Baby?

Honey, answer me to San Antonio please and then I will write to you from where I am. I spent very happy days in Mission, those of the Fiesta, because I was close to you. I will never forget you. I will always love you, because I see that you really love me, and you have too much love for me, as I also have all my affection, my Love, destined for you and only for you. Baby, pray to God as I also ask God for you to be my faithful companion my adorable wife. Isn't that the truth, Baby?

That's all. Many memories to your little sister Elida who is very kind and has behaved very well with you and me. Truth? Many kisses, many with all my heart.

Yours Always

Jesus Mendoza

19361223_IMG060_ENGLISH

December 23, 1936, From: Jesus, McAllen, Texas; To: Delia, PO Box 272, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter¹⁹

[Postmark: McAllen, Texas; Dec 23; 7 – PM; 1936;
McAllen, Texas]

Miss. Delia Garza,

With such pleasure I write to you to greet you and at the same time tell you my only intentions.

My Baby, I received your very kind letter which I read several times and I find that you love me very much, as I also do you. But it left me thinking, regarding what you tell me that your father realized that you and I talked in Don Juan's house and that he did not want to see us talk anywhere, that writing to each other was

enough. Well, it is good. But it's because he takes good care of you. And I will not be angry about it, but my heart is saddened, not being able to even talk, and see each other when I am close to Mission. But we cannot get an opportunity to talk without him noticing. And we should write as often as possible. And we have to suffer in order to deserve. And God will take very good care of us. And may we be happy.

Your father was once a boy, and he knows that love is very hard without being able to see each other and he cannot prevent you from having a boyfriend. Because in the world we love each other and with good harmony everything goes very well. I have never had bad intentions for you. I have given you all the space that you deserve because you are not equal to the other girls. You are very good to me, very kind, and very frank. [Unlike] the other girls that go out with their boyfriends to talk in places that are not good for them.

For that reason, I wanted to ask your papacito for permission at your house because I love you with all my heart and I will fulfill you very soon if God helps us to rid us of the suffering. And you tell me that anyway we will get married, because I am destined to fulfill you. God is very great. He will help us and make us very happy. True, my Vida?

My Baby, I never get angry with you, I understand that you truly love me and will be mine, very much mine. Because I see that you appreciate me very much and love me with all your affection that encircles your kind heart and I feel the same as you. I love you, truly, very much. I am passionate about you and for you to be my wife, my unforgettable wife. Because you are the only one that I have in my thoughts and no one else.

Delia and Jesus love each other until death, until death. Right, my Baby?

Baby, I am very happy because of the Christmas present that you sent me. You are very kind to me. This little watch is very nice.

Papa liked it very much. I told him that you had gifted it to me for Christmas and he told me that hopefully God would help us to be very happy.

That's all. Answer me here in McAllen, Texas please and then when you receive this write me, please. And send me your photograph please. That's all. Many kisses from the one who loves you until death. Many kisses in your cute and beautiful little mouth

Your worshipper who never forgets you,
Jesus Mendoza

Corazoncito, that's all. Do me the favor of forgiving me if I offend you with some of my words. It's because I love you very much and I would like you to be very happy all the time. And God will help us to suffer with calm and resignation and me that I am a little desperate. Many, many kisses for you.

19361229_IMG059_ENGLISH

December 29, 1936, From: Jesus, Pharr, Texas; To: Delia, PO Box 272, Mission, Texas; Format: Letter²⁰

Miss. Delia Garza. My Dear Baby,

With much affection, I write this letter to tell you that I love you with all my heart. I am wishing that when you receive this, you are very happy and smiling, with a charming smile. I thank God that you have been very kind and affectionate and who I really love until death.

My Baby, I received your loving and kind answer, in which you tell me that how happy we are because you and I love each other very much. And God will help us to be happy because I am good to you and you with me. That is true love, that we love each other until death and God will crown us our only desires. Isn't that the truth, my Beautiful? You are so nice. I am passionate about you.

My Vida, you told me that I told you that surely you do not want

to walk with me. Corazoncito, sometimes I do not know what I say. You will understand that it is because of the same affection and love that I have for you, that I would like nothing more than for you to walk with me because you are very good, very kind, and the thing I like most about you is that you are very frank with me.

