

March 14, 1948.

Dear Mr. Smart:

This will recall to you a film called "The Singing Earth" which was begun by me at your request in your Chicago studio. The film was lost in our attic for years and has only this year been found.

When you gave it to me, you doubtless charged it off your income tax and forgot it. I was not so lucky - and I could not do either. In the back of my mind there has been an irresistible urge to finish it as best I could - and so salvage it, and myself from complete defeat.

I realize the headaches this involves - also that you strongly advised against "throwing good money after bad." It is a gamble certainly no one but myself should be asked to take - and I am not asking it.

What I want to do is (a) to rescue it from its ignominious end - and to demonstrate that my ideas were not so visionary and impractical as you seemed to think, and (b) to repay to you and myself our actual out-of-pocket expenses.

The film's eventual appeal will undoubtedly be to Dance groups such as Bennington, Vermont. Now, in connection with interstate laws (I confess my ignorance) or to satisfy an exhibitor - or for any reason that I be asked to show ownership, I should prefer not to be obliged to rely on your old letters, which you may recall are not exactly complimentary. Won't you please send me some sort of brief formal statement expressing your transfer of the film to me? This would simplify at least one problem - the rest is up to me.

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If you still have any of the faith you once had in me, it may easily (or shall I say "possibly"?) be the grain of mustard seed which will justify us both. I hope so from the bottom of my heart.

I now have six most beautiful grandchildren - Bet has given me two adorable granddaughters. I hear from Kit that you and Gaby are married - Congratulations. Hope you will be blessed with a family - there is nothing like it in all the world. Please remember me to Gaby. Kit's middle daughter, Helen, was married last week - this makes two marriages for her and one granddaughter.

Time marches on indeed!

Sincerely,

(Signed) Nell Dorr.

Sunday

March 14, 1948.