

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

In reply, please refer to:

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, OFFICE
WHITCOMB HOTEL BUILDING

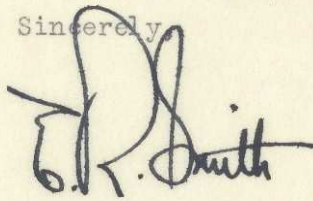
Rivers, Arizona
September 10, 1942

Dr. Dorothy Swaine Thomas
Professor of Rural Sociology
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Dr. Thomas:

I have your letter of August 27 with the enclosure, and certainly your effort in the matter is appreciated. Aided by your statement of the Study, I have now a much clearer and a more adequate picture of what it is that your group is attempting. May I assure you again of our original and continued cooperation. I realize that our accommodations here are very sketchy but Mr. Spencer certainly is taking all of it in good part and provides a very willing hand. We are all glad to have him.

Sincerely,



E. R. Smith
Project Director



October 22, 1943

Prof. Thomas:

I have received your letter of October 20. Also the reports. I appreciate your encouraging words. I needed them, because I have lost Tamie's criticisms.

Leighton's suggestion is very amusing and interesting. It's an acknowledgement of his defeat. He has probably found the materials on hand inadequate. He tried to do something impossible. You can't analyze the evacuees by just coming to Poston at a moment notice and staying on the periphery for a year. That's too good to be true. After all, the evacuees' backgrounds dating back for so many years are the basis for their interactions and inter-reactions. Recently I have been told by some of the A.P.'s (Len Nelson, Ted Haas, and Nell Findley among others) that they withheld information from Leighton. Those evacuees who worked in the bureau were young kids who didn't know the Japanese or the community. Two good evacuees who knew the community (Fukushima and Sasaki) wouldn't dare to write. Another thing --- Leighton knew and knows that Tamie has collected plenty of good stuff. He considered her as the rival. I wouldn't trade any of Tamie's for his. Only thing which might be valuable to us might be his records of interviews with evacuees --- life histories and Leighton's analyses of personality. He should have about 25 to 30 of these. Even these we can get them eventually when we can come around to it and when the community is ready. I would say --- for a bargain, no; for nothing, yes.

It appears as if I must accept the vice chairmanship of the new Executive Board. Every political leader is putting terrific pressure on me to accept the position. They worked out a compromise with my block. The committee suggested and the Council, Nelson, and Nomura all concurred in making an exception --- an evacuee holding two full time offices. I must work as the Block Manager of 45 and the vice chairman of the Executive Board. "Unless you accept, the evacuee participation in the administration is going to fold up," this is the way they put it. Only thing - I don't know how I can manage all the work. As far as the Cal work is concerned it's swell --- going to sit at the vantage point. I hope I won't be a wreck.

I have received a letter from my informant at Tule Lake. He reported the situation there is tense. He has been there only ten days yet but already many troubles occurred. (Detail in the journal)

1. The workers on the farm struck.
2. About fifteen Hawaiian Nisei broken up a dancing party forcibly.
3. The windows of the Housing Department destroyed. A Caucasian office worker beaten.

"I had expected all these things before coming here, but I didn't think they would happen so soon. It makes me gloomy," he concluded.

COMMENTS ON "HANKEY'S COMMENTS"

#1 (page 1 - line 4) We discarded the opinion of Mrs. Kondo on this subject, because we knew that she was biased. We based ours on Mary Obata, John Morooka, Ken Nishimoto, and Kawamoto.

#7 Poston Strike. There were no pro-strike group and anti-strike group at the time of the disturbance. I must admit that the group Hankey refers as the pro-strike group are all the Poston evacuees except a few Nisei on the periphery. Tamie and I fully realize the John Doe effect. It is true we forget inadvertently to mention that the American public also exists outside the fence. No evacuee at the time thought about the outside effect. It was a question of life or death to every one --- couldn't be thinking of what the American public might say --- at the beginning. It was nothing like the attempted mess strike in Gila. We had about fifty of that kind, finally coming to the climax in November. The situation leading up to it was so bad. The emotional stress and motivational urge became so great that the strike happened without premeditation. There was a complete unanimity of opinion and unity of action among the evacuees. It was a mass movement of people --- Spicer at the height of the incident cried, "A social revolution!" I never experienced anything like it except once before in my life --- the rice riots in Tokyo (Riots were all over Japan. I only saw those in Tokyo.) It must be very difficult for the outsiders to realize the value deprived. The prevailing sentiment here is that the advantages offset all the adversities. I wonder if any one can realize our sanity having been endangered by an accumulation of frustrations. The evacuees also feel that the public opinion is adverse to the Japanese anyway. It cannot be any worse. They believe that the Poston strike supplied one more topic to the race baiters and the pressure groups and no worse. If they didn't pick the strike,

