Finding Aid to the
Thomas McGrath Papers

Thomas McGrath, 1916-1990
Thomas McGrath Papers, 1970-1971
.4 linear ft.
Collection number: Mss 237

OVERVIEW

Links: Finding aid to The Movie at the End of the World audiovisual material

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BIOGRAPHY

Thomas McGrath was born November 20, 1916 near Sheldon, North Dakota, the son of James Lang and Catherine (Shea) McGrath. After graduating from local schools, he attended the University of North Dakota in 1935 from where he was graduated in 1939. In 1940 he received an M.A. Degree from Louisiana State University and then taught for a year at Colby College at Waterville, Maine. With the entry of America into World War II, Mr. McGrath served in the U.S. Army Air Forces from 1942 to 1945. In 1947 he was a Rhodes Scholar at New College, Oxford University in England. Mr. McGrath from 1950 to 1954 taught at Los Angeles State College and in 1960 to 1961 at Post College on Long Island, New York. In 1961 he came to North Dakota State University as Assistant Professor of English, and in 1969 he accepted a position at Moorhead State University.

Mr. McGrath's career as a poet made him a leading writer in America. Among his work are *To Walk a Crooked Mile*, *Letter to an Imaginary Friend*, *The Movie at the End of the World: Selected Poems*, *The Gates of Ivory*, and *The Gates of Horn*. He authored some twenty film scripts, was editor of *Crazy Horse* and assistant editor of *California Quarterly* and other literary magazines. Among his awards are the Alan Swallow Poetry Book Award in 1954 for *Figures from a Double World*, the Amy Lowell Traveling Poetry Scholarship (1965-1966) and a Guggenheim Fellowship (1967-1969).

Mr. McGrath married Eugenia Johnson on February 13, 1960 and they had one son Thomas Samuel Koan McGrath. Mr. McGrath was a member of the Association of Rhodes Scholars and Phi Beta Kappa. He died September 19, 1990.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Thomas McGrath papers consist of correspondence and manuscripts. The Correspondence Series covers the period January 15, 1970 to April 10, 1971. It consists entirely of incoming letters that have been arranged chronologically. The correspondence, mainly with literary friends and former students, concerns a mixture of literary subjects and personal matters. Also, there are various letters giving opinions and inquiries about *Letter to an Imaginary Friend*, Parts I and II which was published in 1970. For a detailed listing of the correspondence see the calendar section of the finding aid.

The Manuscripts Series consists of a photocopy of Mr. McGrath's *Letter to an Imaginary Friend, Part II* and several poems. The original manuscript was returned to Mr. McGrath upon his request. The *Letter to an Imaginary Friend* manuscript is a handwritten, edited draft. It is close to being a final draft. Parts I to IV (pages 1-11 and 1-72) are on individual sheets while Parts IV to VI (pages 73-113) are in a bound ledger.

The Subject Files Series contains drafts of several poems by Mr. McGrath, including one written on a beer coaster and another on check blanks. The titles include, *Silence and Solitude*, *After I'm Gone*, *Easter Song*, *Again: This Room, In the Street, In this Time*, and *Landscape with Birds, Early Spring*. The two small notebooks contain some of Mr. McGrath's personal thoughts, literary phrases and reminders for himself.
BOX AND FOLDER LIST

1/1  Biographical material, and Finding aid

Correspondence Series

1/2  January 15-July 6, 1970
1/3  July 8-August 5, 1970
1/4  August 7-September 2, 1970
1/5  September 5-October 5, 1970
1/6  October 6-November 2, 1970
1/7  November 3-10, 1970
1/8  November 11-17, 1970
1/9  November 17-December 9, 1970
1/10 December 9, 1970-January 18, 1971
1/11 January 19-February 11, 1971
1/12 February 12-March 29, 1971
1/13 March 29-April 10, 1971
1/14 Undated

Letters to an Imaginary Friend Manuscript Series

1/15  Book II, Part I
1/16  Book II, Part II (p. 1-32)
1/17  Book II, Part III (p. 33-61)
1/18  Book II, Part IV (p. 62-72)
1/19  Book II, Part IV-VI (p. 73-113)

Subject Files Series

1/20  Poem manuscripts
1/21  Notebooks

CALENDAR OF LETTERS

Folder 2

Wants information to include in a directory of poets for the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to
put money in poets pockets.

