

October 26, 1944.

Dear Kaz:

Well, seems I never get around to answering my mail before it piles up. This time I have more than one reason for doing this...in the first place, I have taken a beautiful cold or it could even be the "flu". It rained two days last week and I would make it my business to be right out in it one of those days. I was soaked to the skin and thought I was all dried out, but evidently I should have changed completely which I did not do. I felt bum from then on and finally yesterday morning I woke up with a head like a bass drum and a heck of a pain in my chest and back. Now I know I have at least got a swell cold and I feel miserable...so bad in fact, that it has kept me in the house for hours today. I only go to the dryer when a truck drives by, just to weigh in the loads and then if there is a stack of juice to weigh out I do that and hurry right back to the house and a nice warm heater. We have had four days of real warm weather this week, but I still feel cold. I only hope it will ease off tomorrow because there is too much work to be done for anyone to lay around nursing a cold these days.

I am glad that you wrote me about Sam. I have been wanting to write you on the subject, but as usual, kept putting it off, primarily because I was under the impression that you would soon be home with the old folks again and I did want this discussed with your Grandad. As it is now, that you won't be going back before December, we will have to get it worked out some way by mail between you, unless you manage to get home some weekend. I really don't know how far away you are from there and if you do manage to get there often. Anyway, I would like to present all the facts to you and then wish you would give all these points your careful consideration. I want to do what I feel will be best for all concerned, primarily what is best for you folks. These two years that I have handled the place I have worked as hard and earnestly as possible to make all possible for you. It really has taxed both Joe and I a lot more than we bargained for. If help was as easy to get as it used to be, it would be a very simple matter, but the fact remains that it is hard to get the right kind of help, wages are terribly high, the help is very inefficient and it taxes one to capacity to put up with it. We found out in 1943 that it really took two managers to handle both places right. One up there all through the harvest season in order that the most could be gotten out of that place and another one here to watch over this harvesting and over the dryer. We managed through it in a haphazard way in 1943, struggled with the help, spent long hours loading and hauling at night as well as day and did very well, I thought, under the trying circumstances. I will admit that I was sick to see the stuff that wasted, but it was that way all around us and everybody had the same problem. I resolved that it shouldn't happen again and when I decided to undertake the task again this year it was only because the fellow who helped us out at the end of the season last year told me that he would be able to spend the summer up there, watching over the picking crew and driving tractor for hauling out and loading and driving to the packing house. As it turned out after all the arrangements were made to handle the place, he bought a place of his own and didn't give us one hour this summer. I had to do most of the driving for everything because Joe had to be here preparing the dryer and taking care of our stuff and Johnny's. It really worked a hardship on me to have to go up there every morning with the crew of Mexicans that were housed here, stay with them all day, keep them in boxes and drive and help load because they are so darned slow and so slow about learning how to load boxes correctly. Well, I stayed with it until Joe could leave his work at the dryer then he went up every day until the end of the season. I will say this, we never lost one apple this year...we picked every last one that was fit for the packing house