Beautiful Baby and also mine, Sunday went very well. There were many people in the Carnival, and I was very happy because we had talked a lot in the afternoon. And every time I talked with you or that you came to see me, I had a lot of faith that we would do well. And how we did on Sunday when you were with me, that you was so nice, so beautiful, that I wanted to kiss you, but I could not. I respect you very much in front of your little sister who was very good with both of us.

My Baby, on Sunday we finished at about 4 in the morning and then we went to bed. And on Monday we left for here and worked until night and I went to leave Raul at about 11 o'clock at night and I was serenading him, but I do not know if he heard me or not. I hope that he did not hear it well. It was only for 15 minutes of the hour it took to get to Reynosa, Tamaulipas.

My Vida, I hope it does not rain because I think here it will be much better than it was in McAllen, with the favor of God. Last night there were many, many people and we raffled a little goat. Also, there was no light. I mean the lights went out and were out all night. But we worked with gasoline lamps, and we did well, thanks to God. And also, thanks to you for praying that we do well, so our wishes are fulfilled. That's all. Many kisses for you in your cute little mouth that every time you smile makes me want to kiss you.

Later

Jesus Mendoza

I love you very much

Roger Mendoza



Heriberto and Jesus home at last

Jesus Mendoza: His Life Through Letters



La Casa Chiquita, 118 Ruiz St., October 1948

Roger Mendoza

Jesus Mendoza: His Life Through Letters



Papa Chonito & Jesus Mendoza, Jan 1949

Roger Mendoza



Delia & Jesus Mendoza, Jan 1949

THE END
Thanks for Reading this Preview

Meet the Family

The Severo Family Tree

Severo Garza. married **Estefana Garza**

—— Severo Garza (1880-1954)

Francisco Navarro. married **Amada Rodriguez**

—— Felicitas “Fela” Navarro (1889-1946)

—— **Severo Garza** married **Felicitas “Fela” Navarro**

—— ——— Alfredo Garza (1900-1932)

—— ——— Juana Teodora Garza (1902-1907)

—— ——— Severo Garza Jr. (1905-1998)

—— ——— Elida Garza (1907-1951)

—— ——— Apolinio Garza (1909-1982)

—— ——— Aquilino “Kilo” Garza (1915-1949)

—— ——— Delia Garza (1919-2003)

Note: According to one of the pictures in Yolanda’s collection, Delia had five sisters: Aurora, Esperanza, Juanita, Sanjanita, Elida. However, the 1920, 1930, 1940, and 1950 United States census records show only one sister, Elida. And there is a death record for Juana Teodora Garza from 1907 in Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Severo Garza

Severo married Estefana Garza and had at least one child during their marriage.

Estefana Garza

Estefana married Severo Garza and had at least one child during their marriage.

Francisco Navarro

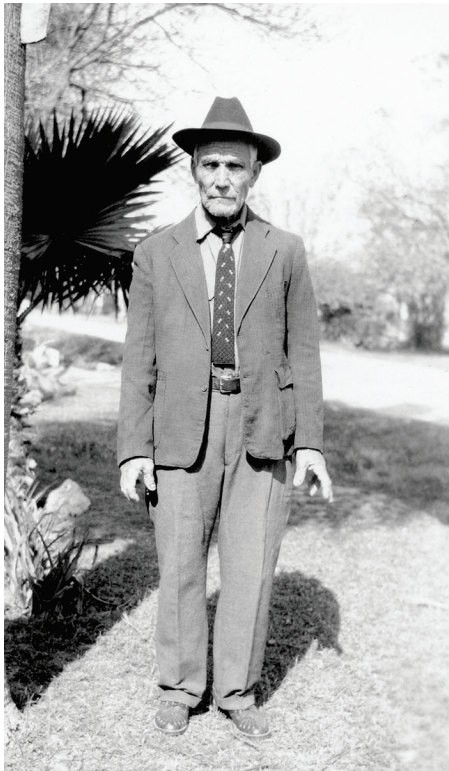
Francisco Navarro was born in 1848 in Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico. He married Amada Rodriguez on November 7, 1865, in his hometown. They had at least two children during their marriage.