________, STAN. May 3, 1970.
Will send some story ideas if requested. Wonders if still teaching. Brings McGrath up-to-date on Debby,
Diane, Judy and Stanley, apparently members of his family. Writes about McGrath's baby and requests a
picture of the family.

BEECHING, JACK. British poet and novelist, former NDSU teacher and close friend of McGrath. May
19, 1970.
Rewriting some poems for exercise, shaping up for a long poem, wants Bob Bly's address to send him some poems. Still hasn't gotten *Poet as Conspirator* published - objection to attack on scientists, film offer faded. Settled in Toledo, Spain, describes house and city, refers to discussion on cultural revolution, asks about peace movement.

BEITZEL, RICHARD. Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Bemidji State College. June 18, 1970. Confirmation of McGrath's acceptance of an invitation to give a poetry reading at the Upper Midwest Writers' Conference at BSC on July 30 for $300.

ACKLEY, RANDALL. Literary editor and poet. June 25, 1970. Asks Thomas to write a preface for his poetry that will appear in the "Poetry of Azatlan". If he knows of anymore Azatlan poets have them send their poems to him.

ANANIA, MICHAEL. McGrath's editor at Swallow Press. July 1, 1970. Is pleased about the good review in *Chicago Daily News* (enclosed). Gave several editors at the Little Magazines Council review copies of letters. Discusses new material in *New and Selected*. He is ready to start work on it whenever Thomas is ready.

DIAMENT, SAM. Friend of McGrath's, living in Saskatoon, Canada. July 1, 1970. Thanking for copy of Letter and thanking for the picture of son.

BEECHING, JACK and CHARLOTTE. English poet and former English teacher at NDSU and good friend of McGrath's. July 4, 1970. Discusses book *A Vision* by Yeats and dialectics - getting understanding of symbolism from Baudelaire/ M ? Sent copy of *Penguin Poems*. Scolds McGrath about turning to stone prematurely, refuses to believe he has cancer. Describes Toledo and their home - Genya would like Tbiz for Tomas - Charlotte painting to ready a show for London or Zurich. Turns down loan offer note from Charlotte.


GORDON, DON. Personal friend and poet; long blacklisted' for "leftist" sympathies. July 6, 1970. Wonders if book is out yet. Has sent checks twice only to be returned. Happy to hear he didn't need an operation. Tells of his own sickness. Hasn't been able to write lately.

Folder 3


GORDON, DON. West Coast poet, friend of McGrath's. July 27, 1970. Thanks for the book he sent him, tells of friends who are ordering it also. Calls him the finest poet of the time. Inquires about ulcers and general health; gives own medical report.

BLAIR, MAG and MAC. Friend of McGrath's living in Mexico - McGrath rented a house from him in Guadalajara in 1969-1970. July 30, 1970. Glad to hear Thomas doesn't have cancer. Asks Thomas to visit them. They have passport trouble so can't go to Canada. He's sick at the time - bad water - tells of good Investment Stock. Wants to know of a bookstore in Fargo where you can find good beginning material in politics.


Folder 4


BEECHING, JACK. British poet and novelist, former NDSU teacher, close friend of McGrath's. August 15, 1970. Praises Letters but says not too many people will understand them. Trying to have it reviewed in Spain. Wants to move to mountains near Tarragona. Doing some work in movies. Includes poem "The Military Museum in the Church of Santa Irene."
Literary - Note on envelope - Believe its for sending review copies to personal friends and literary editors. No letter.

TRAUTMAN, OLIVIA. August 16, 1970.
Inquiring as to how she can buy the "Poetry North." Tells of niece, Karen Swenson, who has written poems that were published in the New Yorker.

