



October 29, 2008

Dear Friends,

Over time, I've come to appreciate that farming is a living daily journal. Each year brings a different set of challenges. Recognizing and overcoming those challenges becomes the fabric for our memory of that time and place. My recollections of 1992 (We harvested Beaux Freres in August!), 2001 (sun damage from a heat spike), or 1986 (my first vintage in Oregon) are all still vivid.

2008 will be no exception. This last winter was one of the coldest on record. Are we experiencing global warming or the coming of the next ice age? The winter conditions extended well into the spring months. We had a significant snowfall in northern Oregon on March 27<sup>th</sup>. This was the latest recorded snowfall for most of the valley in our short history. As late as the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, we were experiencing low temperatures at or near freezing.

The cold conditions delayed bud break, the first push of green tissue, to be three weeks later than usual. This delay would prove to be a blessing as we escaped a potentially severe frost. We were behind, but we were safe.

As we moved into late June the weather was mild and clear, ideal for our flowering and set (fertility). Other than a few heat spikes temperatures remained lower than normal through the remainder of the growing season. Unlike 2003, which also began late, we had not gained much ground by September.

Our hopes for an Indian summer to reverse our late start have come true. At this point of writing, we have had weeks of sunny days with crisp mornings and warm as toast late afternoons. All of the fruit is in house, rich with color, aroma, and flavor. The balance of sugar level to acidity may be the best we have seen since the early nineties. The hallmark of this vintage will be Pinot noir that is fully ripe, intense and long lived.



Dick Daniel

Last December we lost a good friend and mentor, Dick Daniel. Dick with his wife Nancy founded Canary Hill Vineyard in 1983. Our association and friendship began with our first contract for their fruit in 1987. Dick and Nancy personally performed most of the work in the vineyard with great care and attention to detail. Dick also performed the management of Carter Vineyard and was responsible for our very fortunate introduction to Jack and Kathleen Carter. From the beginning, it was evident that Canary Hill was a special site. In fact, it was a barrel of that first vintage, which we showed at an open house, that caused a couple to ask us if they could buy the wine on futures, then the couple behind them, and the next.

In 1996 we entered into a lease of the vineyard with responsibility for the management. I did my best to keep up, but I know that watching me wedge the hedger blades into the line posts made Dick wince. Good man and teacher that he

was, he would simply point to a solid oak tree on the edge of the property. I would drive over to the tree, and he would calmly chain the hedger in such a way that we undid my mangling of the hedger frame. It happened more than once. Each time he had the same reaction, no screaming, just a look that said I know you are doing your best, but this machine won't be long for the world if you do not get it together.

In 1997 Mark Gould left the glamorous world of world class cooking to get his fingers dirty. I think found his true calling. Mark took over management of Canary Hill for us and under Dick's guidance, flourished. Together, we have taken the vineyard to a very high level of performance and expression.

Due to Dick's quiet demeanor, few in our industry are aware of his pivotal role in the creation of the LIVE certification program. At our last annual industry conference, The Oregon Wine Symposium, Nancy accepted a lifetime achievement award for Dick which was more than well deserved.

We miss his constant steadfastness to quality, his questioning nature of how to improve the breed and perhaps most of all his wonderful, sly sense of humor. It is people like Dick that have made Oregon a special place to practice the craft of making world class wine.

You may recall that Karen was in Vietnam at this time last year to complete the adoption of our second daughter Evy (yes Jim Doran, still rhymes with Chevy). All went well and the contingent arrived tired but safe and sound back on US soil. It turned out that we were very fortunate that Karen traveled when she did as adoption from Vietnam was suspended shortly after her trip. We feel unbelievably lucky.

To show you the exciting wine of the 2008 vintage from barrel, we will be open on Friday and Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of November, from 10a to 4p. Thanks to all of you for supporting us through these many years. You allow us to continue our effort to produce wine that brings all of us a simple pleasure in life. Thank you for the opportunity.



Evy at Hanoi Hilton



Wright Family

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name 'Ken'.

Ken