

Fall 1987

No. 20, The Gadding Vine, Fall 1987

Markko Vineyard

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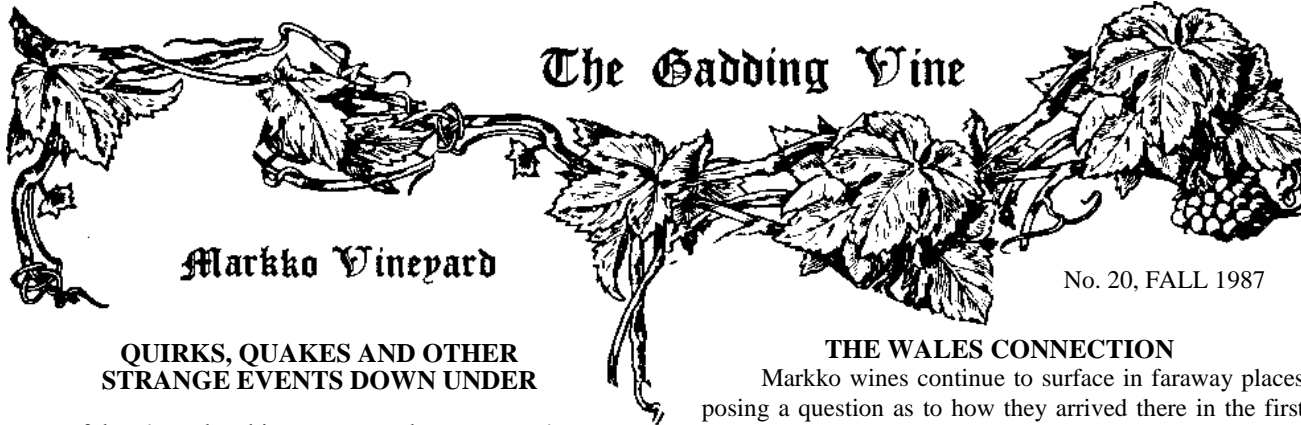


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The Gadding Vine

Markko Vineyard

No. 20, FALL 1987

QUIRKS, QUAKES AND OTHER STRANGE EVENTS DOWN UNDER

If there's such a thing as a normal summer, we've never seen it here on South Ridge Road. This year's sultry season was quirkier than usual producing its share of startling events (over which we had no control as usual).

For those of you who live outside Ashtabula County, a summary of nature's prodigality follows: On July 13, we were socked by an early morning earthquake, measuring 3.6 on the Richter Scale. Although the quake did little more than startle those of us on the edge of sleep, the explosive sound was unsettling, reminding us of the earlier "event" in January when a 5 pointer on the R.S. rattled everything but our teeth. One explanation for this increase in seismic activity in Northeast Ohio was advanced recently by Columbia University Seismologist John G. Armbruster suggesting the quakes were man-made caused by the increase in brine injection wells in the area. Apparently, the wells create pressure along the fault, (which we know exists here), shifting underground formations just enough to trigger an earthquake. Man-made or an act of nature, it was a peculiar experience for those of us outside California . . . and then there was the tiny tornado or microburst that struck the South Ridge Road Vineyard July 25 around 9:00 in the morning, flattening two rows of vines and snapping posts like so many matchsticks. The area affected measured 70 by 50 feet, large enough to look like the vineyard had been steamrollered. Fortunately, we discovered the damage early and with the help of our able crew - Bruce, Jeff and Ali - quickly replaced the posts and hoisted the trellis back into position.

With so many dry, hot days this summer reaching well into the 80's and 90's, harvest will be earlier than expected - perhaps about the time you read this. And please, let's skip the rain this fall; we've had enough mud-slogging and soggy harvests for one vineyard!

THE WALES CONNECTION

Markko wines continue to surface in faraway places posing a question as to how they arrived there in the first place. The latest instance was reported to us by two families (neither known to us nor each other), who recently returned from visits to Rhyd-Garn-Wen, a bed and breakfast inn in Cardigan, Wales. The owner, former BBC announcer Hew Jones, is a Markko enthusiast and served our wine to his American visitors, much to their surprise and ours. When they returned to the States, they each landed on our doorstep bringing this tale of a similar experience but separate occasions. We should mention that the families in question - The Bresnicks of Madison, Wisconsin and the Garvers from Youngstown — were unanimous in their enthusiasm for Rhyd-Garn-Wen; its cuisine and hospitality are well-known throughout England ... If any of our GV readers plan to travel to Wales, you're welcome to call for the Inn's address as you do need reservations well in advance.



Congratulations to the winners of Markko's 1987 Chardonnay Cup Blitz Chess Tournament held July 11. U.S. Chess Federation Life Master Ross F. Sprague (defending champion) shared the winner's circle with National Master Kevin Smith sending Clevelanders home with a case of Markko Chardonnay. Bill Nimoliqych (Cleveland) took first senior prize and Jerry Howard from Kingsville took first under 1800. (The level of this year's tournament on an average rose from 1756 to 1891, making it very competitive for a small tournament.) The team award went to Ross Sprague, Don Collins and Joe McCarty, again repeat winners from last year.



WATCH FOR OUR HALLOWEEN TASTING OF MARKKO'S NEWEST RELEASES

Friday, October 30, 7-9 p.m.
Saturday, October 31, 1-5 p.m.



He looked around the shop as if at a new world. "Is there anything you can't drink wine with?" he said.

"As far as I'm concerned . . . grapefruit."

He made a face.

"And that's from one," I said, "who drinks wine with baked beans, who practically scrubs his teeth in it."

