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University of Minnesota

GRADUATE SCHOOL MINNEAPOLIS 14

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

July 19, 1956

Professor Jim Silver Department of History University of Mississippi University, Mississippi

Dear Professor Silver:

I wish I could be of some real help to you in connection with the planning of a section on forest history and archives for the MVHA. My difficulty is that I am completely buried in the University of Minnesota self survey and will be for quite some time. I cannot possibly promise to give any talk or paper at either the December or the spring session because my plans are extremely uncertain and vague with respect to attendance at these coming meetings. Moreover, I think that the kind of talk that I might possibly have given would be much better if done by Elwood Maunder. In a word, such a program should have a talk on the manuscripts and other sources available in the forest history field, and this subject or approach could be used very easily to sketch the program and the advancements of the Forest History Foundation. Mr. Maunder is, by all odds, the best informed person to do this very thing. Both George Engberg and William Rector are very good as prospects for papers.

I do not think that a forest history program should be too packed with papers and I wonder if you could not shape up a program with Stanley Horn presiding and with talks by Maunder, Engberg, and Rector. Mr. Horn could, as chairman, open the session in an informing and colorful way.

There is one other point in my mind that I must mention alongside these comments on the persons referred to above. I do think that it would be desirable to get the South into the picture and I wonder if you or your colleague, Dr. Moore, could not step in at this point? You might omit either Rector or Engberg and make place for a paper on some selected special subject such as the one dealt with in the Fh.D. dissertation on lumber history in Mississippi or a more general review of the advances, problems, and prospects in the area of southern forest history.

These are first thoughts only. Probably you have written to Mr. Maunder. If not, we should get his ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Blegen

Then - Alex

Dean

TCB/U