

2010 deMille Drive,
Hollywood, California,
Sept. 19, 1933.

Mr. Cecil B. deMille,
HILO, T.H.

Dear C. B.:

There is a boat leaving for Hawaii tomorrow, so I can send this off before the end of the week.

The studio had no information on the business being done by THIS DAY AND AGE, so I communicated with John Flinn, in New York. His reply follows:

"THIS DAY AND AGE is doing average business wherever it plays. The picture has done nothing exceptional except in the Los Angeles engagement. One of the chief reasons that the picture has not done more business is because of its lack of box-office names."

I am enclosing some VARIETY clippings indicating the business done in a few places.

Miss Cole states she has forwarded you whatever clippings she has been able to gather or collect from the Publicity Department.

You turned Herbert Brenon's letter over to Mr. Cohen for attention. We have written to Mr. Brenon. You told Miss Cole to phone Violet Dunn the day you were leaving - which she did - explaining your hurried departure, etc. There have been numerous newspaper notices of her marital difficulties.

I sent Julia's money off yesterday @ the 13th. I never heard if you got the draft mailed Sept. 18th - have you? Mrs. Covell phoned yesterday asking me to send her October 1st check now, and also extra money for something she wanted. She was surprised that you had not instructed me to let her have what she needed. I was awfully nice to her and explained that you had left me an awfully close budget, so she was alright by the time she hung up.

John came over to see me yesterday. His vacation starts for 2 weeks on October 9th. He says that he discussed the possibility of having the SEAWARD for all or a part of his vacation with his mother. So, now, John wants me to ask you if you would let him have it, and if so, for how long, and may he go to Santa Cruz Island. He would not attempt going to Santa Cruz Island unless he could have it for a week. He is wild to have you say YES. In replying, please be very DEFINITE and say exactly for how long, where he may cruise to, and how many guests he may invite - he wants to be able to have 6 including himself. John understands, of course,

Julia's money

that if we can charter the yacht, that would have first consideration.

We have sold 2 compressors for \$1200., payable \$300. down and \$300. per month for 3 months.

The Hawaiian clippings have been read with a lot of interest. You all look quite fetching in your many leis. I hear Miss Malone leaves tomorrow to join Bart. In case you should need a secretary, I can recommend Gladys Rosson - she's good.

Frank and I discussed the BELCHER COMMISSION matter with Neil yesterday. Originally, the commission was figured on 44% of the rental paid. Neil's advice to us was to pay commission now based on 44% of whatever amount is received each month. Roberts is agreeable to this, and a letter is being exchanged between Productions and Agents today. We are all in accord on it.

I'll send you the weekly balance the end of this week, as usual.

I hope all is going exceedingly well with you and your Frightened People.

Much love to you both,

GLADYS.

Oct. 10, 1933.

Dear C. B.:

projected
Anne projected the first ten reels of your stuff last night and I was there. The characterizations are simply delightful, and the jungle wonderful. It looks very real and I believed every bit of it. It certainly is strenuous going - every inch of the way. The fire in the village is very effective, and the first shot of it was beautiful. The camera work is all excellent - beautiful compositions.

A few things I will mention in case they mean something to you:

1. You took shots of a steamer on the horizon, shot from a beach toward the sea. It looks as though there was a beached small boat (possibly the sampan) in the foreground on the beach. Well, the steamer moves so fast along the horizon that it looks as though the Miss Catalina were flying along there. And there isn't a shot (I believe) where the scene is ever clear with the boat ALL out of the scene in case you wished to put in a boat moving more slowly. It is noticeably fast. It is very apparent when it is seen through some railing on the right hand of the screen.

2. The bodies being thrown from the top deck of the steamer do not give the impression of being anything like the weight of a dead body. They are tossed quite easily and lightly through the air - no effort to get the dead bodies over at all. It isn't a bit sinister nor gruesome. I remember your discussions with Bart about that part and it always made a chill go through me - but the scene didn't at all.

3. When the 4 people are getting away in the sampan, and they are still just off the steamer, they apparently are screening themselves with some large pieces of cloth, but they seemed much too exposed. Miss Borden's back so bare and the coats of Corder so white, that it wouldn't seem possible for them to be undetected from the upper deck of a steamer where men were busy sliding bodies over, they hoped, unnoticed.

negative scratches
4. The night scenes were sometimes exactly like gorgeous night scenes, and again much too light - practically regular day shots. I suppose however this is a matter of printing all the night takes to match, but not knowing, I mention it.

5. Through the sampan scenes, there were lots and lots of light flashes or scratches, like lightning flashes. There was some doubt in Anne's mind whether they were negative - she said that negative scratches would be black and Dick Blaydon said they would be light. I don't know, myself, but I suppose they are going to look into it.

