

384  
4008 Ramsey Avenue, Austin,  
Texas, 78756 USA,  
February 8th, 1989,  
512-452-0537.

Dear Joe,

To tell you I got a very funny communication the other day. Some bloke sent me a shot of a starving Armenian and penned a short note on the back that had me believing it was YOU. Oh well, someone must set a horrible example I guess.

I was most interested in the portion of that letter from The Wunderkind who says he NEVER communicated with HOFFIE. Not true. I was personally with him, standing right by his side, when in response to my "please" that he stop the childish ~~adding~~ ~~with~~ HOFFIE and come to terms, he DIRECTLY CALLED HOFFIE on the phone and chatted with him for some twenty minutes.

True I didn't hear what was said to Joe by HOFFIE, but to judge from what JOE said, the conversation was a cordial one. When Joe hung up, I asked him what HOFFIE had said and Joe replied that he said something to the effect that "They had persecuted Jesus Christ and Abraham Lincoln and who am I to complain." Thus HOFFIE lumped himself with the mortals and all without the benefit of clergy.

Re Inch's claim that he lifted and carried around a room THREE TIMES the block that Charles Vansittart used as a challenge in his stage act, I reply in that old, and hoared phrase, word rather BULLSHIT. Never ONCE in all Vansittart's career was that block EVER lifted by ANYONE other than Charles himself. Now here was a man who had incredible power of the hand and arm and you might well do a bit about him in a future report.

He could take a pack of cards in his left hand and with the thumb and finger of his right, TEAR a corner out of a corner of the pack he held. He was one of the few who could tear THREE packs of cards at one time. His feat of playing a champagne bottle in the bed of one arm, then closing the forearm onto the upper arm and breaking the champagne bottle, has NEVER been duplicated. He had other extraordinary feats to his credit. Read him up some time. I think Willoughby did a fine article on him for either IM or one of Weider's mags.

Charles stood around 5 feet tall and scaled around 170 odd and had arms he claimed as being 6 inches. He was MUSCLED, like a man with hardly any skin. I never had the chance to see him or meet him. Pity/ but I heard loads about him from Milo Brinn.

I also suggest that you write to Weider and ask HIM questions about my "service" with him. Twist you and I, it could be better termed ZERVITUDE. I started work with him on January 1st, 1950 and quit the end of February 1957. So I had seen FULL years and two months with him and, again twist you and I, he let me leave without a single thank you for all the hard work I had put in. But I, of course, left of my own free will and accord after deciding I had had enough. Again twist you and I. But it would be interesting to read what the man, who I did more for to help give him credibility than ANYONE else he employed. Like Grimek, who WAS YORK, so was I Joe's conscience, or TRIED TO BE. It please be careful what you say. I am not a vengeful man, and can forgive, although I find it hard to forget. I am on good terms with him now---or REASONABLY good terms and, as I draw closely to the end of my life, am trying to leave it with no bitterness left behind. This I will say however. Today his mags just avert the cleanness, the down to earth, forthright quality they had when I was working for him. Of course I can't take all the