

Glencoe, Ill.
June 26, 1971

Dear Marion:

Iva Toguri, as she seems to be called here, came here to my friend's home last night after dinner and a hard week's work, to talk with me and to get on record through her tape recorder some things I could tell her about the trial and its aftermath--things not in the court record.

The upshot of our conversation was that I will write a letter or statement on her behalf and send it to Wayne Collins in San Francisco, where it can be available for whatever use is considered best for it. Iva says she thinks Wayne has finally agreed to confer with the JACL attorney, despite his reluctance based on the anti-Iva stand the JACL jumped to make before Iva even had been brought to trial. I gather he feels strongly on the subject. Iva characteristically is much less bitter about it, saying she can understand how the Nisei felt at the time, anxious to be more pro-American than the Americans. (My phrase, not hers, but she concurred.) At any rate, since the two are going to get together now, perhaps they can agree to move together toward the goal of exoneration or pardon for Iva, restoration of her citizenship and remission of the fine, --the full amount if possible, or at least the part remaining to be paid. I gather Iva feels Wayne is entitled to be the major voice in decisions about legal steps to be taken. She says she feels under deep obligation to him, since neither he nor his associates in the case has ever accepted any money from her or her family for their work on the case.

I was glad that your letter did reach me here, where I have been visiting my onetime college roommate, Mildred N. Olson (Mrs. Kenneth E.) at 480 Woodlawn Ave., Glencoe. Her late husband was for many years Dean of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern U. It was easy to locate Iva through the phone book and arrange a meeting. Actually it was only the second time we had exchanged words face to face. The first was that brief press conference at Wayne Collings' home following her release from prison. The evening went all too quickly.

Of course I am sorry that I shall have to be somewhat hurried in making whatever small contribution I can to help rectify what has always seemed to me the most tragic injustice in a legal case that I ever encountered in my fairly long journalistic experience. I have kept the detailed notebooks I compiled for my own use at the trial, but after sale of our house last Christmas, the moving, and now this long-delayed project of a rambling year in Europe getting under way, I cannot even be sure where they are buried in storage/ in Palo Alto. When my two housemates were established at "The Sequoias" retirement center in Portola Valley, I perched temporarily with a friend in Palo Alto pending preparations for travel. Her address is the only one I now have in California, except for Bank of America, Stanford Branch, Stanford, Calif. She is Mrs. Roxana Ferris, 667 Melville Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301.

I am driving to the East Coast, with several unscheduled stops to see friends contemplated along the way. The car will be left with friends at Brandeis U. After tomorrow, therefore, the only address I can furnish for immediate need is that one: Care of Prof. Murray Sachs, 203 Lincoln St. Newton Highlands, Mass. 02161. That should be my last stop before taking off for Europe, and so far I have no address there, not even American Express, because I won't know my itinerary there until I can communicate further with various friends who are either traveling or staying there and with whom I hope to spend some time as arrangements can be worked out.

Imagine not even having ~~having~~ my reservation across the Atlantic! Nevertheless I expect to get there, either by boat to the Mediterranean, or plane to Luxembourg or Paris, sometime between mid-July and the end of the month.

Thank you for the personal news about yourself, Marion. I was shocked to learn about Larry. Surely he was too young to go. After six years of loneliness without him, I'm sure you know now that what people tell you about the healing qualities of time's passage is not quite true. After 23 years of it, I still occasionally feel waves of conviction that life is simply intolerable without Edwin by my side. Yet I am never wholly without him either. The memorial foundation to your Larry must indeed be a satisfaction and comfort.

So recently it seemed unheard of for a qualified teacher to have trouble finding a job! But things have changed very quickly. Somehow I have a hunch you'll find one, though, and that it will bring the change you seek.

As for me, my aim now is fairly simple: to remain a fugitive from the retirement centers as long as possible, and to try to find a niche where I can be a little useful in our tumultuous society. I may get tired of Europe, or broke, sooner than I think. My guess is that by next summer I'll be back in the S. F. Bay area looking for an apartment or small house in which to establish a base. At the moment it's exhilarating not to have one. But that floating state will pall after awhile, no doubt.

With all best wishes, on all fronts,

Katherine Penkham

P. S. I believe I suggested contacting Paine Knickerbocker in my postcard. Last evening Iva told me that he had heard broadcasts in the Pacific ~~area~~ --or perhaps knew others who had, while in the area during the war--and that Wayne Collins tried to put him on as a defense witness. He was willing, but the court wasn't, because he had been present in the courtroom to hear other testimony, I guess.

P.P.S. Didn't mean to be mysterious about ^{what} I contributed to Iva's tape recorder. It concerned the press table poll in Iva's favor at trial's end, my interview with Jury Foreman ^{MANKI} some time after the trial--NOT for publication--in which he told me he couldn't sleep and regretted terribly that he had failed to swing the entire jury to his own view for acquittal (only one or two holdouts, I gathered) and particularly regretted he hadn't held out himself. Also I could report that Frank Hennessy told me he recommended against prosecution after studying the case, but was overruled, etc. Connie Hitchcock will corroborate this, I think.

a copy of this going to Iva