and picked up every one either for the dryer or the juice works. We did what I thought was a very good job of this, but on the other hand, we were all more or less inexperienced at the job and the Mexicans were absolutely new at the game. The fruit sized nicely, but not enough of it sized in time for the early green stuff. I was always under the impression that the fruit could be picked there for early green stuff much earlier than on this ranch, but this is the second year now that I find it not true. I took samples from there before these each year and each year found to my surprise that it was not large enough to pass the requirements. The only stuff we were able to pick early this year was at Johnny's place and that was because it had a very small crop and they grow like pumpkins and hollow-cored. Even there, we had to wait a week after the first pool in order to pay us to pick. You know how that green stuff goes, they send it out while the market is good then they quit and we can't pick any more until the stuff passes the maturity test. I took apples from up there into the office two times before they were fit to go, according to the inspector, and by that time quite a bit of stuff was already falling in some parts of the orchard. Well, after we started, we had a crew of from five to seven Mexicans there every day until we ran into the same trouble as last year - the packing house couldn't handle them and we had to register the truck and couldn't get in better than one load per day. That lasted for weeks just like last year. If the crop had been any heavier, we would have had them piled high on the ground, but lucky this year, we just seemed to keep up with them. There were days during the jam when we had to find other work for the Mexicans to do and that was a problem, too, because we wanted them for later when we knew we could use them. We let them cut old trees in the back end of this place, loaned them out to others and managed to get by pretty nicely without costing us anything extra, but it had us worried for a while. You know, they are guaranteed a minimum of 36 hours per week and when we had 12 of them here it was a trial sometimes keeping them going. Believe me, we were very thankful to have them, though, and now that we can't figure on any more we are beginning to get worried. That, along with the knowledge that it will be impossible for Joe or I to devote all our time to it during the thick of the harvest and impossible for us to figure on hiring a person who is responsible enough to trust with it, leads me to make this decision. I am sure that if everything went smoothly, with the help needed, when needed, and enough of either my time or Joe's devoted to it, we can make a lot more money for you folks than by letting it out this way. But, in view of what is in store for us in the line of help for next season, I must admit that I cannot promise to save the crop as it should be done and as I would want to do. To climax all this trouble, I have been very miserable, without being able to blame any certain thing, but the doctor telling me that I would have to take it much easier, both physically and mentally if I don't want a lot of trouble pretty soon. I know that my nerves have been completely shot for the past two years and gradually getting worse. I can't stand the kids around and everything annoys me terribly. It really is not fair to them, while they are so small. It has been out of the question for me to even try to keep house and consequently everybody suffers. Joe has a stomach that can't stand much abuse - eating so many sandwiches and stuff out of cans hasn't helped it a bit and he is beginning to show it very distinctly. In all fairness, to myself, to Joe and to my family, I feel that I should follow the doctor's advice this coming year. Honestly, Kaz, I am torn between two fires in this affair. I feel that I will be doing the wrong thing for myself if I attempt to take care of it next year, on the other hand, I want to see you folks get the most out of it and I am only sure of that when I do handle it myself. I believe that Sam is the best person for that ranch -

he can prune just as you wish, the cultivation there is very easy to do, and he should know enough about spraying to take care of that in good shape. He has admitted to me a couple of times that your late stuff is much cleaner than any time that you folks had it. I don't know how true this is, but I do know that they were fairly clean last year and they are swell this year. Even the Spitz were perfect. We are now finishing up the Romes and the Wageners and they are as clean as can be. We find a worm here and there but always where two apples were together. Joe and I certainly were faithful with the spraying, we really tried to keep them clean and I believe succeeded very well. The effects of that Nitrate are showing up wonderfully in the late stuff. With the heavy crop the Spitz and Wageners had, I wish you could see the dandy size, especially the Wageners. As a matter of fact, the Romes, Delicious and Red Romes were large and they all had a nice crop. I thinned almost all varieties this year, when the men had all the boxes filled during the Grav season and they had a little time left over I put them to thinning the late stuff because I was planning on the prices that they brought the year before. As you know, the ceiling went on at the end of the Grav season and of course, the late stuff suffered. At that, I think the returns will be pretty fair, anyway, but much lower than last year. I was terribly dissatisfied in the amount of culls they sent back to us from the Standard Delicious, but found out that there was no market for them and they just had to take them for size and color, everything else came back. I believe there will be returns for around 225 boxes of all late varieties, that is, Romes, Red Romes, Delicious, Starkings and Jonathans. The Jons just did not size up so we didn't deliver any more than last year. All in all, I know the results will be very good. Well, all this as a matter of information for you, I will send you all the figures when I can get them. At any rate, it simmers down to this: Joe said that Sam told him he would like the place either on a cash deal or on terms. He has no equipment of any kind and I believe he expects to use your equipment. The tractor is not in good shape - I never had a bit of trouble with it all summer, but it sounds bad and in time it is going to blow up. There is hardly any purpose in putting too much money into it as from what they told us over there last year when they partially overhauled it, the whole thing is badly worn. This year Joe worked on it himself and we got through all the work with it, but it should be gone over before the hard work comes along. Just pulling our orchard truck with small loads on it isn't bad, but when the time comes for it to pull the cultivating equipment I am afraid it will not stand too much. As far as the rest of the equipment is concerned, it will get by with a little care. Joe has had to weld the disc a couple of times, somewhere where you folks had it tied with wire. The springtooth is O.K. and the sprayer worked fine all the time. We blew out one of the hoses once and had that cut and fixed and we had trouble with the guns on numerous occasions, but each time we had ours with us and didn't lose any time - we just used one of ours until Joe had time to work on yours. The ladders need some fixing. I nearly broke my leg on one that I know of - the fourth step up let go while I was standing on it with a bagful of apples and we both came down through the ladder, my left shin taking an awful skinning. I think there is another one there that one of the Mex's fell with that will probably need overhauling. Last Spring Joe and I took three or four of ours and those of yours that looked the worst up here to the corner and that fellow fixed them like new. He put in steps where needed, reinforced the sides of some and really did a swell job for very little money. He told us to take them in early this year and that he will get enough new parts and wood to make a much better job for us. As soon as we finish with the harvesting I want to check them all over and bring down what needs fixing. The picking bags need fixing, too. There is a shoe man here in town now that I think will overhaul them. I will find