MEYERS, BERT. West Coast poet, teacher at Phitzer College, Claremont, Calif. August 20, 1970.
Discussed his opinion of Patchen and McGrath as best contemporary poets in America. Says he hasn't written lately, would like to paint. Asks for recommendation for a grant. Advises to see a good doctor, stop smoking and drinking.

FRUMKIN, EUGENE. New Mexico poet, close friend of McGrath, receiver of Letter. August 31, 1970.
Would like to send poems for him to read and get published at Swallow. He has written a lot of material in last 3 or 4 years that he hasn't tried to publish. Must go back to school in a week. He doesn't look forward to the school year with all the student unrest.

HAGEN, TIM. Young poet and artist - student of McGrath's at Moorhead State College. August 31, 1970.
Covers extensively a theory on controlling subconscious thoughts and McGrath's offer of critiquing some of his poems, includes four. Wants name of McGrath's novel, so he can read it. Sorry to hear of McGrath's illness - his wife sends sympathies to McGrath's wife.

Thanks Thomas for the magazine Suggestions. Doesn't like Kayak because he doesn't understand it. Sends poem "Fever" to Thomas. He is concerned about Thomas' health. Tells of drugs he's taking for his fever. Tells Thomas he's too young to be ill.

Folder 5

Wants to know the publisher of his novel and children books, so she can purchase them. She's visiting mom and reports that she's very tired and can't do very strenuous work. Brings McGrath up-to-date on her family and other family members. Expresses her concern about McGrath's health.

LYONS, RICHARD. Poet and friend, teacher at NDSU. Sept. 6, 1970.
Enclosed some poems he had intended to give McGrath before he left - saw ad about revival of Phoenix, listing McGrath as an original contributor. Wrote about novel he's completing. Kit moved to Detroit. Still wants to interview McGrath.

MERER, HARRY. September 8, 1970.
A sensitive, emotional, positive appraisal of "Letters". Asks about Genya and Tomasito. Asks about McGrath's health and where he'll be.

FIXEL, LAWRENCE. September 10, 1970.
Pleased that McGrath selecting his poems for Crazy Horse, though' their publication not as meaningful as previously- McGrath trying to get Swallow Press to publish a novel of Fixel's written in 1963 - Fixel thanks him, though' pessimistic about its publication. Hitchcock publishing a collection of parables. Writes of McGrath's illness, comparing it to Hitchcock and him.

MEYERS, BERT. West Coast poet; teacher at Phitzer College, Claremont, Calif. September 11, 1970.
Will be reviewing "Letters" for Kayak. Reading for courses will be teaching in fall.

Anxious to read Part II of "Letters....". Asks Genia to send "a copy or two of your Greek journal." Enclosed snapshots of McGrath's (Thomas, Genia and Tomasito with Nickson?) Classes underway. Joel in school. A girl renting part of third floor.

BEECHING, JACK. British poet and novelist. Associate of McGrath's while he taught at NDSU. Sept. 23, 1970.
Wants Thomas to send copy of "Letters" to a friend in England. Wants to continue working on his long poem. He's getting married and leaving London for Spain. Hopes Thomas is feeling better.

GERSHGOREN, SID. October 2, 1970.
Comments positively on Crazy Horse says better than Hitchcock, agrees that his poetry should be published, but Paul Carroll hasn't returned his manuscript. Includes some writings. Fired from Hayward State, so unemployed. Spent three months in Europe; glad to be back. Catches McGrath up on doings of mutual friends.

Got rejection slip from Robert Bly after sending him some "neo-Wadsworth..." Glad that McGrath wrote just ended "too-close relationship" with someone. Commented on McGrath's ulcers, told him to "cultivate the pure calm, sublime faith that keeps the sage afloat..."

Thanks for "beautiful and powerful" Letters I and II. Re-read it often. Asks if McGrath goading Uncle Sam o behalf of Indians. Asks Genia about child.

Folder 6

FIXEL, LAWRENCE. October 6, 1970.
Thanks for taking poems. Would appreciate McGrath informing him as to whomever to write to at Swallow about novel - understands McGrath not wanting to bother with it "at this point". Hopes tests come out all right, indicating nothing serious. Requests that McGrath let him know how he feels.

