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16 Derrick Avenue,
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South Africa.

2nd August, 1954.

My Dear Danny,



Well you're back home again and well settled in. I hear you are working on a new film, and I hope it is going to be as successful as "Knock on Wood".

We enjoyed this film very much, but I must say that the Technicolour print was a bit crappy. I suppose Paramount reckon it is good enough for South Africa, what the hell do they know out there, but you can tell them from me, we know enough to judge a decent colour print. Nevertheless it ran at the Colosseum for five weeks, which, for Johannesburg, is "very very nice", and we were most "impressed". I have since heard that "Knock on Wood" grossed more than "The Greatest Show on Earth" which must mean that Dena Productions are in the boodle.

I hope your film trip in India was successful. There was a picture of you holding a little Indian baby in one of our local newspapers.

By the way, I must mention about your 16 Millimetre Camera. You will notice when you see your colour films on the Screen that your 3" Telephoto lens (i.e. the edge of it) can be seen whenever your wide angle lens is in use. This means that the turret on the Bell and Howell Camera is not matched to the lenses which you are using and, therefore, every time you use your wide angle lens the view includes part of your 3" Telephoto lens so obviously, when "shooting" in future with the wide angle lens, you should take your 3" lens off the Camera. When you see your movies shot at the Native War Dance you will notice that I had removed the 3" lens. I know it is a bit late to mention the above, but at the time I had no idea what was happening.

Incidentally, the small African Game Heads which I promised you are nearly finished, and will be sent on to you and Eddie when complete. How are dear Sammy and Eddie? Please give them my kindest regards when you see them, and tell Eddie I shall be writing to him in due course.

I hope you managed to have your intended holiday in Honolulu. It must have been wonderful on those vast stretches of beach.

- My...../

My assignments up to now have been various - Newsreels and a couple of Documentaries.

For your information the Cape is miserably wet and cold, and they are experiencing bad floods and land-slides. So much for the Cape which you liked so well.

I bumped Google Hoffman in the street the other day, and he tells me he had a Letter-card from you. I am glad somebody is hearing from you in the Union.

Jack Higgins and I were browsing through your Albums and I think you, your family, and friends, are going to have a lot of fun looking at these pictures. They certainly conjure up very pleasant memories, and I hope you are missing us as much as we are missing you.

We hear your recordings over the Air very often these days, and Zelda and my sister Doreen go into raptures. I have all my time cut out telling them to "shut up" so I can listen.

Please give my love to your wife Sylvia and Dena, even though I have not met them, but I hope to one day.

If you can find time, and it doesn't break your wrist, please pen me a few lines - I would love to hear from you.

Thanks for all your kindness and a wonderful tour. "Take somma' 'dis and somma' dat". Love to you from my family.



Sincerely,
Love and kisses,

David

P.S. You will notice that I did not end one sentence with the word "with".