they would have found something else anyway. The evacuees feel that they received just as much adverse publicity from the derailing of the Santa Fe train on the Colorado bridge at Parker, which no Japanese was connected with.

Incidentally, we believed that the caliber of the evacuees at Poston is much higher than those at Gila. We withheld this opinion from the report because we were afraid that our observation might have been biased. I have reflected upon it several times since then; I am still convinced of it.

#8 (page 5 - para. 1)

Shigeo Iwohara, the man who was in charge of the ration points, and S. Nakanishi, another member of the department, made those charges.

#9 (page 5 - line 11)

For the general statement at the beginning of the paragraph, John Morooka, the Evacuee Property Department chief, and John Yamasaki were the informant. We presented this to make a contrast with Poston, where the A.P.'s presented Myer's teletype message within one hour after they had received it. They said, "Here is an order from Washington. What shall we do?" They had no staff conference to work out a policy among themselves first.

#16 (page 22 - paragraph 2)

Mrs. Mizuno is the sister-in-law of my neighbor in my block. She is not well-to-do. She knows d--n well why her husband had been taken away. She is sly and tough. Don't let her pull Hankey's leg.

#18 (page 29 - paragraph 4)

You must remember that was the second week of September.

Segregation was still about one month away. The prevailing sentiment was not static. As the day approached the sentiment took a serious turn at Poston -- I presume it happened in Gila, too. She is correct with her criticism.

#18 (page 29 - paragraph 4)

This comment (the first line) didn't strike me so well. I am glad she doesn't agree with us. I didn't know that Tamie had slipped this paragraph in. I advised her not to put that in, because we are not ready to explain the background to you yet. It is not adequate. Let's keep it as an open subject a little while longer.

Another -- those accompanying "no-no" from their free will are not included in our term "disloyal" - they are just "accessories."

#19 (page 29 - paragraph 7)

Correct. I felt like spitting in his face. I distrusted him and disgusted with him thoroughly.

#21 (page 33 - line 5)

By pamphlets she probably means the booklets prepared by the WRA at Washington. We had the mimeographed instructions issued by the project here.

Tamie should have written "mostly" for "entirely" (line 6).

#22 (page 35 - paragraph 3)

By "defeatism" I meant more than what she commented. I also meant the feeling of predicament of being Japanese. Now I started something. Will you wait until a later date for detail?

These comments were given on good faith with sincere intention to help.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ R. Nishimoto

Gila News-Courier

57 BLOCK

GILA RELOCATION CENTER

RIVERS, ARIZONA

October 9, 1942

Dr. Dorothy S. Thomas
Dept. of Agriculture
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Miss Thomas:

We have been sending you copies of the Gila News-Courier regularly, thinking you might be interested in the activities now being carried on at the Gila Relocation Center. I hope you have been receiving them and have found them rather interesting.

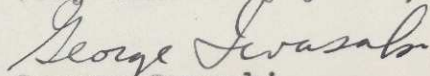
Since we have no income whatsoever and are unable to continue our mailing service, I am asking for your aid. If you desire to receive further copies of our paper, I would appreciate it very much if you would send me one hundred $1\frac{1}{2}$ cent stamps which will be sufficient to defray postage charges for quite some time.

Since the News-Courier is the official organ of the center, the material compiled in our paper will in time be historic material. I have noticed many far sighted people making files of the various center papers. It will form an important document, giving a clear and concise picture of life in a relocation center as a result of the greatest migration in the history of the United States.

We hope to be of continued service to you. If you should happen to require our services at any time, please do not hesitate to write in. We will be more than glad to do all we can for you.

Thanking you for your very kind attention at this time, I remain

Very sincerely yours,


George Iwasaki

gi/am

October 12, 1942

Mr. George Iwasaki
Gila News-Courier
Block 57
Gila Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Iwasaki:

I am indeed, appreciative of your courtesy in sending the Gila News-Courier. I agree that the files of the paper will represent important historical material, and I congratulate you on a job exceptionally well done.