Amada Rodriguez

Amada Rodriguez was born in 1847 in Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico. She married Francisco Navarro on November 7, 1865, in her hometown. They had two children during their marriage. She died in Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Severo Garza

Severo Garza was born on February 1, 1880, in Tamaulipas, Mexico, the son of Estefana and Severo. He married Felicitas Navarro on August 3, 1899, in Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico. He moved with his family to the United States on January 8, 1914. They had seven children in 18 years. He died on September 7, 1954, in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 74, and was buried in Texas.



Severo Garza

Felicitas “Fela” Navarro

When Felicitas Navarro was born on January 6, 1879, in Tamaulipas, Mexico, her father, Francisco, was 31, and her mother, Amada, was 32. She married Severo Garza on August 3, 1899, in Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico. They had seven children in 18 years. She moved with her family to the United States on January 8, 1914. She died on March 3, 1946, in Mission, Texas, at the age of 67.



Felicitas Navarro Garza

Alfredo Garza

When Alfredo Angel Garza was born on August 2, 1900, in Tamaulipas, Mexico, his father, Severo, was 20 and his mother, Felicitas, was 21. He was baptized on January 4, 1901 at Inmaculada Concepcion, Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico. He moved with his family to the United States on January 8, 1914. He had three brothers and three sisters. He died on April 27, 1932, in Mission, Texas, at the age of 31.

Juana Teodora Garza

When Juana Teodora Garza was born on June 11, 1902, in Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico, her father, Severo, was 22, and her mother, Felicitas, was 23. She moved with her family to the United States on January 8, 1914. She had four brothers and two sisters. She died as a child on July 9, 1907, in her hometown.

Severo Garza, Jr.

When Severo Garza was born on September 25, 1904, in Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico, his father, Severo, was 24 and his mother, Felicitas, was 25. He moved with his family to the United States on January 8, 1914. He had three brothers and three sisters. He died on January 24, 1998, in Brownsville, Texas, at the age of 93.

Elida Garza

When Elida Garza was born on September 9, 1908, in Mexico, her father, Severo, was 28, and her mother, Felicitas, was 29. She moved with her family to the United States on January 8, 1914. She had four brothers and two sisters. She died on March 17, 1951, in McAllen, Texas, at the age of 42.



Elida Garza

Apolinio Garza

When Apolonio Lorenzo Garza was born on March 26, 1909, in Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico, his father, Severo, was 29 and his mother, Felicitas, was 30. He was baptized on July 31, 1909 at Inmaculada Concepcion, Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico. He moved with his family to the United States on January 8, 1914. He had three brothers and three sisters. He died on April 14, 1982, in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 73, and was buried there.



Apolino Garza

Aquilino “Kilo” Garza

When Aquilino Garza was born on January 8, 1914, in Roma, Texas, his father, Severo, was 33 and his mother, Felicitas, was 35. His family had just moved to the United States on January 8, 1914. He had three brothers and three sisters. He died on September 23, 1949, in Mission, Texas, at the age of 35.



Aquilino “Kilo” Garza

Delia Garza

When Delia Garza was born on March 22, 1919, in Mission, Texas, her father, Severo, was 39, and her mother, Felicitas, was 40. Her family had moved to the United States five years before, on January 8, 1914. She and Jesus Mendoza were married on April 17, 1932 in Mission, Texas. Soon after the new couple moved to San Antonio, Texas and lived at 219 Hill Street along with other members of Jesus's family. Delia had three sons and two daughters with Jesus Mendoza between 1938 and 1952. She died on February 3, 2003, in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 83, and was buried in Texas.



The Mendoza Family Tree

Jesus Ramirez married **Guadalupe Garcia**

—— Encarnacion Mendoza (1882-1952)

Juan de la Garza married **Mariana Ybarbo**

—— Margarita Garza (1885-1948)

—— **Encarnacion Mendoza** married **Margarita Garza**

—— ——— Virgilio Mendoza (adopted) (1906-1969)

—— ——— Jose Enrique Mendoza (1909-1909)

—— ——— Enrique Mendoza (1910-1998)

—— ——— Encarnacion “Canacho” Mendoza, Jr. (1911-1933)

—— ——— Heriberto Mendoza (1913-1989)

—— ——— Consuelo Guadalupe Mendoza (1914-1914)

—— ——— Jesus “Chuy” Mendoza (1916-1975)

—— ——— Jose Armando Mendoza (1917-1918)

—— ——— Maria Consuelo Mendoza (1918-1937)

—— ——— Margarita Elva Mendoza (1919-2009)

—— ——— Ruby Luz Mendoza (1921-1986)

—— ——— Leslie Mendoza (1923-1981)

—— **Jesus “Chuy” Mendoza** married **Delia Garza**

—— ——— Maria Nilda Mendoza (1938-2018)

—— ——— Jesus Mendoza, Jr.

