

Dear Friends,

October 2020

A long-time tradition has been when we would plan our gift catalog for the coming shipping season was to include a Dear Friends letter informing our customers of what they might expect in the coming season. This letter however, is bittersweet as we announce that after 72 years in the gift fruit shipping business, Nokomis Groves will not be re-opening our retail fruit store and shipping program. The best news however, is that our beloved and famous ice cream department will remain open in the coming year serving up our luscious orange vanilla swirl, orange, lime, lime and chocolate swirl and pineapple flavors.

We take enormous pride in being the third and 4th generation to take up the legacy and successfully managing our part of Nokomis Groves. We know our grandparents Perry and Annie Lee Hayes, and our parents Gene and Nadine Henderson would be very proud of our successes and how we met and faced the many challenges placed before us in the citrus industry.

We give thanks to all of our loyal customers new and long time for their support and business. We have been told that the top two spots to go to in the Nokomis Area are to watch a sunset at the Nokomis Jetty and to visit Nokomis Groves. Our winter customers tell us we are the first place they would come to when back in Florida and the last place on their way home. It has been our honor to serve you.

One day someone will say, remember when:

*The scent of orange blossoms wafted through the air every spring.

*Opening day each fall with the anticipation of fresh squeezed orange juice, tasty Florida made citrus marmalades and candies, and a variety of Florida honey.

*A sample of fresh squeezed orange and grapefruit juice was only a nickel, and it was for 72 years. Blossom, thanks you.

*People asking, What were those giant trees with the large red flower? "It's a Bombax".

*The smell of oranges in our store, watching fresh picked fruit being cleaned, sorted and gift boxes being packed and sent throughout the US and Canada.

*Meeting with old friends and making new friends on the front porch eating ice cream.

Respectfully,

Brenda and David Kemerer

Laura Henderson

Sandra Henderson

Joanna Pal