Last week I put in an order for 100 1½ cent stamps through the University. I hope you have received them by this time.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas
Professor of Rural Sociology

DST:vp

November 2, 1943

Prof: Thomas:

I have mailed the Journal from October 27 to November 1, inclusive. I have received a box of envelopes via express.

It is interesting to note that the residents are trying to minimize the Tule Lake strike here. Some are condemning the strikers as persons who ~~can~~ inviting troubles onto themselves unnecessarily. It is significant also to note that there is a tendency ^{to} remain quiet about things in general — "Now we are loyal people, so let's act accordingly, at least on the surface." They are not so sympathetic with the Tule Lake strike, yet they don't like to see the Japanese enlist for the harvesting. I would be most inter^ested in following this modification of sentiment.

The project is quiet for a few days. Nelson is away to Phoenix for a treatment for his eye. We have been commenting that he had been working too hard. He has been taking the whole project on his shoulder for the past two or three months.

I am decidedly interested in the comments of W. I. (in your letter of October 30), so I will write a few lines on them. First, about the core of Los Angeles and that of Seattle. As you know, Seattle people began to migrate to Southern California in the late twenties. The migration accelerated in the early thirties and continued on up to the time of the evacuation. (That is proven by ^{the} statistics and documents, which I had collected a few years ago. Incidentally, I had to burn them up.) Before the evacuation I had a close contact with many families who had moved from Seattle and its vicinities. Since coming to Poston, I came in contact with many people ~~for~~ who had moved from Seattle in last few years. Thirteen of sixty odd families in my block are former Seattlites. My observation of these people tells me that ^{they are} ~~there is~~ not a difference from those who have been living in Los Angeles. My ^a reasoning is --- if they are different,

I should be able to detect their efforts to adjust themselves in the community of the Los Angeles Japanese. I followed many of them soon after their arrival into the Los Angeles region, but I have failed to notice any visible efforts on their part to conform to the Los Angeles mode of living and thinking. Their behavior patterns are not any different from the others. In fact, I could not tell that they ^{were} ~~are~~ from Seattle until ~~either~~ ^{had} from conversation or from some record ^{had} I found out that they ^{were} ~~are~~ from the north. Regarding the families in my block, I would have never known had I not handled their census records. These proofs are, of course, superficial to prove that the cores are alike; the fact must be presented with more detailed material, which we hope to gather as we go on. But if someone is to tell me the cores are different, he must present me with materials that the core of the Japanese community in Seattle changed considerably after these people had left the city --- in a short span of time, let us say from 1938 to 1941.

As to the cores of the different relocation centers, I don't think I have enough material to draw any conclusion yet. It is, in my opinion, one of the major objectives of our study. However, I am ready to state the following facts:

1. The peoples in Poston and Gila are basically alike in their behaviors and utterances.

2. Two women -- one Nisei of about thirty-five (Mrs. Itano, who accompanied the Nichiren priests to Los Angeles) and the other a Sansei of about thirty two --- who belonged to the more of the Los Angeles community, visited me sometime ago. I have a high regard for their observation. They told me the following stories comparing Granada with Poston:

a. In Granada there are as much "inu" scares and talks.

b. JACL is regarded in the same way, ^{e.g.} Kay Sugahara is regarded and

avoided in the same way as Ishimaru is here.

- c. Granada has the FBI scare, too.
- d. Agitation and reluctance to relocation is identical.
- e. Same rumors are existant in both camps, e. g. Deportation of Hahn
- f. People are anxious to hear Oversea broadcasts.
- g. Types of amusements and recreations they enjoy are alike.
- h. The defeatist sentiment are prevalent, too.

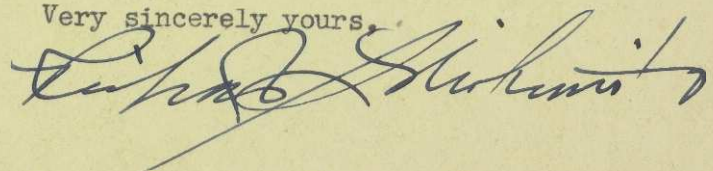
"But we sent less than two hundred persons to Tule Lake," they said and laughed aloud.