out for sure if he patches them and then bring the whole mess in to him. Ours are in terrible shape and for over three years there has been nothing done to them so I can give him a real treat. As far as lugs are concerned, it is a problem on that ranch. This year I borrowed my Dad's again and had to use my brother-in-law's for a couple of days, but just at that time they started checking us at the packing house so we got along with ours and Dad's the rest of the time. Nevertheless, unless he can figure out some way or someone to deliver to in those small boxes he will be out of luck. I even thought of buying 500 new ones, went so far as to price them when I was desperate for them this season, but there wasn't a chance to get one. Glaszer told me that I would have to place the order at the end of this year if I wanted them for next Gray season. The price was 66¢ and he said they might be higher this year. Joe and I are going to get a couple of hundred this year if we can spare the cash. Our boxes are ancient and we lost a lot of them this season through breakage, etc. We are using them to pick up in right now - find them so much nicer than sacks that we decided to have enough so we can do that every year from now on.

Your small boxes are badly worn - I patch and patch, but the wood has so many nails now that it is almost impossible to reinforce them any more. Those things are just out of the picture - we have a friend in the city that has been watching for us, that is, if he finds any appreciable amount to bother with, but he says they are just not to be had. Oscar and Oehlman had thousands of them made up brand new this year - the kind they use are a different size than yours - and I have no idea what they cost them. I know that Glaszer made up most of them and according to what he charges for the others made up, these must have cost plenty, too. The box problem will be Sam's, as far as that goes, because while you folks were there you got by with what boxes you had and he can do the same. As for me, I had to use lugs because the Union would not receive in those others. I have no idea where he would sell his apples. I would like very much to see them go to the Union because I believe he would get the most out of them there, but if he takes the ranch on cash rent he can't put them in there because they won't take new members. If he takes it on shares, then they would go in there in his name and ~~the~~ mine as guardian, which would be O.K. because the guardianship account is already signed up on a contract. That, however, is up to him and he can do as he wishes.