The dialogue is lovely, and line after line made us laugh. We liked Gargan very much (he sounded quite like Bart at times!) and Claudette is marvelous. Miss Boland is grand. They certainly can read lines. Mr. Marshall ~~gets around~~ is attractive. And he certainly ~~is~~ is attractive.

You are capturing the jungle alright and no mistake. Setting after setting is simply beautiful. Those shots through the great palm tree trunks, and on the edge of the jungle, and where they are plowing through the swamp where the coconut falls, and where Miss Boland sits on the tree trunk, etc, etc., all splendid, and so beautiful. The sampan coming toward the burning village, shot off shore on three angles (I think) are gorgeous.

I would not have believed that Claudette could look like she does - she's perfect, and giving such a beautiful performance. She is lovely, anyway.

Further? Well, 37,000 more ^{feet} are in and I suppose we will be seeing them any day. We projected from eight last night to eleven-thirty, after dining in the studio commissary. Seemed like old times. I do love it when we are making a picture.

Won't you have to for safety's sake remain in Hawaii a week after you have shipped the last of your film to us in case there are any retakes?

Mrs. Adams has just clipped the attached for you.

Much love to you both - you have tackled a big job.

GLADYS.

2010 deMille Drive,
Hollywood, California,
Sept. 15, 1933.

Mr. Cecil B. deMille,
HILLO, T.H.

Dear C. B.:

I am enclosing your weekly cash report. Upon receipt of your cabled instructions, I deposited \$1,000. in your private account. You will note that I have paid \$5,000. off on the \$20,000. Bank of America note that came due - per your instructions, also.

The SECURITY Bank is requesting new statements of Productions and yourself. I am preparing same.

Cecilia needed \$40.00 for the Pomono Show that starts tomorrow. I was sure you would be glad to let her have it. *Wages?*

The securities market has been considerably more active this past day or two, and our equity has improved over a week ago, but it is a very slow process. *after crash*

I'm quite confident that I rented the vacant store on Western Avenue today at the same rental Rinehart paid - \$50. per month. (It has been vacant two months.)

The 5230 Los Feliz Blvd. escrow was not closed today as it should have been. Riley, the former agent, is demanding a split of the commission because months ago he showed the place to Mr. Sparkuhl, who turned it down at \$23,000. The present agent sold it after Riley's exclusive leasing of it had expired, and sold it to MRS. Sparkuhl who never knew that when she made the offer for it that it was the same house that her husband had seen months previously. Neil is threshing it out with Riley's attorney. It is annoying for it is simply a hold-up. Sparkuhl was ready to pay the \$750. due today but the Bank of America escrow will not accept it until the commission controversy is settled.

I spent some time with Mr. Mackay in his office a few days ago. (He is our income tax attorney). Then, consulted Neil. Mr. Mackay is working on a continuance of our case on account of your absence, and at the same time endeavoring to reach a settlement of all claims. We might need a quick decision, so if I wire simply - "WILL YOU SETTLE FOR -----" - you will know that I mean in full for everything for personal and Productions, and will be after Neil, Mackay and I have gone over every item. It would obviate your spending a lot of time getting up on the precise detail of the case and then appearing - *U.S. Dept* Possibly in Washington.

The Bank of America renewed the VINE STREET HOLDING COMPANY mortgage for 1 year without any question. We held a meeting authorizing Frank and I to execute all necessary papers, but the Bank preferred you to sign, as President, of the VINE STREET HOLDING COMPANY. Frank is sending you the papers direct, he says. (The balance due is \$89,600.)

Mannie Cohen had expected to use the SEAWARD this weekend but phoned this afternoon that he could not get away from the Studio on Saturday. He thanked you and hoped you would invite him to enjoy it again. I assured him that it would be your pleasure. John had wanted it if Mr. Cohen didn't but changed his plans, so the yacht is not going out this week. I phoned all the agents but the weather is so dull and cold that the inquiries they have had for boats have faded away.

nothing in fault

Jeanie paid off \$75. on her note, so I renewed the balance of \$175. at the Bank for her. She goes into Bankruptcy any day now. It seems to me a pretty dreadful way of cancelling debts but like a lot of legal processes, quite alright apparently. Jeanie has been so harrassed for so long that I hope she will get a little peace, anyway, from it.

Jeanie's bankruptcy

We seem to be as busy as bees around here but I don't know what we have to show for it. I have been pursuing one or two ideas on the renovating and leasing of the Highland Avenue property again. I think the widening will go through now without more delays. Those who were opposing it have indicated they will withdraw. And our sign on the Hilpert lot on Los Feliz has drawn an inquiry or two. One that offered a residential trade I turned down.

selling property

I'd give a lot to know all about your days but soon the film will be coming through and I'll SEE how your days are spent.

With love to you both,

Enc.

GLADYS.