

Jan. 18, 1924

Col. Ed Fletcher
Eighth St
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Sir;

Our arrangements for producing pictures in the near future are steadily being pushed along, and we are expecting to be in position to shoot within two weeks.

So, we are herewith submitting request that, if agreeable to you, we be granted the use of lots 9, 10, 11 in plot of Grossmont Park for the building of Motion Picture sets, covering a years service with permission to remove such sets and properties as we may need to do at any time.

Very Truly Yours,

Raymond Wells

280-26
X-90

January 25, 1924.

Mr. Raymond Wells,
c/o S. L. Studios,
Grossmont, Calif.

My dear Sir:

Acknowledgment is hereby made of your letter of January 18th and in reply will say, I do not care to make any arrangements until the expert makes his report.

Without any reflections on you, I would like to know how you are going to finance your project.

To me it seems hopeless.

Yours sincerely,

EF:KLM

February 21, 1924.

Mr. Raymond Wells,
c/o S. L. Studios,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Wells:

It is the intention of the Grossmont Park Co. to file suit in the near future to reclaim its lands from the S. L. Studios.

I am writing this letter just to notify you and will wait a reasonable time before filing the suit in case you care to take the matter up with me further. I would like to see you once more, if you are in town, before the Grossmont Park Company files the suit.

Yours very truly,

EP:KLM

February 26, 1924.

S. L. Studios,
San Diego, California.

Attention Mr. Wells

Gentlemen:

I thank you for your courtesy in allowing Mr. Everts to examine the S. L. Studio books, but he says he has not anyone he can spare until the 15th of March but if he can have the books in his possession he can do it at odd times himself and get it done within the next week or ten days, with what work has already been completed.

Under the circumstances would you please lend Mr. Everts the old books. I will personally be responsible for same and have asked Mrs. Moody to please present this letter.

I promise to return the books in the same condition as they are and on two days' written notice will return them. Your courtesy in this matter will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

EP:KLM

S L STUDIOS - SAN DIEGO
EXECUTIVE OFFICES SPRECKELS BUILDING

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
La Mesa, Calif.

April 21st, 1924.

Mr. Ed. Fletcher,
c/o The Ed. Fletcher Co.,
920 - 8th St.,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:-

After looking over the Trial Balance compiled by Vreeland & Everts, we agree fully with you that it is high time that some action be taken. The Trustees of S & L Studios are, therefore, going to place the matter in the hands of a competent attorney, seeking advice upon the method of procedure.

If you have any information that might assist us in straightening out this deplorable state of affairs, we shall be very grateful.

We have been trying for sometime to ferret out certain complications relative to the standing of the Studios, which has been brought about by former Trustees, and have made some progress, but owing to the fact that a few stockholders withheld their confidence from us, there still remains some questions unanswered. However, in the past few days we have succeeded in winning over some of these shareholders, and are gradually having more light thrown upon the entire situation.

You will understand, Sir, that when we were appointed as a Trustee of S & L Studios, we were a total stranger to their past transactions, and had no idea that matters were so muddled as we afterwards found them.

Our whole ambition now, is to straighten this entire affair up to the best benefit of all parties concerned, shareholders, creditors, yourself, and Mr. Hart, who can ill-afford to lose the enormous amount of money he has tied up in this proposition.

We ask your assistance, and will co-operate with you in seeing that justice is done.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond Wells
S L STUDIOS

RW/D

(Copy)

GEORGE H. STONE

Spreckels Building
San Diego, Calif.

April 22nd, 1924.

Raymond Wells,
c/o S-L Studios,
La Mesa, California.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 21st inst., received. I have also received from Mr. Kosch, Mr. Sawyer's attorney, the list, which you sent to him, of checks for which there were no vouchers. I will give you what information I have been able to get.