Ranches are being taken on a 75-25 basis right along. When this is done, the renter furnishes everything, including equipment. I believe that if you see fit to let him use the equipment, that should be enough concession to give him. In other words, he is getting the same deal as anyone else would get, but as a special favor he is getting the use of all the equipment. As far as that goes, he will have to use the equipment, for he has nothing of his own. This year a gang of them ran the dryer together and I don't know who put out the cash, but they bought a truck to do their hauling. One fellow drives it all the time - he is George R. sario - guess you know who I mean. Anyway, he seems pretty handy around machinery and I wouldn't be surprised that Sam will have him around when the time comes to do most of the driving. Right now they are all up there, sitting around most of the time playing cards. They have been running one or two days per week, but I believe they are through now. As soon as he knows whether he gets the ranch or not they will probably move to some other kind of work. If he gets it, then some of them will stay and prune, I am sure. Sam came down and tended dryer for his nephew, Bill, a night or two and one of the fellows here told me that he would like awful well to work with them, but for some reason or other, they don't want him. They will be out of work in a couple of weeks, too, so I don't think it would benefit Sam very much to come down. I think personally, that the setup up there this season didn't work too well for him or anyone else. They thought they could just go out and buy up everything in sight, but found out differently when the time came...now he is probably glad that

I talked him into paying by the dried ton. I still believe the dryer should be given out in the same manner, no matter who runs the ranch. Then, if something should happen that the one who runs the ranch can't see fit to run the dryer and someone else wants it, there is always the chance to let it go. The people are still in the house and do not talk about moving. The place looks like a million, and I don't want anything to happen to them to make them sore in any way, because it will be hard to get anyone to equal them. I want Sam to understand that they have the house and yard rented, by that I mean, they have put in a garden and have dug up the whole yard and kept the weeds down, so I consider they have that to do with as they please. He can go in and out of the barn and barnyard as necessary and do as he wishes there, but I don't want him to make Milligan sore about anything done around the house and garden. I am quite sure that Sam would not do that, but I will have a talk with him about it. Once this summer when the whole gang of them and all their fancy cars moved in, they asked me if they could park one of the cars in the garage where the Studie had been and I told them in no uncertain terms that those doors would not be unlocked under any circumstances, excepting when I had to go in there for something. Then one of them asked if he could take down the garden fence and park his car in there under the pine right at the corner of the garden. I told him to ask Milligan and if he wanted a car parked in his garden it would be alright with me. Well, I notice the car never got parked in there and the only time I ever saw a car around there it was parked in the barnyard under the branches of the pine. They are the galliest devils that ever walked. One of them got kinda snotty, ~~to~~ ^{too good to leave out} ~~and~~ ^{had} ~~had~~ ^{him} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~fix~~ ^{fix} ~~himself~~ ^{himself} ~~a~~ ^a ~~place~~ ^{place} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~car~~ ^{car} ~~because~~ ^{because} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~too~~ ^{too} ~~good~~ ^{good} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~leave~~ ^{leave} ~~out~~ ^{out} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~him~~ ^{him} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~fix~~ ^{fix} ~~himself~~ ^{himself} ~~a~~ ^a ~~place~~ ^{place} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~best~~ ^{best} ~~way~~ ^{way} ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~knew~~ ^{knew} ~~how~~ ^{how} - I asked him if I was supposed to build a garage for all the cars they had around there - did I look like I was nuts? Well, he walked away mumbling to himself and some of the others laughed, but they never asked for garages after that.

Now the question of a lot of Filipinos being around there doesn't bother me as much as it did at this time last year. Milligan is in the house and they haven't a chance to get in there...they have to be in the house in the back and people don't see so much of them excepting when they go in or out. Last year when we were discussing the leasing of the ranch there were a number of hints thrown about moving into the big house and that didn't set right with me because too many people dislike that outfit and I didn't want to be responsible for any trouble around there.

Sam hasn't talked about what kind of a lease he wants, although Joe told me that he hinted to him that he would like the place until you folks come back. Last year when we talked, I told him that the lease would be made for one year at the time, and I would promise to let him have first choice at it each year, providing he was doing the right thing. I still feel the same about that - one year at the time. There will be no reason for me to deny him another lease unless he pulls something that is out of reason, or unless the court feels that I should do differently. I have in mind above all other things, that he will strive to do his best in this way, rather than feel that he has it no matter what happens.