—— ——— Jose Humberto Mendoza (1943-1944)

—— ——— Yolanda Mendoza

—— ——— Jose Humberto Mendoza

—— **Virgilio Mendoza** married **Genoveva Sanders**

—— ——— Ten Children (between 1935 and 1958)

—— **Enrique Mendoza** married **Carmen Garcia**

—— ——— Ten Children (between 1935 and 1958)

—— **Encarnacion “Canacho” Mendoza** married **Enriqueta Chapa**

—— ——— Four Children (between 1939 and 1951)

—— **Heriberto “Beto” Mendoza** married **Imelda Cantu**

—— ——— Four Children (between 1942 and 1952)

Jesus Ramirez Mendoza

Jesus Ramirez Mendoza (father of Encarnacion Sr.) was born in 1852 in León, Guanajuato, Mexico, the son of Maria Antonia Ramirez and Nicolas Mendoza. Jesus married Maria Guadalupe Garcia in Mexico. They had at least three children (including Encarnacion Mendoza) during their marriage. His grandson, Enrique Mendoza (son of Encarnacion) didn't remember meeting his grandfather. He was told that his grandfather was a train engineer in Mexico and was rarely home traveling through the railway lines. Jesus Mendoza died sometime before 1918. Cause of death is unknown.

Guadalupe Garcia

Maria Guadalupe Garcia (mother of Encarnacion Mendoza Sr.) was born on October 14, 1861, the daughter of Maria Margarita Garcia and Gregorio Garcia. Guadalupe was baptized on October 18, 1861 in Santiago, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. She married Jesus Ramirez Mendoza (b. 1852) and they had at least two children during their marriage. Her father passed away in March 1889 at the age of 49. Her mother died about the same time. Guadalupe's husband passed away sometime before 1918. She had traveled to the United States on May 14, 1918 to accompany her daughter-in-law, Margarita Garza Mendoza to Seguin, Texas. Guadalupe died on August 26, 1920, in General Terán, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, at the age of 58 from "Tuberculosis Pulmonia."



Juan de la Garza

When Juan Jose De La Garza (father of Margarita Garza) was born about 1843 in Mexico, his father, José, was 32, and their mother, Maria, was 22. He had three sons (Eugenio, Juan, Salomon) and two daughters (Virginia, Margarita) with Margarita Lopez. Juan then married Mariana Ybarbo and they had a daughter (Margarita). He died on April 26, 1904, in Ciudad General Terán, Nuevo León, Mexico, at the age of about 61. Cause of death is unknown.

Mariana Ybarbo

When Mariana Ybarbo (mother of Margarita Garza) was born in 1848 in Nacogdoches, Texas, her father, Juan Jose Ybarbo, was 33, and her mother, Maria Alafonsa Flores, was 27. Mariana married Juan Jose De La Garza in 1883. They had a daughter (Margarita) during their marriage. In 1901 Mariana, her husband, and her daughter moved to General Terán. Mariana died on November 19, 1930 from Influenza and Pneumonia, in McAllen, Texas, at the age of 82.

Encarnacion “Chonito” Mendoza

When Encarnacion Mendoza (father of Enrique Mendoza) was born on March 25, 1882, in Ciudad General Terán, Nuevo León, Mexico, his father, Jesus Ramirez Mendoza, was 30 and his mother, Maria Guadalupe, was 20. At 26, Encarnacion married Margarita De La Garza on April 28, 1908, in Montemorelos, Nuevo León, Mexico. They had 12 children in 17 years. He and his wife immigrated to the United States before March 2, 1927 and lived with his family in Donna and then McAllen, Texas. He died on September 3, 1954, from a gunshot wound in San Antonio, Texas at the age of 72, and was buried there at the San Fernando cemetery No. 2.