MEYERS, BERT. West Coast poet; teacher at Phitzer College, Claremont, California. Oct. 8, 1970.
Thanks for Guggenheim recommendation, though' rejected four times already. Amy Lowell people may contact McGrath. Due for sabbatical so would like either fellowship. Concerned about McGrath's health--asks about Genia and son. Odette is teaching, makes things easier for them at last financially.

JACOBSON, DALE. Publishing a poetry magazine in Moorhead, Minnesota, Possibly a former student of McGrath's. Oct 12, 1970.
Thanks McGrath for criticism of his poetry, explains his experimentation and optimism for future writing. Dan Parsons taking classes at M.S., after getting high school diploma. Dan monitoring classes and baking bread, Mike's reading and writing. Tim makes fantastic spaghetti sauce.

HAGEN, TIM. Young poet and artist- student of McGrath's at Moorhead State College. October 16, 1970.
Reading "Letters to an Imaginary Friend" and finds it "powerful". Beginning to see what McGrath means by "Dakota Experience." Wanted to write, but suffers from "-student-teacher" complex, as do Mike, Dale, and Mark, though' Mark least, All concerned about McGrath's health.
Send poetry and comments as available. Saw McGrath's name for Mankato State for a reading trip. Went to Southwest Poets’ Conference-good conference. Got his book and will start it and mention it in Q#2. Sorry to hear of ill health.

Asks if McGrath minds that he used him for a reference for the Guggenheim fellowship. Includes Guggenheim project plans and a poem, 'I Woke Her With a Kiss". Working toward time U.S. Educational system can be replaced-the project a first step. James Atlas will review copy for McGrath to correct before printing. While doesn't think Swallow publishing as much quality as formerly, marketing and book layouts much improved. Kingston s writing picking up--will send some poems to Crazy Horse. Gus Blaisdel still at UNM Press. Bly’s new anthology good, Kingston would have included a couple more McGrath poems. Carolyn won solo in Hadyn's "Mass in Time of War” at Harvard, her sister won another. Encloses photo of Carolyn.) Postpones wedding to early 1971; will let McGrath know date. Requests snapshots of family. Asks future plans.

HITCHCOCK, GEORGE. Editor of Kayak magazine, one of the most important "Little Magazines” of the 1960s. Oct. 28, 1970.
Sent names and addresses to Thomas. Happy to exchange ads with Crazy Horse. Will send poems to him.

Has aspirations of becoming a writer. Has published a few poems. Asks for help in writing and publishing. Would like to look him up when he gets to the West Coast.

Includes a review of Letters for Poetry by Jim Atlas--Atlas trying to set up reading by McGrath at Harvard--tries to quiet McGrath's fears about Letters "dropping out of sight"; praising the book--thanks for comments on a poem--talks about a school project of his. Plans to get together and comments on health of McGrath. Talks about fiancée Carolyn and postponement of wedding. Asked about Genia and Tomasito.

Bemoans there are no good poets except Americans. Thomas only one who understands his poetry. Offers to assist in getting Letters reviewed by TLS. Sends five poems to Thomas for him to read. Invites Thomas to visit in Spain.

Folder 7

DACEY, PHILLIP. Assistant. Professor of Creative Writing at Southwest Minnesota State College, Marshall, Minn. Nov. 3, 1970.
Please send information for contributor's notes on Estelle Novak.

Announcement of new production team at Playhouse and a new production "An I for an I" by Vahan Gregory.

Sends poems to Thomas. Says Kinnell declared Thomas as a good poet. Going on the "North Carolina Circuit". Stop in and see him when he's in New York.

ACKLEY, RANDALL. Literary editor and poet in English Department, Pembroke State Univ., Pembroke, North Carolina. Nov. 6, 1970. Wondered if interested in job in English Dept. at Pembroke in Contemporary Literature and Creative Writing and if so, send information to Ackley and Dean.


LITTLE, JOHN R. Member of English Department at University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N. D. Nov. 9, 1970. Expresses interest in hosting a writers conference featuring writers from the Northern Plains states to stimulate interest in native literature. Outlines probable length, fees, mechanics of conference and date. Requests a response as to interest and other possible writers.