The question whether the core of the Hawaiian Japanese is the same as that of the Japanese from Japan must be answered by Tamie. She is the best qualified person to answer it. I would like to add, however, as a lead that the majority of the Hawaiian Nisei had great handicaps to adjust themselves -- in fact, many never succeeded --- in the Japanese communities of California. For their self protection (?) they usually clustered among themselves as distinct cliques marking themselves off as "Hawaiian Nisei". There were persistent anti-Hawaiian Nisei agitations in the communities in the twenties, especially in northern California.

The term "Messiah complex" was used by Tamie first, so the elaboration should come from her. It is the basis of a paper which I will finish sooner or later -- "Because We Are All Japanese". It is this persistent attitude that makes every research of the Japanese and the Japanese problems of California very difficult. It is one of the reasons that the history of the Japanese in America had remained largely unrecorded."

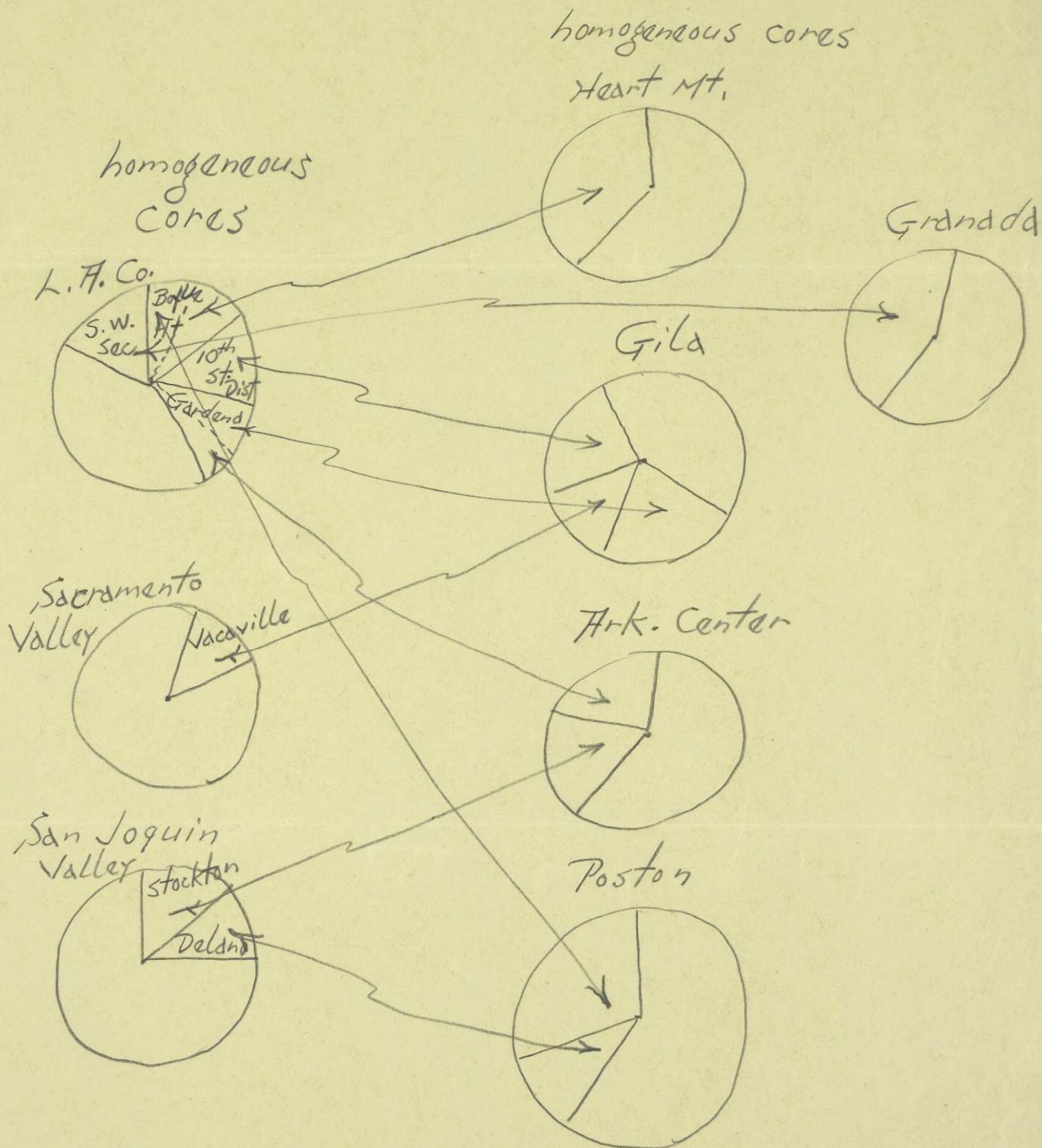
I still owe you a reply to your letter of October 28.

