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received
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Legal Department

Ms. Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation
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HUNT OIL COMPANY

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Dear Chief Mankiller:

Enclosed is a book I have almost completed. There are still no doubt some typographical errors, but I think it is readable. It is a biography of my mother's family. Last month, I attended a western writers seminar and conference at Fayetteville, Arkansas. While there, Bonnie Speer asked to read my manuscript. She read close to three chapters before she had to leave for Norman. She told me that she felt it was a story that should be published -- that the story was good and the history accurate. I am submitting it to you for your comments and suggestions. I have submitted a query letter to a few book publishers, but I am beginning to feel that I should self-publish as it will contain family pictures and documents and I know for sure that it is of regional interest. I have a picture of Sequoyah Houston and a posse posing with a horse thief they had arrested; a picture of Sequoyah and his white wife, Mary; a picture of his son, Mack Houston, as a boy about three or four and Mack and his wife's wedding picture; as well as a photograph of the antique barber chair originally purchased around 1890 by Blue Foreman of Fort Gibson, then owned by my grandfather, Mack Houston. I also have documents from the federal archives in Fort Worth, Texas with legal pleadings of outlaw cases.

I have spent a lot of time and money researching the Houston family history; the Cherokee history; and the events taking place in Indian Territory prior to statehood. I have one other large book in mind to write after this one and a couple of ideas for children's books. I wonder if there is not a grant available for Indian writers. If you have any information about such a grant, I would appreciate it if you would let me know where to apply. My Cherokee Registration No. is C0014491. I am on the rolls as 1/8th Cherokee. At a family reunion this summer, I learned that I have ancestors enrolled on the Eastern rolls from my father's side; so I need to update my degree of Indian blood and will as soon as I can.

I apologize for sending you such a bulky manuscript; but it is in the form in which I am to submit it for publication. I hope you have time to read it or look it over and give me some suggestions. I do not need the manuscript returned as I have the original for printing and one other copy. I applied for copyright in August and expect the registration soon.

Yours very truly,

HUNT OIL COMPANY

Sue A. Schafer
Legal Department