WRIGHT, JAMES. November 9, 1970. Annie and he will be at Hartwick Nov. 14 for a poetry reading. Would like to see McGrath there. Praises Letter Part I and sections of Part II, he's read. Will bring some poems for McGrath to hopefully choose one or more for Crazy Horse. Staying with Dr. and Mrs. Howard Levant. Sorry to hear of illness.

MERWIN, W.S. American poet. Nov. 10, 1970. He's off to Mexico with no forwarding address. His correspondence will be delayed. A post card.

Folder 8

THOMPSON, EDWARD P. November 11, 1970.
Wonders if a book he sent reaches McGrath. Expresses enjoyment of Letters, Part II—plans on writing long letter about books later. Left employment 6 weeks previous to letter, perhaps forever, to write. Wonders if McGrath's address correct. Wonders if McGrath going to Europe and if he could visit Thompson in S. Haly in April.

Sam has done a little writing. Kay is working on a short story. Doing summer photography. Trying to find him housing--suggest buying a house. Hope all is going well.

Received copies of Crazy Horse with own poem printed (4 misprints in 10 lines) Sent bundle of poems in January apparently lost in mail, to be critiqued. Leaving for London to do record and book of poetry. Wondering if coming to Ibiza. Missed Jack and Charlotte Beeching there--living in Fermentera now, going to London for a few months, then on to Far East.

BLY, ROBERT. Contemporary American poet living in Madison, Minnesota. Editor of Seventies(formerly Sixties; Fifties) Translator of Trakl, Neruda, Vallejo, etc. Author of three books of poetry, winner of the National Book Award. Close friend of McGrath's. Nov. 14, 1970.
Gives addresses--of some friends. Has couple of Ritsos poems ready to send him. Discusses publishing more books. All his hens were killed.

HAINES, JOHN. November 14, 1970.
Sent along a poem for McGrath to read. Invites McGrath to stop in if he gets to Coast during winter.

Wondering if McGrath interested in a job at Pembroke State--dept. head wants to add two experienced people to staff. Explains what jobs would entail and new programs dept. developing. Describes North Carolina, geographically and populace, including Indians, blacks, Klansmen, and Scots--also describes briefly development of Pembroke St. U.

Suggests resorts or towns he could stay in when he comes to Mexico.

CATER, CATHERINE. Professor of English at NDSU. Nov. 16, 1970.
K.L. Janecek, NDSU Library director, wants to purchase McGrath's manuscripts and correspondence. David Martinson having a poem published in Nation. Delighted at possibility of McGrath's papers at NDSU. Looking forward to seeing the McGrath's--will be in New York during holidays, recruiting faculty members.

JACOBSON, DALE. Publishing a magazine in Moorhead, Minnesota, for poetry. Possibly a former student of McGrath's. Nov. 17, 1970.
Requests more poems for a local magazine--want to keep it going. Asks to comment on own poetry if sends it. Asks about Tomasito.

Lists options for NDSU purchase and depositing of McGrath's papers, manuscripts, and correspondence.
Folder 9

SHERMAN, G.W. Associated with Cobra Press in San Jose, Cal.? Nov. 17, 1970. Discount to poets on Tramp magazine - old copies also available. Congratulations on full-page spread of poems in Nation.

FLAHERTY, DOUG. Editor of Road Runner press. Teaches at Wisconsin State University. November 18, 1970. Discusses Indian mystic poetry published in "Tomb of Skulls". Asks Thomas for advice and criticism for further publications. Requests Thomas to send any of his poems that may fit. Sorry Thomas is sick hope he gets well soon.

MADONIA, GAIL. East Coast poet and editor. Nov. 18, 1970. Requests copies of "Hot, Great Hearted Women" and "Letter to an Imaginary Friend" for anthology of contemporary erotic poetry.

KINGSTON, R.P. Poet and essayist of East Coast. Nov. 19, 1970. Has re-read Letters and enjoyed it more. He will write a review of Letters and asks some questions of Thomas concerning review. Asks advice on applying to Guggenheim Foundation. Sends Thomas a new poem to read. He and wife are fine. Hopes job situation better and hopes Thomas is feeling better.


