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Woody to Jim, 8 November 1961

Elwood R. Maunder

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Forest History Society Inc.

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November 8, 1961

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Oxford, Mississippi

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Dear Jim:

Many thanks for your letter of November 3, which answers some of the questions raised in my letter to John Moore of October 31, concerning the Hickman book project. There are some points which must still be clarified and I'd appreciate your help in getting this done.

Up to now this project has proceeded almost entirely on the basis of oral agreement and faith. Now we need to get things firmed up in writing so there will be no misunderstanding or hard feelings. I believe all three sponsors need an opportunity to recoup as much as possible of their investment so they can do more publishing. We might like to publish another book through the MU Press some day.

It seems to me that if there is to be a first edition (as described in the specs and bid of the Paragon Press, dated November 3, 1958) it would be fair to assign 500 bound copies and 400 unbound copies to the University, 400 bound copies to the Mississippi Forestry Association and 200 bound copies to the Forest History Society.

Similarly, I believe it would be a good idea to give each of the sponsors a supply of the promotional materials which are being printed. Each of us will use these in our efforts to promote sales.

Brother Jimbo, you are well aware of the precarious financial bottom of the good ship Forest History Society. When we publish a book or join with others in publishing one, we like a fighting chance of getting our hard-won cash back so we can put it to work again. I suspect this is the same crass attitude of universities and forestry associations. Actually, I think it's a good policy. Therefore, if my words seem tinged with dark suspicion and if I seem to be losing my will



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to do things on faith" it's only because a cruel world has taught me that something on paper is worth a dirigible full of oral agreements. There are, of course, other times when something on paper well.

No one recognizes more thankfully than I the unselfish, tireless work of Mae Fortenberry and Bill Willis (and I'd add, Jim Silver). And I'm not the least worried that the end product will be something of which we can all be proud. This doesn't prevent me from wanting to have a clear-cut understanding of business details and a look-see at the budding volume in proof. I guess it's just an ornery nature which I've acquired from hanging around with historians, foresters and businessmen these past ten years.

I'm returning here the copy of the specs and bid you sent me. Be assured of my eternal gratitude for this and many past favors rendered. Remind me to let you beat me at golf the next time I get around to Mississippi. Can you assure me of diplomatic immunity if I cross your borders this winter?

Most cordially,

Woody

Elwood R. Maunder
Director

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enc.

P.S. I presume you saw the kind words about our Forest History session in Detroit in the MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW, pp. 278-9. See also p. 224 of the October 1961 issue of AGRICULTURAL HISTORY for more good recognition from the scholarly world.

All things (except money) come to those who wait.