Very sincerely yours,



- 1(a) -

Schematic Diagram
 Cf: October 15, page 21
 the last paragraph



November 26, 1942

Mr. Shotaro Hikida
64-7-B
Gila Relocation Project
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Hikida:

On behalf of my colleagues I wish to thank you for your fine cooperation in the Evacuation and Resettlement Study, and to tell you how deeply we appreciate the contribution you are making.

Very sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas
Professor of Rural Sociology

DST/vp

May 17, 1943

Mr. George Onoda
4-1-C
Gila River Relocation Project
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Onoda:

I have just been told by Mr. Robert Spencer, our representative at Gila, that you have very kindly assented to cooperate with us in the compilation of our sociological data, subject to the terms outlined by Mr. Spencer. I wish, at this time, to extend to you our appreciation of your cooperation, and to assure you that any information we receive from you will be held in strictest confidence, both as to its content and to its source.

Sincerely yours,

Morton Grodzins
Research Assistant

July 1, 1943

Mr. Y. Okuno
61-6-C
Gila River Relocation Project
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Okuno:

I want to express my deep appreciation for the fine work that you have done on the evacuation and resettlement study. It was a great blow for us to lose Spencer but, as he has told you, Miss Rosalie Hankey is to replace him at Gila. I am sure you will like Miss Hankey, and I am counting on your continued cooperation with the study.

As you know, we have set up a Chicago office and are carrying on rather intensive work on the resettlement phases. This means that we have had to divert a considerable part of our budget for next year to this work. We are, therefore, reorganizing the work in the projects and will not be able to continue the monthly honorarium we have been paying you beyond the thirty-first of August. We should, however, be greatly honored if you would continue as a consultant on the University study, and from time to time when, and if, you prepare documents for us on certain subjects that Miss Hankey will designate, we shall send you a modest honorarium. Again thanking you for your fine cooperation and looking forward to continuation of your relationship with the study.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

DST:mw

July 1, 1943

Mr. Shotaro Hikida
64-7-B
Gila River Relocation Project
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Hikida:

It has been very gratifying to receive the fine reports that you have been sending from Gila. As you know, Miss Rosalie Hankey will soon arrive in Gila as a replacement for Spencer. We hope that your relations with her will be as happy as were those with Spencer. I have written the other observers on the study and explained to them that we are starting work on the re-settlement phases in Chicago. This has necessitated a drastic curtailment of expenditures on the projects. I am asking them to continue their relationship with the study as consultants, and I hope that they will consent to do so. In your case, however, we can continue to send you the modest honorarium that we have been able to provide in the past.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

DST:mw

July 24, 1943

Dear Mr. Hikida,

I can imagine how busy you are now at Gila. Miss Hankey tells me of your great cordiality and helpfulness, and I want to thank you and tell you again how much I value your association with the study. I shall, of-course, be particularly interested in observations and data that you can get on the segregation issue. As you can imagine, this is going to make a great difference to our study, since we have been studying Tule Lake from the very beginning, and since it has definitely been chosen as the center for the "disloyal".

I am enclosing an outline of the resettlement phase of the study, for two reasons (1) because of the general interest you have shown in all phases of the study and (2) because I thought you might be willing, when you have the time, to extend your excellent autobiography to include some of the other items that we are covering in this outline. Most of the items in the outline, up to the ones dealing with resettlement, are applicable to persons on the projects. I feel that a complete and extended autobiography by you would be of great value to the study.

With cordial regards, and my greetings to your wife.
Sincerely yours,

DST

July 24, 1943

Dear Mr. Okuno,

Thank you for your cordial cooperation with Miss Hankey. I am looking forward with great interest to your reports on the segregation issue.