MADONIA, GAIL. East Coast poet and editor. Dec. 7, 1970. Thanks McGrath for sending a copy of Letters to an Imaginary Friend - hopes to include part of it in an anthology on erotic Will be in touch concerning payment.


RIVER, DAVID C. December, 9, 1970. Read Part II of Letters after reading Part I - called an "overwhelming experience". Finishing first installment of Death and Justice. Work being taught at So, W, University by a friend. Wants to get together while McGrath's in Oneota, N.Y.

Folder 10

NORTH, ? JOE. Apparently connected with the Daily World, of N.Y.C. Dec. 9, 1970. Didn't get copy (possibly of "Letters...") - will see that it gets reviewed in "A.D. and in the World Magazine," Gives an address for someone in Harrison, N.Y. Asks when coming by again.
A Christmas letter in poem form about a sidewalk Santa Claus.

Christmas greetings. Sends new address. (photocopy)

Glad McGrath liked poem. Sorry to hear of medical problems. Just returned from visiting Indian schools in Southwest. Best wishes for "Xmas and 1971."

Anthology completed except for biographical into Blazek requests from all contributors - asks also for a recent photo. Blazek notes that he received copy of Letters McGrath sent and will read it when he completely finishes anthology.

JACOB, MARYBETH JOHNSON. Former student in McGrath's Creative Writing class at Moorhead State College. January 1, 1971.
Was in McGrath's Creative Writing class - had showed him a little book of her poetry and philosophy. Now living in Greece with husband who's stationed there with the Navy, requests information of Greece, Greek people and Greek government.

Letter puts McGrath up-to-date on status of last and immediate future issues of Crazy Horse (#5,6,7), Says will try to keep better in touch in future. Says just received last letter and will try to get requested information.

Yes, received copy of letter and asks if McGrath received his reply of thanks-L praise. Asks the reason McGrath is in Tucson and future plans. Concerned about McGrath's health, Asks about Genya and Tomasito and if McGrath thinks of what world will be like for son as Merer does of his sons. Raining a lot in San Francisco but three days were clear when Merer felt good, Asks Tom to keep in touch, so Merer can drop by if he takes off "one of these days,"

Haven't ordered McGrath's new book yet. Thrilled that John's (son?) poems appearing (probably in Crazy Horse) -- lists his poems that have been published in the last year. (1970) Working on a biography of Louise Bryant, Making her wish she was a reporter again instead of a writer, Regrets McGrath's ill health. An invitation to visit her.

Would like addresses-of listed people to send copies of Crazy Horse.

Folder 11

Hopes McGrath could make out poems he sent. Is attempting the most ambitious poetry project ever. Magazine is at the printers; will send copies Hagen did the art; difficult to visually interpret another's poem. David Martinson meeting with some literary success. Writes of despair and the obstacles it creates. Encloses a poem "Untitled". Magazine finishes, will send copies, Enclosed 2 lithographs. Mike, Dale,
Martinson and Daniel on creative sprees. Hasn't written much lately, but feels things "coming on," One based on childhood experience. Excited about how writing changing again, Asks why McGrath named his magazine *Crazy Horse*.


HAGEN, TIMOTHY. Young poet and artist. Student of McGrath's at Moorhead State College. Jan. 23, 1971. He has written 100 poems in 3 weeks. 80 of which he likes. Very happy Thomas was helping him with his poems. Sent some more poems to Thomas. Glad he's feeling better.

WOLFF, HENRY. Expatriate American poet living in Europe and India for the past 12 years. McGrath met Wolff in Ibiza, Spain. Jan, 29, 1971. Enjoyed re-reading Thomas's poetry last summer. Sorry to hear of ill health, Tells Thomas to take it easy and worry about rest when well, Says he had hepatitis.

