

OHIO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

WOOSTER, OHIO

L. L. RUMMELL, Director
W. E. KRAUSS, Associate Director
J. D. BRAGG, Administrative Secretary

August 9, 1954

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
Oliver D. Diller, Chairman

Professor Hugh M. Raup, Director
Harvard Forest
Petersham, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Raup:

We have an opening for a man to head up forest management research at this Station, and I am wondering whether you might have some possible candidate to suggest.

The job would consist of conducting silvicultural and management studies in Ohio farm woodlands and plantations. We have a number of experimental areas in which we are collecting growth data by species, diameter classes, grade and vigor classes, and total stands. The plantation management project would not only include the silvicultural and financial aspects of plantation management in Ohio, but would also include studies in Christmas tree production.

We are looking for a man with a technical forestry background and a Ph.D. degree or its equivalent. The salary would range between \$5,000 and \$7,000 per year, depending upon training, experience, and other qualifications.

I would appreciate having you send a copy of the enclosed personal history record to anyone whom you would recommend for this position.

Very truly yours,



Oliver D. Diller
Chairman

Enc.
ODD.MW

Carl Stephens

August 27, 1954

Mr. Oliver D. Diller, Chairman
Department of Forestry
Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station
Wooster, Ohio

Dear Mr. Diller:

It was a pleasure to meet and talk with you at Mt. Alto. I thought the meeting was well organized, and I welcomed the opportunity to meet and talk with the people there.

Upon arriving home I found that Earl Stephens had returned from his trip to ~~the~~ Gaspe, and that he was already filling out one of the forms that you sent me. Apparently he had been recommended by Dean Percival of West Virginia, and this form was sent to him from your office. He is somewhat interested, and wants, of course, to have more information about the position. No doubt he will write you directly.

I shall not repeat what I told you about him at Mt. Alto, except to reiterate that he is a very able young man with, I believe, the kind of training and experience that you require. I suggested to him that if both you and he are interested, he should make a quick trip out to Wooster to see you and the situation in general.

Earl wants to finish his thesis before he leaves here, and I also want him to. I think it will take him the coming winter to do this, particularly because it would be highly desirable for him to get it in shape for publication before he gets away. As I told you, we think very highly of his research, and fully expect to publish it as one of our Papers or Bulletins.

I hope you will visit us here at Petersham sometime in the not too distant future. Please consider that you will be welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh M. Raup
Director

OHIO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
WOOSTER, OHIO

L. L. RUMMELL, Director
W. E. KRAUSS, Associate Director
J. D. BRAGG, Administrative Secretary

September 3, 1954

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
Oliver D. Diller, Chairman

Dr. Hugh M. Raup, Director
Harvard Forest
Harvard University
Petersham, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Raup:

Thanks a lot for your letter of August 27
and the additional information on Earl Stephens.

I received a good letter from Stephens, along
with his application. In my reply I suggested that he stop
here for an interview in November enroute to the Soil Science
meetings in Minnesota.

In the same mail came a letter from Mrs. Earl
Smith in which she said that her husband will be returning
from Afghanistan next month and he is interested in obtaining
a permanent position.

I would appreciate having your evaluation of
Smith as compared to Stephens for the position in silviculture
and management.

I had hoped it would be possible to fill this
position by the first of the year, but would consider waiting
another six months if desirable.

Very truly yours,


Oliver D. Diller
Chairman

ODD.MW

9 September 1954

Mr. Oliver D. Diller
Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station
Wooster, Ohio

Dear Mr. Diller:

I have your letter of September 3 in which you request some evaluation on Earl Smith as a candidate for the position you are offering, particularly in comparison to Earl Stephens.

In many ways these two men are about as different as they can be. You might say that this being the case it ought to be easy to draw up contrasts and comparisons, but such is not the case because their basic interests and ways of approaching things are hardly comparable.