Mr. Hartman was the chief of the high pressure stock salesmen employed last summer. The last of his collections were so forced and unsatisfactory that he forced his own settlement. In other words, he took subscriptions on part cash and part time, collected the cash and took out of the cash his twenty percent commission. In order to make a record of it when he turned in a subscription, there was a check for the amount of his twenty percent commission in each case drawn to the order of cash, charged to his account and deposited in the Bank to the credit of S-L Studios. It was merely a book-keeping entry, the money in any case did not go out of the Studio bank account and in this way they showed the payment of Hartman's commission, which he had, as a matter of fact, paid to himself. This applies to

Check No. 1400 for \$505.00

Check No. 1409 for \$800.00

Check No. 1410 for \$800.00

Check No. 1440 for \$5,373.00

and each check shows for what it was issued.

The Studio pay roll was always taken care of in cash. Checks were drawn to cash, if the firm had it, and the help paid in cash. In some cases when the firm was short of money, Mr. Sawyer paid the help and then the check was drawn to him when there was funds and in each case you will find written on the back of the checks whose salaries

Raymond Wells,

4/22/24

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were paid. This applies to

Check No. 1439 to cash for \$260.00
Check No. 1529 to Sawyer for \$100.00
Check No. 1466 to cash for \$214.50
Check No. 1473 to cash for \$391.00

A similar situation appears in regard to the salary of Mr. Gordon, check No. 1404 A-2 for \$500.00 and also check No. 1404 A to cash for \$750.00 to pay the electrician who installed the cables and also check No. 1524 to Mr. Sawyer for \$150.00 and likewise check No. 1526 to Mr. Sawyer for \$200.00 for the same electrician, --money advanced by Mr. Sawyer for that purpose.

Two other checks payable to cash for commissions were drawn with which to pay cash commissions the checks showing on themselves what they paid, being

Check No. 1455 for \$415.00
Check No. 1474 for \$110.00

As to the electrical equipment, you remember Mr. Hart loaned the money to Mr. Sawyer to pay for this. Mr. Sawyer paid it in cash from his account and there were checks drawn to reimburse him or to go direct to the electrical equipment houses to apply on purchase price of this equipment. The checks themselves will show, by endorsement and by explanation on the voucher, to whom they were paid and what they were for. Check 1441-A to cash for \$1,890.65 went either to Winfield Kerner or Cinema Supply Company. Check 1467 to cash for \$1,143.34 to Winfield Kerner Company. You will note the balance due by the Studio on their account is now just twice that amount. Also check No. 1522 to Mr. Sawyer for \$1,143.34 to apply on the Winfield Kerner account and check No. 1525 to Mr. Sawyer for \$382.22 for the same company's account which is the amount of monthly payment due to them, there being five (5) of them unpaid.

As for the other checks for which you ask detailed information I cannot give you very much satisfaction. They were all on the voucher check form with explanation on them. I will give you what little I know. Checks No. 1336 and 1365 U. S. National Bank interest \$31.86 and \$10.86 respectively on notes given by Mr. Sawyer for money deposited

April 24, 1924.

Mr. Raymond Wells,
La Mesa, Calif.

My dear Mr. Wells:

We are returning herewith letters from the U. S. National Bank and from George H. Stone regarding S. L. Studios matters.

Yours very truly,

AH

Raymond Wells,

4/22/24

-3-

in Studio account. Check No. 1373 to cash for \$22.50 for Mr. McLeod's traveling expenses. Check No. 1402 to cash for \$335.00 for interest paid by Mr. Sawyer, I believe, on the first mortgage to Mr. Weelstaneroff from February to September. Check 1440 to cash, opening expense, for \$1,280.00 was part of \$1,500.00 drawn in cash to pay for transportation and other expenses incidental to the opening of the Studio. This is money, which, I believe, some of the shareholders claim was paid for a Tiajuana dinner for the movie fans who were at the opening. Perhaps it did, I don't know. Check OOXI New York Life Insurance Company for \$1,124.25 was the premium on insurance policy on the life of A. H. Sawyer for the benefit of S-L Studios for their protection in case of his death. Check No. 1442-A to cash for \$2,500.00 I know nothing about. Check No. 1454 to cash for \$150.00 for J. C. Tandy was part of \$250.00 paid to him for his efforts to secure a broker who would take the whole \$150,000.00 issue of stock. The arrangement for it was made in my office and I saw the money paid to Mr. Tandy. Checks No. 1519 and 1527 to Mr. Sawyer for \$200.00 each were the salary of Bert Ennis, employed as publicity agent for the Studio. Checks 1520 and 1521 for \$25.00 and \$18.40 respectively I know nothing about.