BEECHING, JACK. British poet and novelist, Friend of McGrath's; former NDSU teacher, English Department. February 2, 1971. Tells of inaccessibility of ideas in Spain. Working on Middle of "Meditation on War Graves", and also rewriting novel. Originality of "Letters" is the new poetic American language. Trying to write review of "Letters", Glad to hear better, they live in a one room office, he offers Thomas money if he’s having trouble finding a job.

BORRE, JOHN R. Member of the English Department at St. Cloud, Minnesota. Feb. 2, 1971. Sets fees and date for a McGrath reading at St. Cloud State. Also requests that McGrath speak in a couple of English classes. Passes along an invitation to stay with Dr. Russell and his wife or offers to reserve a room. Gives name of Bemidji's English Department head.


KINGSTON, ROGER. East Coast poet and essayist. Feb 2, 1971. Has gotten a lot of writing and revising done (12 poems in last 2½ months) arranging them in a partial manuscript to be completed "within another year or so." Was laid off job--Carolyn and he postponed wedding second time, tho', she moved in to save money on second apartment. Pleased at how well getting along on so little money, happy also. Mark had a good trip. Expresses his and other's concern over McGrath's health. James Atlas received a Rhodes Scholarship.

WILSON, MARK. Young poet currently living in California originally from North Dakota. Has collected an extensive collection of McGrath criticism and volumes, which are currently in possession of David Martinson, Moorhead, Minnesota. Feb. 6, 1971. Heard a poetry reading in San Francisco by Gary Snyder and Robert ? (Bly). Will be doing poetry reviews for *Rolling Stone*, including Letters. Covers extensively progress on bibliography of McGrath's works and criticisms, writes of the possibility of re-editing it into a book. (M. Anania's suggestion) Good to hear from McGrath about good health.

LUSCHEI, GLENNA. Editor of *Solo Press* and little magazine *Cafe Solo*. Three issues appeared to date (Nov., 1971), second one containing poems by McGrath the third a review of Letters by Gene Frumkin. Feb. 11,1971.
Gene Frumkin reviewing Letters for Solo Press --wants copy of it, Sending some poems for Crazy Horse, though not sure McGrath still publishing it. Asks about Tomasito and if received Christmas present. Misses being in touch.

Folder 12

BOND, TOM. A student of Howard McCord's at Washington State University, who's doing a special project on McGrath's poems. Feb. 12, 1971.
Doing a special project for Howard McCord at WSU on McGrath's poems, especially Letters to an Imaginary Friend -- requests that McGrath send information on his books in print and what representative of development and foundation of Letters. Hopes to be able to discuss Letters with McGrath someday.

Thanks for news of Crazy Horse and John's poems. Enclosed ad from new Nation for Letter to an Imaginary Friend with three reviews quoted. Expresses gratitude for encouragement on book on Louise Bryant --idea of Louise changed since deeper into research. Glad to hear feeling better and have house till May--encourages McGrath to take it easy.

Discussed evil of Tammany type politics. Tells of his flu and trip. Wishes for more time and money to travel, Complains of the rat race or "hustle" he's in. Remembers the days when he was a baseball pitcher.

WILSON, MARK. Young poet currently living in California, Originally from North Dakota. Wilson has collected an intensive collection of McGrath criticism and volumes. They are currently in the possession of David Martinon, Moorhead, Minnesota. March 16, 1971.
Four short writings all entitled "Allies."

Thanks him for comments on his poems. Sends Thomas a short poem "All This Darkness." Sends clipping from Chicago Daily News. He talked to Dr. Dille about Thomas getting his job back, but to no avail. He's giving Thomas' friends his address in Mexico.

VINZ, MARK. Editor of Dakota Territory and English teacher at Moorhead StateCollege. March 22, 1971.
Thanks Thomas for his criticism of poetry. Doesn't like to use place names in poetry. He has a melancholy to poems because is unable to establish roots anywhere. Wrote 50 poems last year and is working on dissertation. Will be reviewed for tenure this spring. Thomas is able to work and is well.

Hails Thomas as front ranking poet. Asks Thomas! help in getting a book published.