"You really love it?"

I nodded. "Nature's magical accident."

"What?"

"That the fungus on grapes turns the sugar in grape juice to alcohol. That the result is delicious.

"For heaven's sake . . ."

"No one could have invented it," I said. "It's just there. A gift to the planet. ELEGANT."

— Dick Francis
Proof

A WORD FROM THE MAN IN THE BLUE HAT

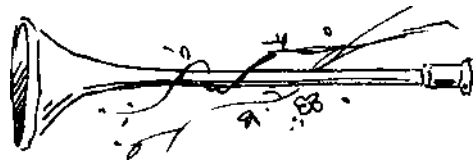
Each time the Gadding Vine begins to take shape as a "bridge" to you, our customers, I feel a need to express our thanks for your continued support.

It's been almost 20 years with ups and downs, good vintages and some not so good. In the process, you have shared Markko wines (and your enthusiasm for them) with others so that the body of wine lovers has grown steadily. Your interest in what we are trying to do has been vital to us, keeping us on course and in pursuit of a noble goal - an enjoyable and distinctive wine from the Lake Erie region. For this, we at Markko say THANK YOU!

THINGS MEN HAVE MADE

Things men have made with wakened hands, and put soft life into are awake through years with transferred touch, and go on glowing for long years. And for this reason, some old things are lovely, warm still with the life of forgotten men who made them.

— D.H. Lawrence



NELSON GRAPHICS once again offers our customers the Vintage '88 wine calendar which features gorgeous photographs and profiles on 12 American wineries (one of which is Markko). The calendar is offered in two editions: Standard measuring 7" X 10" and the Deluxe measuring 10" X 14", retailing at \$3.95 and 8.95 respectively. Information and sample copies are available at the Winery or may be ordered by phone at (203) 966-8230.

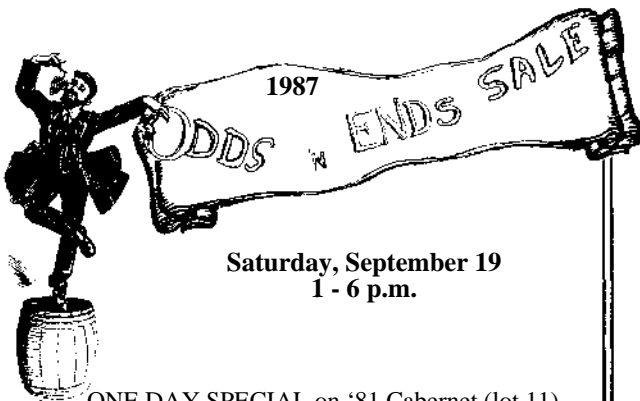


OFF THE LEES . . . "'tis my delight, alone in summer's shade, to pipe a simple song" and remember . . . the smooth, easy style of Northcoast Jazz and its leader Buzz Cronquist who plays the sweetest clarinet this side of New Orleans . . . the Blessing of the Vines with Father Lukehart, Ed Wolfe and Jim Onion who together offer the message of God's handiwork high in a vineyard overlooking Lake Erie . . . Arnie's return to the stage as the crusty founding father, John Hancock, in the Ashtabula Arts Center's production of 1776 (with Cissy Hubbard, a melodious Abigail Adams) . . . the sweltering days of June and July which drained the energy from even the hardest of our vineyard crew - Bruce, Jeff, John, Jeff L., Ali, Dennis and Linda - who without complaint, pressed on doing what needed to be done . . . the return of old friends and a host of new ones . . . get your skis waxed; winter's coming!



Standing in the field I hear
the whispering of
snowflake to snowflake.

-Richard Wright



Saturday, September 19
1 - 6 p.m.

ONE DAY SPECIAL on '81 Cabernet (lot 11) at \$48.00 pr. case; '81 Chardonnay (lot 123) at \$48.00 pr. case. Call or mail in your order prior to Sale day and we'll ship it UPS for the sale price plus shipping.

TASTINGS of available wine from our list.

PICNIC FOOD . . . grilled hamburgers, hot-dogs and s'mores; apples, chips and a sweet or two.

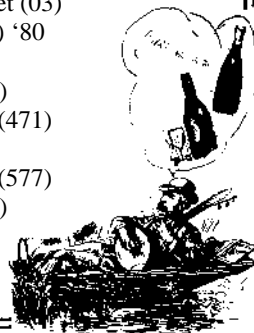
LIVELY MUSIC for all ages by the VERSATILES.

TOURS of the Vineyard on Markko's straw-covered grape wagon.

DOOR PRIZES

WINE AUCTION * BOTTLES AND CASES of some of our best vintages from 1976 through 1986. Bidding begins promptly at 2:30 p.m. A partial list follows:

- 1 case '76 Chardonnay (Lot 633)
- 2 bottles '77 Riesling (702)
- 6 bottles '79 Chardonnay (925)
- 2 magnums '80 Cabernet (03)
- ½ case splits (12 bottles) '80 Cabernet (03)
- 1 case '80 Cabernet (01)
- 1 case '84 Chardonnay (471)
- 3 bottles '85 Pinot Noir
- 1 case '85 Chardonnay (577)
- 1 case '86 Cabernet (61)
- 2 bottles '86 Muscat
- 2 2 bottles Cabernet Nouveau



Markko Vineyard

R. D. 2, South Ridge Rd.
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
(216) 593-3197

Address Correction Requested



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ODDS 'N ENDS SALE
Saturday, September 19

TIME - DATED MATERIAL