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Woody to Jim, 25 October 1957

Elwood R. Maunder

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Recommended Citation

Maunder, Elwood R., "Woody to Jim, 25 October 1957" (1957). *Correspondence*. 144.
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Forest History Foundation, Inc.

2706 West Seventh Boulevard
SAINT PAUL 16, MINNESOTA
October 25, 1957

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

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ELWOOD R. MAUNDER
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Jim:

This must be a hasty answer to yours of the 20th since I am hurrying to get off on a three-week trip through the west.

I agree we ought to press hard on the Mississippi Valley program committee to get a session of members on business history or forest history. My suggestion is that we ask Hidy, Blegen and Silver to do the honor^s at this meeting. Hidy has expressed a willingness to speak, if he can be given sufficient notice and I am almost certain that Dean Blegen would also be willing to take a part.

If you have an opportunity to press for this when you see the program chairman in Houston the first of November, please do so. I will get after Dean Blegen immediately to see what he can do to urge the acceptance of such a session. I have just about abandoned a hope for a dinner meeting. The costs are too great and I have found no enthusiasm on the part of our business board members to support it.

Your schedule seems pretty tight from what you say in your letter but I am glad to see that you are looking for a job of writing a good business history. Why not Masonite's? This company is *of* relatively recent ~~an~~ origin but it has a really terrific history and you could do the job very well. You know, perhaps, that our board member Dave Winton, is a substantial stock holder in this company. Either he or his brother, Charles, is a member of its board of directors. *The* guy to see, of course, is John Coates at Masonite's office in Chicago. This fellow is definitely interested in history and if the right approach is made, I believe he can be persuaded to launch a history project. Let's exchange some ideas by mail on this matter and perhaps later this winter we can map a real bit of strategy which includes a visit to Chicago.

I am curious to know what is happening with Mississippi's forest products archive. I got the impression that you are making ready to get a new man in the job.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Woody
Elwood R. Maunder,
Director.

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