LUSCHEI, GLENNA. Editor, of the Solo Press and the little magazine Cafe Solo, Three issues have appeared to date (Nov. 1971) The second issue contains poems by McGrath; the third issue, a review of Letters I and II by Gene Frumkin. March 25, 1971.
Request two new poems for next issue of Cafe Solo. Will send poems to Crazy Horse. Book inspired document. Inquires into well being of family.

Declares Thomas as one of the best. Wants him to read his poems and be accepted in the McGrath circle. He feels desperate because he's afraid he'll die before he gets his book published.
ANANIA, MICHAEL. ? Book review of Letter I and II, probably sent by Anania, poetry editor of Swallow Press, Chicago. March 29, 1971. Review of _Letter to an Imaginary Friend_ from the _Chicago Sun Times_. The review is a good review for Thomas--he says he’s living intensely the life of his time both in his art and outside as well.

**Folder 13**

BLAZEK, DOUGLAS. Close friend of McGrath's from California; poet and teacher. March 29, 1971. Sent Thomas a copy of his book _Skull Juices and Flux and Reflux_. Wonders how he can get a copy to people at _Crazy Horse_. Will send contribution to magazine. Can help find job the quart is gone.

GARDNER, VIRGINIA. Anthologist and editor. March 30, 1971. Thinks "Letters" to be most satisfying work in modern times. Quotes passages from book. Thanks Thomas for putting it all down. Wonders if Bob Crouie received a copy.


VINZ, MARK. Teacher at Moorhead State College, editor of little magazine _Dakota Territory_. The first issue of the magazine was devoted primarily to McGrath. -Enclosure from Sally McFarland, also a teacher at MSC, English department. March 30, 1971. Tells Thomas what the job situation at M.S.C. is and what the hopes of coming back would be. Enclosure from Sally McFarland AAUP representative--tells AAUP can do nothing if he wrote letter of resignation, Says should try for 72-73 year.

IGNATOW, DAVID. Contemporary American poet, editor of Chelsea, an important little magazine of the 1960's. March 31, 1971. Tells of job possibilities in New York City University. Will try to have a few poems for _Crazy Horse_. Hopes Thomas is not angry because Chelsea did not publish entire poem only excerpts. Heard of illness, glad he's recovering.

BREKKE, SAM and KAY. Student of McGrath's at NDSU; currently living in Calif. April 2, 1971. Tells of the UFWOC Lettuce boycott. They have a theatre group who is putting on material sympathetic to the Chicano cause. It is stirring the people up to action. Not enough money to visit. Invite Thomas up to see them. Tells of house available. Fills Thomas in on activities of friends Vinz, Eric Barker, Dan Owens.

FLINT, ROLAND. English professor, Georgetown Univ. April 5, 1971. He is sending poems to Thomas to read. Apologized for the number, would be happy if he liked one. Declares Thomas as one of the best poets today Happy to have met him at last. Sends photocopy of Index from Jim Wright's copy of letters. Call him if you ever get to Washington.

WILSON, MARK. California poet originally from North Dakota. April 8, 1971. Has stopped writing prose. Sorry about bibliography-hopes Martinson will be able to do a good job. House in Sheldon Project is coming along fine, Would like to see Thomas in Tucson. If not then will be in Minn. in the summer. Would like to talk to Thomas about writing.

GORDON, DON. Contemporary Am. poet. Close personal friend of McGrath's. April 10, 1971. Quantity is not important. Quality of Thomas' poems are always high--that's what counts. Will meet Thomas in Tucson in May if he doesn't get sick. Invites Thomas to visit him in L.A.


Wilson, Mark. Young native North Dakotan poet, living in California; formerly a student of McGrath's. Undated. Six poems.

Boree, John R. Member of St. Cloud State College's English Department. Undated. Informed that McGrath might be available for a poetry reading during St. Cloud's Fine Arts Festival in late February-early March--asks if McGrath available. Would appreciate hearing soon. Long an admirer of McGrath's poetry; surprised to hear an old acquaintance of Dr. Russell. Tentatively sets reading for Feb. 25 and fees. Would also like McGrath to talk to classes on Thursday and Friday. Hopes McGrath feeling better soon and that can attend festival.