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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

FORT HAYS
KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
HAYS, KANSAS
January 10, 1952

Dr. W. W. Ray
Chairman, Dept. of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

For a number of years now I have contacted various officials of the University of Nebraska regarding the selection of a successor to Dr. Weaver when he retires. I understand that Dr. Weaver plans to retire from teaching at the end of this school year, and therefore, it is likely that you will be employing his successor to begin next September.

As you know, Dr. Ray, I have been fairly closely associated with Dr. Weaver since my graduation there in 1937. Four of our young men have worked under Dr. Weaver and have completed the requirements for the Doctor's degree. The point to my letter is to request that a fairly young, well trained grassland ecologist be secured, if possible, to take up the work where Dr. Weaver leaves off. I make this request for two reasons: (1) The work that Dr. Weaver has been responsible for in the past is the only type of its kind in the U. S. I believe I am in the position to know that his graduates scattered widely over the U. S. represent a point of view very important to basic understanding of the ecology of grasslands. If at all possible, it seems to me that we must keep this program going during the coming years. (2) We offer only a Master's degree at Fort Hays; therefore, it will be important that we send some of our best graduates on to other schools. Two years ago I sent one of my young men to another school when he was best prepared to continue with the type of work that Dr. Weaver gives. It was only because Dr. Weaver felt that he could not see him through that he advised that I send him elsewhere.

As I get around in various meetings where ecology is important, I become more and more convinced that the work of the Botany Department of the University of Nebraska has played a significant part in helping to solve some of our major problems relating to vegetation. It is for this reason that I am writing to you, to let you know how I feel in regard to this important matter. I know that many other alumni of Nebraska, and even those not in any way connected with Nebraska, feel the same way.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Albertson
F. W. Albertson
Professor of Botany

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