

## James Evans Comments on His Photos

1. Marci Roberts and James Evans resting on the River Road in Big Bend National Park.
2. **Chisos from Old Ore Road** I was camped out on Old Ore Road and made this image in the early morning. I have never seen the Chisos Mountains so lush and green.
3. **Zero** Zero, that is his name, was our shuttle driver. We floated Santa Elena Canyon, and were picked up and on our way home. I was sitting right in back of him, and I kept looking at his neck and thinking, *This is what my neck is going to look like if I live here long enough.*
4. **Rosillos Mountains** The spring of 2015 was the best flower bloom I've seen in my 28 years of living in Big Bend. I spent months in the park documenting this extraordinary season. The light on the Rosillos lasted no more than four minutes and it was breathtaking. Later I was talking to Marci and I mentioned that the sky was blue-green, and she informed me that it was because it was hailing where she was. It made perfect sense then.
5. **Six Man Football Team** The late great banjo player Billy Faier asked me to do a portrait of him for a magazine. We shot some at his house, but I wanted to do something outside so we drove down to our local park, called the Post, and I made more images. While I was there, the Marathon football team was there too, and I wanted to make their portrait. So I asked them to get the kiddie pool and show me their muscles. This was the result. Most always when I've been on an assignment for a magazine, the images I've made on the way to and back are as good or even better than the assignment itself.
6. **Rain with Silver Ocotillos** We were on one of the back country roads watching the storm brewing in the north. When we found this stand of ocotillos, we walked around and composed the shot. Marci Roberts is my collaborator and we work as an artistic team in the field and in production. Nothing leaves our studio without her approval.
7. **Hallie and Dadie** Hallie was funny and quick witted, practical, and pragmatic. She could have simple answers to complex questions. I once asked her about riding a horse. I would get sore in my legs and bottom and back, and her answer was "keep your butt in the saddle." Dadie was my surrogate mother, and I loved her as if she was. She was the driving force behind the family and the Hallie Hall of Fame Museum. She knew what a treasure her mother was. When the museum opened we made this image. I can't remember if I shot it specifically for a magazine. More than likely it was Dadie's idea. I really miss these woman.
8. **Prickly Pear** The flowers were so extraordinary. I photographed as much as I could, and many times I wanted to keep the weather in the image too. The rainy background enhances the mood and makes the plant pop off the page.