Earl Smith came to us in the summer of 1948. He had just taken his bachelor's degree in forestry at West Virginia University, and took a summer job here with the intention of continuing on as a student in the autumn. During that summer he and Earl Stephens working together did an immense amount of work. In fact they actually inventoried our whole forest. In the fall Smith began work as a candidate for the master's degree, and continued it until June of 1949. He had not finished his thesis by that time, but did so during the succeeding year. We kept him on here as a technical assistant during the summer of 1949 and the succeeding academic year. He took part in the regular activities of the Forest, assisted with the supervision of students, and had general charge of our woods operations.

In the summer of 1950 we sent a small group of students to the tropics. They took what we call in our Catalog a course in "tropical botany," spending about a month at our Atkins Garden and Research Laboratory in Cuba, and about two weeks viewing the United Fruit Company's reforestation experiments in Honduras. Earl Smith availed himself of this opportunity, and promptly fell in love with the tropics.

Returning to Cambridge in the fall he spent the following academic year at the University there, working off his residence requirements for the doctorate in biology. He did this successfully and passed his general examinations for the doctorate in June of 1951. Then, with some limited funds that he had scoured up from various sources, he spent most of the ensuing summer in Cuba, traveling as widely as possible on the island. In the fall he returned to Cambridge with an outline for what he thought he might do for a doctoral dissertation on the forest resources of Cuba.

The outline, combined with Smith's obvious enthusiasm, won support from all concerned, and from various University sources we fixed him up with the means to go ahead. Some of the funds came from fellowship money that we had in the Atkins Garden and some was from the Cabot Foundation. The Harvard Forest's contribution was a jeep which we bought and immediately loaned to

9/9/54

- 2 -

Mr. Diller

Earl Smith for a year. He took off for Cuba with the jeep in the late fall of 1951, and spent a whole year on the island, traveling extensively. He was extraordinarily successful at getting miscellaneous additional help from Cuban government officials, industrial and business concerns operating in various parts of the island, and from just plain people. He returned to Cambridge in the fall of 1952 and spent the winter and spring finishing up his thesis. This has now been printed as Publication No. 2 from the Cabot Foundation, and I am sending you a copy of it under separate cover. I believe it to be a fine piece of work. It reports a vast amount of original observation and thought.

Smith tried very hard to get a job in tropical forestry. There was a job open in Cuba which would have been a "natural" for him, under the auspices of the U. S. Forest Service, but the system of priorities used in the selection of men for such jobs ruled him out because he had not had "tropical forestry experience" (whatever that is). However, in the summer of 1953 he got a job with the Bureau of Plant Introduction and went off to South America collecting yams (of all things). I have not heard from him personally for many months, but I did know that he had returned from South America and had gone to Afghanistan. Actually, the note in your letter from Mrs. Smith saying that her husband would be returning next month is the first real information any of us here have had for some time.

Earl Smith is an able chap, and I think he is going to "go places." As a graduate student here he was a little older than most. Before the war he had worked at miscellaneous jobs after graduating from high school. He spent the war in the Merchant Marine, and went into forestry training after that. He is energetic, neat in his personal habits, and in all the time I knew him here he was in good physical health. He is a good deal of an extrovert, and makes friends easily and quickly. I do not know whether you can woo him away from the tropics or not, but if you could, you would have something.

In all of the above I have not said anything about Mrs. Smith. This is because she deserves special mention. She is a fine person and has been a prime factor in Earl's development. Throughout the time they were at Petersham she worked in our office and library, and while they were in Cambridge she provided a large part of the family's financial support by office work there. She is friendly, quick to make friends, and is a good addition to any community. She spent the year in Cuba with her husband, and went nearly everywhere with him in his travels. The Smiths have no children.

As I said at the outset, comparison of the two men is extremely difficult. At this point in their development, and from where I sit, I might venture the suggestion that Earl Stephens is somewhat more of a "research man" than Earl Smith. However, I would hedge on this considerably, because their fields of interest and operation have always been different, and it is perfectly possible that within the next ten years I would have to reverse the suggestion.

I think I have given you all the essential facts about Earl Smith, but if you find you have further questions, please do not hesitate to ask them.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh M. Raup
Director