I trust you can check these up and give proper credit for them.

Yours very truly,

GEO. H. STONE

GHS/MD

PHONE: LA MESA 188-W

CABLE ADDRESS: "HALOWEL"



September 10, 1924

Col. Ed Fletcher,
920 8th Street,
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Sir:

The inclosed copy of letter is

self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Raymond Wells

RW/H



September 11, 1924

Col. Ed Fletcher,
920 8th St.,
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed find copy of letter to Hart-Loring-Wells stockholders. Also, copy of Arthur Brisbane's article in today's "Los Angeles Examiner."

We are still strong in our belief that educational films, properly produced, cannot fail to be successful. Our organization is going along nicely, but we still need lots of good, moral and financial support. Success of the Hart-Loring-Wells Institution might ultimately mean success for S & L. If we had a sufficient amount of our capital stock sold, we might be in a position to lease S & L upon proper terms.

Very truly yours,

Raymond Wells
H

RW/H

C O P Y

9-10-24

Mr. Wells:

If trustees feel disinclined to provide funds for necessary overhead, past and future, it is inconsistent for O'Brien and myself to continue. I feel some others should evidence responsibility and good faith. It's unfair ask us donate funds to live on in addition to services. Early decision urged.

(Signed) Whaley

-- COPY --

Dear Sir:

It is our intention to keep you informed from time to time as to the progress we are making.

We are now in a position to start the actual making of the scenes; which means, in substance, that the first motion picture plant ever established for the manufacturing of educational pictures only, is on its way. Every day the field for distribution grows larger. Pictures for pedagogical use are becoming a necessity. Great educators see the possibilities of the Camera and Screen to be used in conjunction with the textbook.

The road of the pioneer is usually a rough one, and we have had our share of ups and downs, but believe now that the end is in sight, and that in a short time we will have a substantial, going Institution of some magnitude. We have attempted to build the organization upon a sound and honest basis, and this fact alone has tided us over. We now ask for your further co-operation. We want you to talk about us. Tell your friends and neighbors about the institution of which you are a part, that you have helped to bring to San Diego. Tell them of the great good an establishment of this sort will do for the community. The publicity it will bring and the monies that will be expended here. This money does not come from the pockets of this community alone, but a school in China who runs our pictures will contribute its portion as well. In fostering this undertaking you have brought the manufacturing of the highest type of film (the truly educational picture) into our vicinity.

A new branch of the industry is being built up and the field for its product is much larger than that of the theatrical field alone. Let us not disturb Hollywood. Let us lend our efforts toward this different branch of the industry and build up another great picture colony. Associated and working with us we will have some of the world's greatest educators.

Remember that we will always be glad to see you. Come, look at the progress we are making.

Very truly yours,

HART-LORING-WELLS

By _____
President

RW/H

-- COPY --

Excerpt of article by Arthur Brisbane appearing in the "Los Angeles Examiner" of September 11, 1924.

An intelligent German, knowing that the Government wants to make the Dawes plan popular, says, "Explain it on motion picture films for ten minutes every day."

In an hour motion pictures can teach the young mind, young in years, or young in digesting power, more than books could teach in one month.

The future of the motion picture is in the schools. George Eastman of Rochester, who, it is said, plans to develop education by moving pictures, will render a great service to human knowledge.

HART-LORING-WELLS

September 25, 1924.

Mr. Raymond Welles,
La Mesa, California.

My dear Mr. Welles:

Mr. Hart told me last night that you are thinking of making some pictures and using the S. L. Studios for a few days.

Under no condition should you use that building until you have consulted Mr. Chambers and found out whether in any way it is going to conflict with or violate the lease between Arnett and Jenson and the S. L. Studios, and my advice to you is to have everything in writing and under no consideration take any steps to use this building until you have made definite and legal arrangements with the S. L. Studios trustees.

Yours very truly,

EF:AH

*cc - Claude Chambers
F. M. White
Wm. R. Wheeler*

Given to Mr. Hart to be delivered to Mr. Welles

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 33 Folder: 11

General Correspondence - Wells, Raymond



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