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April 23, 2010

Dear Hans Michel,

Recently I received a letter from Jack Siemer telling me a little about you and that he was looking forward to seeing you in Lahaina. Your name brought up many memories of my years at Pioneer Mill.


How are you doing? I understand that you raise goats in Kanaha Valley. Remember the water overflow problems that we had in Kanaha when I was Plantation Manager and Maui County built a water control structure with a faulty design? As I recall I wanted to have it removed. There was certainly a lot of precious water wasted into the valley and also erosion, including damage to the valley trail. Has that all been rectified?

Along with so many others I have purchased a brick from the Lahaina Restoration Foundation to be placed at the former factory site. I have asked them to show that I was an Agricultural Trainee in 1959 when Karl Berg was manager and Bunt Baldwin was Assistant Manager, Director of Agriculture Research and Control in 1963 to 1967 when Keith Tester was manager and Plantation Manager from 1976 to 1979 when I was transferred to Oahu Sugar as manager. Those were wonderful days, but the Hawaiian Sugar Industry was headed for rapid decline in the 1980's.

In 1984 I had the opportunity to become Managing General Partner of Citrus Partners Management, Inc in Florida which was a start up operation. Over the more that 20 years I worked in the Citrus Industry we planted, purchased and managed over 5900 acres of orange groves, selling our oranges for juice to Tropicana.

I always enjoyed working with you and I hope you are well and prosperous. I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you when I come back to Lahaina one day soon.

Aloha,


(Charlie Hall)

*Received at the 10/12/10 WR Meeting
(Hans Michel)*