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Woody to Fellow Bleeding Heart, 14 December 1960

Elwood R. Maunder

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Forest History Society, Inc.

2706 West Seventh Boulevard
SAINT PAUL 16, MINNESOTA

December 14, 1960

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Dr. James W. Silver
Department of History
University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

Dear Fellow Bleeding Heart:

I'm in receipt long gone of your good letter of November 22 and, feeling depressed and in a low mood, I feel the urge to make reply.

Conditions here are damned near as rotten as they are in the State of Mississippi, and if it were not for the forthcoming Rose Bowl engagement of our sterling gridiron warriors the winter's prospects would indeed be grim.

The dear old Forest History Society is grinding along on four cylinders and managing to survive the current depression in the forest products industries only by dint of great individual courage and the eleventh hour infusion of Weyerhaeuser money just prior to each payroll.

I'm persuaded after long suffering to conclude that in such a time of troubles as that in which we live, a sense of humor is only preserved by the very nature of austerity and the involvement in causes which seem so totally out of step with everything else that seems to be going on. One has to believe that he is sane and pure in heart in the midst of so much insanity and evility.

I know that I am nuts for staying in this cause which I have espoused, but then, you see, I take my inspiration from geezers like you. Take heart, good comrade of the lost causes, we may yet have our reward in heaven. Or, if Shaw is right and Niebuhr is wrong, we may find hell more kindlier disposed than has been heretofore generally believed.

With all the best of what Mississippi has to offer to you and yours at this glad Christmastime.

Yours,

Elwood R. Maunder
Director

ERM:mm