In regard to your autobiography, which I am also looking forward to seeing, I thought you might find the enclosed outline of some interest. It is, of-course, directed towards the resettlement phase of our study, but most of the items are applicable to those who have not yet resettled. It will show you, I believe, the general lines of interest that we have, and many of these lines can be incorporated in your account of your own life.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,

DST

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

EVACUATION AND RESETTLEMENT STUDY
207 GIANNINI HALL
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

July 28, 1943.

Dr. Dorothy S. Thomas,
207 Giannini Hall,
University of California,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

Your kind letter of July 24th is acknowledged and wish to thank you very much. I must apology at this point for my long silence. I have told Mr. Spencer time and again how regretful I am, not being able to turn in enough materials as I hoped at the start. I hope Mr. Spencer conveyed my feeling pertaining to the study.

Miss Hankey, although new at the center, is making wonderful progress in her study of the center as well as making connections with the evacuees. I am cooperating in every way to make her work the accomplished observation of the condition here. In regards to autobiography I shall send it as soon as I finish it.

Thanking for your kind letter and wishing you the best health and happiness. Kindly send my best wishes to Dr. Thomas and Mr. Spencer.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley N. Hilditch

September 20, 1943

Miss Elsie Inouye
22-A Gila River Relocation Project
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Miss Inouye:

I want to express my appreciation to you for sending in your diary to the Evacuation and Resettlement Study, and to assure you that your name will be kept secret, as you desire. We hope you will continue to cooperate with Miss Hankey.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

P.S.

We are sending you a Check for \$10.00, as a small token of our appreciation.

September 20, 1943

Mr. Masato W. Kato
c/o Gila Co-op. Enterprises
Gila River Relocation Project
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Kato:

I want to thank you for your fine history, and for the cooperation you are giving Miss Hankey at Gila. It is deeply appreciated that you are giving the Evacuation and Resettlement Study this assistance without accepting an honorarium, and we shall be grateful for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

December 28, 1943

Mr. S. Hikida
64-7-B
Gila River Relocation Project
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Hikida:

In reviewing our disbursements for the past month, I notice that, through my error, we neglected to send you your usual stipend for the month of November. I apologize for this mistake. Today, I am sending through a voucher to cover both the November and December periods.

Cordially yours,

Morton Grodzins
Research Assistant

May 22, 1944

Mr. Shotaro Hikida
64-7-B
Gila River Relocation Project
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Hikida:

As you know, Miss Hankey has been transferred to Tule Lake. We shall continue the work at Gila only in a very limited way. We shall, therefore, not be able to send your monthly honorarium beyond June 30. We should, however, be greatly honored if you would continue as consultant on the Study. If, from time to time, you find it possible to prepare documents on subjects designated by Miss Hankey or by me, we shall be pleased to send you a modest honorarium.

I can't tell you how much we appreciate your fine cooperation. We look forward to continued contacts with you.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas
Director

Copy sent to Rosalie

May 26, 1944.

Dr. Margaret S. Thomas,
University of California,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

This is to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your kind letter which I received few days ago. I wish to state that I enjoyed so much with the work and I shall be very happy to serve in future on any condition, please feel free to call on me at any time on any topic.

I am now preparing few notes on current topics of this center observed and gathered since Miss Hankey left here and I shall send them within a week.

Miss Hankey, when arrived here last from Tule Lake, told me that you have been ill for some times. I am hoping and praying that you are fully recovered now.

Thanking for your kind favor in the past and hoping that I may be able to serve for the worthy purpose of evacuation and resettlement study regardless of title and remuneration.

Yours sincerely,

Shataro Hirose

January 13, 1945

Dear Mr. Kubo,

It was indeed a pleasure to meet you, and I look forward to further contacts.

The enclosed letter, copy of which was sent to Mr. Bennett, came into my hands. If your daughter is planning to come to California for the semester beginning in March, it might be wise for her to write immediately to Mr. Blaisdell about housing. (Please do not mention the letter of which I enclose the copy, but just write directly. My name may be used as reference, as I know Mr. Blaisdell quite well).

Enclosed also a copy of a speech by President Sproul. Although it contains a few minor inaccuracies and a little bit of hot air, it shows the President's stand pretty clearly. I am quite sure your daughter would find a real welcome in this University.

Very sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

S Kubo

45-7-B Gila