Margarita de la Garza

When Margarita de La Garza (mother of Enrique Mendoza) was born on February 22, 1885, in Floresville, Texas, her father, Juan de la Garza (b. 1843), was 42, and her mother, Mariana Ybarbo (b. 1848), was 37. By 1904, Margarita's father had died at the age of 61 in General Terán. She and her mother lived together there until, Margarita married Encarnacion Mendoza on April 28, 1908, in Montemorelos, Nuevo León, Mexico. They had 11 children in 17 years and 1 adopted boy. She moved with her family and mother, Mariana, to the United States before March 2, 1927 and lived in Donna, Texas and then McAllen, Texas. Her mother, Mariana passed away on November 19, 1930 in McAllen, Texas at the age of 82. By the end of 1932, Margarita and her family were living in San Antonio, Texas. She died on January 7, 1948, in San Antonio, Texas at the age of 62, from carcinoma of the lung and was buried at the San Fernando cemetery No.2 in San Antonio.



Virgilio Mendoza

Virgilio Mendoza was born on April 25, 1906, and adopted by Margarita De La Garza, age 21, and Encarnacion Mendoza, age 24. Virgilio married Genoveva Sanders on July 7, 1935. He died at the age of 63 on April 26, 1969 from a massive pulmonary embolism and is buried at San Fernando Cemetery #2, San Antonio, Texas.

Genoveva Sanders

Genoveva Sanders was born on October 11, 1903. She married Virgilio Mendoza on July 7, 1935. She lived in San Antonio, Texas, and her husband, Virgilio Mendoza died on April 1969. She died in 1990 at the age of 87.



Enrique Mendoza

When Enrique Mendoza was born on July 8, 1910, in Seguin, Texas, his father, Encarnacion, was 28 and his mother, Margarita, was 25. Enrique married Carmen Garcia on July 24, 1932, in McAllen, Texas. They had ten children in 23 years.



Carmen Garcia

When Carmen Garcia was born on September 19, 1914, in Robstown, Texas, her father, Canuto, was 34, and her mother, Estefana, was 22. Carmen married Enrique Mendoza on July 24, 1932, in McAllen, Texas and soon after moved to San Antonio. They had ten children in 23 years. Carmen was born and baptized as Maria del Carmen, but everyone called her Carmen.



Encarnacion “Canacho” Mendoza, Jr.

When Encarnacion Mendoza was born on December 9, 1911, in Ciudad General Terán, Nuevo León, Mexico, his father, Encarnacion, was 29 and his mother, Margarita, was 26. Canacho had three sons and one daughter with Enriqueta Chapa between 1939 and 1951.

Enriqueta “Keta” Chapa

Enriqueta Chapa was born on July 15, 1918, in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, the daughter of Maria and Manuel. She married Encarnacion “Canacho” Jr. On September 3, 1936. She had three sons and one daughter with Encarnacion Mendoza between 1939 and 1951. She died on July 14, 2005, in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 86, and was buried there.



Heriberto Mendoza

When Heriberto Mendoza was born on February 10, 1913, in Ciudad General Terán, Nuevo León, Mexico, his father, Encarnacion Mendoza, was 30 and his mother, Margarita Garza, was 27. Heriberto had four daughters with Imelda Cantu between 1942 and 1952.

