



October 31st, 2015

Dear Friends,

We have been blessed with receiving quite fortunate press over the last year. The cover of Wine Spectator last May, with the accompanying in depth article by Harvey Steiman, brought well deserved international attention to Oregon. Just last week, I had the honor of speaking at the New York Wine Experience (Wine Spectator's major event of the year) as one of their five "Wine Stars." The other speakers were Bill Harlan of California, Eric de Rothschild of France, Jean Engelbrecht of South Africa and Angelo and Gaia Gaja of Italy. Heady company indeed.

I am writing this missive on All Hallows' Eve, after judging a local pumpkin carving contest and it brings to mind the author Stephen King. He referred to his incredibly loyal following as his "constant readers." No matter his obvious popularity, he always gave credit to any success he had obtained to those who read his books, not the critics. We at Ken Wright Cellars feel exactly the same way. We credit any success we have had to all of you who have supported our efforts over so many years. We cannot thank you enough. You have allowed us to ply the trade we love, farming outstanding vineyards and being respectful of the inherent quality of the fruit we receive. You have been our "Constant Readers."

In the spring of 1987, a lean white haired gentleman pulled up in the driveway of my modest \$250 per month building in McMinnville, which served as my winery. At the time, he was driving a perfect, early-sixties Ford pick-up with several 50-gallon barrels in the bed. He approached me and related that he and his wife had a property in the coastal hills which had a one acre garden that was their main source of food. Their well had gone dry and the garden would fail without water. I was happy to help, however due to renovation of the building, my only available water was in the crawl space below. I snuck underneath the structure, connected a water hose and gave him the spouting end of the hose. He thanked me profusely. I had several guests at the time and by the end of my visit with them, he was gone, water turned off and the hose neatly curled.

Eight years later, in 1995, when I had relocated to Carlton, there was a knock on the winery door. I opened it and a white hair gentleman said, "You may not remember me but you saved my garden years ago. I'm retired now but wish to be of service to you. How can I help?" This was my second introduction to Charles K. Trehwella, "Father T."

Since that moment, Father T has worked every day of harvest, with the exception of Sundays and the year his dear wife Alice passed, giving enormous amounts of his time to our winery. He has been my ideal monitor on our sorting line. Nothing passes Father T, neither leaves, bugs, rot or under ripe fruit get beyond him. He is our quality control manager at the highest level. He has been our last line of defense for the last 20 years, as well as a dear friend in times both good and difficult.



This year, we've created a special Father T cartoon for the back of our harvest t-shirt in honor of his years of volunteerism. Next to Father T, you see his wife Alice's watch taped to the wall. He brings the watch each day to harvest to help him manage the crew's breaks throughout the day.

Another valued and long term relationship began in 1990 with Jack and Kathleen Carter. For those with some longevity, you may remember that 1990 was a seminal year. Not only for Oregon, but also for Germany, Champagne, Burgundy, Italy and so many other wine regions of the world. Perhaps the best vintage worldwide ever. It was our first year of creating vineyard designated Pinot noir, which at the time included Carter and Canary Hill vineyard.

In the beginning, our relationship with the Carters was a simple acreage contract. By the end of the 90's, we began farming the vineyard. For 25 years, we have loved this site and have promoted it as if it were our own. Vineyard managers, Mark and Seth, both held their weddings on the property.

This last year, Kathleen and Jack approached us about purchasing their vineyard. They could have put the property on the open market and very possibly, we may not have been competitive. But Kathleen and Jack cared more about our relationship, cared more about our

effort to promote what they had created and cultivated. Instead, they wished to find a way for us to acquire the site. Kathleen and Jack Carter epitomize what Oregon is all about. Relationships matter. Friendships matter.



Photo of Jack and Kathleen Carter

2015 was the warmest year in Oregon's recorded history; records have been kept throughout the valley since 1924. This level of heat was initially a concern for us hoping that we would not see the vines struggling at the end of the season from drought induced stress. In fact, what we saw at the season's end were vines with a lush and vibrant canopy. The nutrition-based farming that we have practiced for so many years, really showed its value at the end of the growing season. Rather than achieving high sugar levels through water stressed dehydration, the vines were still fully physiologically active. There was very little senescence (yellowing of the leaves) at harvest. This is a testament of the hard work and focus of our vineyard team; Mark, Seth and Taylor.

The wines of 2015 are lush, forward and immediately rewarding. We hope you can join us to taste this incredible vintage out of barrel on November 27th and 28th at Ken Wright Cellars Winery, from 10am to 4pm.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ken', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ken