

CHASE & CO.

SANFORD, FLORIDA

October 29, 1936.

Mr. S. O. Chase,
Asheville, N. C.

Dear Dad:

Tuesday morning I left here and went down the east coast. I stopped for a short time at the Wabasso Grove. They have had a super-abundance of rain south of Melbourne. The trees on the Wabasso grove are looking excellent, and I cannot see that there has been any damage resulting to the trees. The Hamlins on the young trees have split very badly, and my guess would be we have lost from 25 to 35% of the crop. Henry has the place well mowed, ditches open, and the work well in hand.

The old darkey who once thought he wanted to sell his 40 acres adjoining ours has now decided he can get \$80. an acre. He may be able to do it some time this winter, as real estate values have advanced considerably and there is some activity in that territory.

At Vero Beach I spent some time with Jack Napier Strong, who has leased a packing house at that point, and will operate sort of a truck depot for citrus fruits and vegetables.

We have agreed to finance him to the extent of \$1,500. for buying supplies, field crates, and some of his pay rolls. We will be interested fifty-fifty with him in the results of the packing house. Any fruit that is shipped will be shipped thru us. For the first year I do not expect there will be very much revenue. I think by working on a conservative basis we can in a year or so make a very nice little business from there. Investigations indicate that Strong is well thought of in Vero and by people who have done business with them, but that he has little financial responsibility at present. This is due chiefly to the fact that for the past two years he has endeavored to finance some farming operations and has lost heavily in so doing, but so far as we have been able to ascertain all of his accounts are cleared up, but it has left him without funds.

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#2. Mr. S. O. Chase.

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At Fort Pierce I stopped for a few minutes to look at the new Exchange house. It is a huge affair, and I expect one of the biggest in Florida. This is the house that Bill Mosley manages. The new building is down on the water front, right next to the pre-cooling terminals. They have two units of four sizers to each unit, all equipped with stamping machines and the latest devices of all sort. My guess would be that the machinery in the building cost close to \$100,000.

The vegetable business around Vero and Fort Pierce has been badly damaged by rains, most people think 50% or more. The chances are the heavy rains now may mean good spring crops.

I continued over to Nocatee, where I spent the night. They have started picking Tangerines, and have 100 boxes in the coloring room. We estimate we can get two or three cars of oranges right away, and they started picking yesterday. Oranges have not grown as much in the past few weeks as some of us thought they would. The trees at Nocatee that did not have to be cut back have about all the fruit on them they can carry. The color is good. The texture and shape is satisfactory.

Oranges and Tangerines will be gassed at Nocatee and trucked to Winter Haven where they will be color-added and packed.

Yesterday morning I attended a meeting of the Control Committee in Lakeland. The prorate on grapefruit is 600 cars, no culls or thirds to be shipped; no restrictions on oranges; Tangerines no thirds to be shipped. They are having some complaints about color added treatments. It seems that the treatment that has so far shown up the best, and more uniform, is that of the Food Machinery Company. The dye put out by the Fruit Treating Company, which is the Brogden Company, of Orlando, has shown up splotches and too deep a color. It is the general opinion of those at Lakeland that the next ten days or two weeks would be a very good time to ship oranges.

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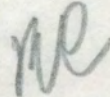
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#3. Mr. S. O. Chase.

October 29, 1956.

The complaint of nearly everyone at the meeting was that they could not get oranges to pass the test. I did not hear much about Tangerines being shipped, but if other people's are passing the test like ours are there will soon be a lot of them.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the initials 'MR'.

CC- Mr. J. C. Chase
Mr. W. A. Leffler
Mr. S. O. Chase Jr.

RC:HMR.