Now it simmers down to this: I feel that Sam should have a chance at it - I don't feel that he should be favored as far as I am concerned....he should take it on the same terms as I would give it to anyone else. The only favor will be if you folks desire to let him use all the equipment necessary. If you do favor this, then the question arises - who is going to pay for repairs on the equipment? Joe suggested that the equipment be turned over to him as it is and let him have the tractor repaired and then turn it back to us in whatever shape it is in when he finishes. Joe says this because he says the tractor is worn out and that you folks knew that when you left. We have kept it running by coaxing and repairing as we go whenever it wouldn't go. He says if I

spend the money to put it in pretty good shape now and he wrecks it during the year he uses it, then the money I put out now is just shot, whereas, if he patches it up well enough to get by for the year and then turns it back in poor shape, I will have saved the money, because it won't cost a bit more to fix it when he is through with it than if I put out cash now on it and then some more when he is finished with it. That sounds clear as mud, but the nucleus of the thing is that Joe doesn't think the tractor can get much worse than it is with one more season's use...any amount put out on it now will only keep it working a while longer anyway. The truck is in good shape, with exception of the brakes grabbing. We have had them adjusted, new fluid put in, etc. but they still do the same trick, and my brother did more to remedy it than any mechanic. Nowadays these mechanics just do not know and do more harm than good sometimes. I always had my worse trouble with it when I came out of the roadway there at Hicks with the load on. You know how it is downhill and on a turn. Well, just when I had the wheels turned and applied the brakes is when they would grab and stick. The last time we hauled down dryers from the ranch the darned things froze up on Joe and he stopped it and "bled" them, whatever that is, and he never had any more trouble. We have one more load of dryers to haul down next week and then I intend to have it checked over at the service station and we'll put it away. Unless he has some of those guys that are up there now for partners he will have to use the Studie for all his work. It needs no work done on it as far as we know, it has been performing perfectly - the battery is still the one we put in last year - Joe towed it to get it down here and then we put the battery on the charger and it has been perking ever since. When it is a little low we just put it on the charger. That charger has been a life saver around here and for all our friends, too. We always have someone's battery on it. The sprayer should be in shape - it would probably be a good idea to have Weeks' man check it over before using it again. I think that if I have the machinery checked over and put in shape, then he should hand it back in good shape, with exception of the usual depreciation due to age and normal wear.

I had better shut up - I know you are tired of this by this time. I will not say anything further to Sam until I hear from you, regardless of how long that will be. He asked me to write you, and I told him I would do that after I had a good idea of the income for the year, so that you could figure more accurately. Since then he has not asked me, but he visits very often at the dryer and I imagine he will be asking me again soon. If your Grandad feels that Sam should have it for less than the terms I have mentioned, tell me what he thinks would be best and I will follow directions. I want you to understand that I am not feeling sorry for Sam, I have personal reasons for that - my interests are with you and trying to get the most for you. I want to be as fair to him as to any stranger, but unless I have orders from you folks, I am not going to give him anything for nothing...I have worked too hard up there myself to be guided any other way without special orders to the contrary.

A little later on I am going to send you some figures, I hope. The gravenstein returns will be in and we hope to have an idea as to what the dryer price will be. I will at least, have the figures on what came off of the place in boxes packed and pounds of windfalls. I still have to check all the tags and accounts, but as the work lets up I will have time to do some of this. In the meantime, please take ~~this~~ this matter up with your Grandad and write to me as to his views...he had better make some suggestions if he wants Sam to have any special favors, otherwise I will proceed with him as I would with any other person I was to deal with.

You'll have to ~~admit~~ admit that I don't write often, but you can't say that I don't talk enough when I do. Please don't get discouraged. Take care of yourself and when you write or visit the old folks tell them I said 'hello' and that I am going to send Romes and Wegeners later on