

The Meridian Instrument Co.,  
150 Lafayette St.,  
New York City, N.Y.

July 10,  
1933.

Dear Sirs:-

Recently, I had a near catastrophe with my 4x5 Meridian. The results of an extremely bad fall which I think proves the sturdiness of the Meridian beyond compare. I had to climb up a very steep rocky hillside to make an over all view of a guest ranch near here. I had a new Ektar wide angle lens in the camera, an eight( series) lens hood screwed on it, and the bed dropped. I was perched on a narrow ledge with the camera on a tripod which has a removable head. I stooped to get something from my case and my foot caught my focusing cloth. The tripod went over, I caught it, but the head flew off and I watched the camera summersault down a loose rocky hillside for over a hundred feet! A Speed graphic would have been splinters, a Linhof would have been completely wrecked. My ground glass broke in two pieces and fell out instead of in. When I recovered the camera the lens was unscratched though very dusty. The front corners of the bed were somewhat marred and the bed is slightly bent. Enough so that the extension does not pull out easily on the track. This is all the damage that was done. As I needed the camera as quickly as possible I sent it to a camera repair man in Albuquerque. He seems to be having some difficulty in getting the track true.

On two occasions I have been told that you had gone out of business, but I have obtained the above address from one of the local camera stores.

I am writing to find out if you are still making this fine camera and if it is possible to obtain a new bed. The whole piece with the track. My man in Albuquerque could install it, or I can send the camera on, though I am needing it for a trip in the immediate future.

Will you kindly send me this information and the cost of a new bed for this repair.

I have always liked the ruggedness of this camera and certainly I watched a test that could scarcely be equalled. I have had this camera since 1948 and it has given me much satisfaction and had had much hard use. On a tripod in the wind, there is less vibration than with any other camera of similar design.

I will greatly appreciate a prompt reply as I am expecting to leave for an extended field trip sometime next week.

Very truly yours,