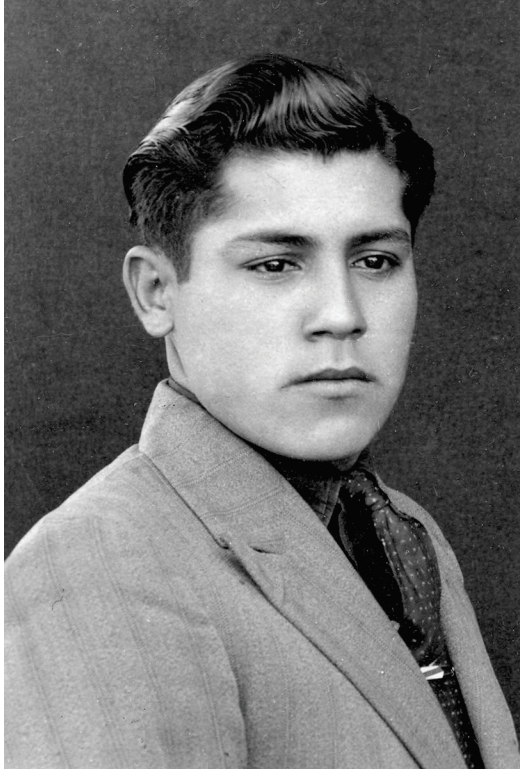
Imelda Cantu

Imelda Cantu was born on June 8, 1913, in Texas. She married Heriberto Mendoza on December 28, 1941, in San Antonio, Texas. They had four children during their marriage. She died on July 11, 1996, at the age of 83.



Jesus Mendoza

When Jesus Mendoza was born on April 2, 1916, in Ciudad General Terán, Nuevo León, Mexico, his father, Encarnacion, was 34 and his mother, Margarita, was 31. Jesus had three sons and two daughters with Delia Garza between 1938 and 1952.



Delia Garza

When Delia Garza was born on March 22, 1919, in Mission, Texas, her father, Severo, was 39, and her mother, Felicitas, was 30. She and Jesus Mendoza were married on April 17, 1932 in Mission, Texas. Soon after the new couple moved to San Antonio, Texas and lived at 219 Hill Street along with other members of Jesus's family. Delia had three sons and two daughters with Jesus Mendoza between 1938 and 1952. She died on February 3, 2003, in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 83, and was buried in Texas.



Consuelo Mendoza

When Maria Consuelo Mendoza was born on August 2, 1918, in Ciudad General Terán, Nuevo León, Mexico, her father, Encarnacion Mendoza, was 36, and her mother, Margarita Garza, was 33. Consuelo had seven brothers and four sisters. She died as a teenager on June 4, 1937, from Broncho pneumonia (complicated by epilepsy) in Texas.



Margarita Elva Mendoza

When Margarita Elva Mendoza was born on September 25, 1919, in Ciudad General Terán, Nuevo León, Mexico, her father, Encarnacion Mendoza, was 37, and her mother, Margarita Garza, was 34. Margarita Elva had three sons and five daughters with Francisco Trevino.



Ruby Luz Mendoza

When Ruby Luz Mendoza was born on June 17, 1921, in Texas, her father, Encarnacion Mendoza, was 39, and her mother, Margarita Garza, was 36. Ruby had two sons and two daughters with Ernesto Reygadas between 1941 and 1949.



Leslie Mendoza

When Leslie Mendoza was born on September 25, 1923, in Ciudad General Terán, Nuevo León, Mexico, her father, Encarnacion Mendoza, was 41, and her mother, Margarita Garza, was 38. Leslie had one son with Carlos del Moral. She then married Pedro Manguba Rivera on May 1, 1954, in Seguin, Texas.



About the Author

Roger Mendoza lives in San Antonio, Texas, the seventh-largest city in the United States. In 2014, he moved back to his birth town of San Antonio from Parker, Colorado, where he had lived for fifteen years. Living on the outskirts of San Antonio, he still enjoys the taste of the rural life that he loves so much and the conveniences that the big city provides.

He worked most of his life as a Software Engineer in the defense industry, where he cultivated his passion for computer programming but is now retired. Along with writing novels, Roger is also a professional photographer and can often be seen toting his camera looking for photo opportunities in and around town. He loves to capture nature photography and beautiful scenery.

He was born eighth in a family of ten children. There were five boys and five girls with an age span of about twenty-three years. With a fascination for his family history, he has spent years gathering his parent's family photographs and documents. He has cataloged the family's collections and digitized them all. He loves keeping the family tree database updated with new family members as they are born. Roger loves to review the thousands of family photographs and documents while imagining what these people – these relatives and their stories were like.

Roger has always had an interest in understanding the philosophy of life, why people behave the way they do, and how we all fit into the grander scheme of life itself. He still believes in “happily ever after endings” even though life, on occasion, gets in the way of that outcome.

He's always had a fascination with unusual phenomena – the most being the drama of life itself. It still amazes him why so much drama fills the life of his friends and family. Perhaps it is observing that drama that sparks his imagination and gives his characters life.