

and
2/25/42

BEATRIX FARRAND

~~1030 OGDEN STREET~~

~~Santa Barbara, California~~

Valley Club of Montecito
Santa Barbara, California.

February 12, 1942.

Miss Anne Sweeney,
c/o Dumbarton Oaks,
3101 "R" Street,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Sweeney:

Thank you for such a nice letter of the 6th of February which has just come. Our neighbors continue to revolve with lightning speed and do such unconsidered little things as rushing on to Los Angeles for part of a day in order to hear a string quartette. The very fact that the Ambassador survived this journey seemed to me to show he is in excellent condition, as neither Mr. Farrand nor I could possibly have gone through such a performance.

The little Hun has arrived here with the dogs and is, of course, chattering away in his usual irresponsible fashion. Apparently the dogs are giving great pleasure to their new owners, and when Bryce comes home you can tell him they seem happy and contented.

As for yourself and your work, don't you think that unless you have all of your material card catalogued, listed forward and backward and the programs set out for the different seasonal shows, that there is much to be done in your job. You are wrong in thinking that winter is an idle time, as practically all your summer work and your varied talks will have to be prepared in these days, so that whether or not you have an audience to conduct around the place or have to go alone, your "boning" and your variation in your daily excursions should be worked out so that you become letter perfect and as flexible as possible in the different aspects you show your audiences according to their age and capacity for understanding. It also would not be at all a bad thing if you were to do some studying in botany, particularly in the morphological end so that you can tell your botany classes what a bract is and why it is not a flower and how it has become an ornamental appendage to the flowers in order to attract insects. Also you could show them what a sepal is and how it also is an altered leaf and how bulbs are constructed of the leaf base sort like narcissus and onion or of the solid sort like tulips. It also would be worth while to tell them what the reasons are for certain protective devices that plants make use of. For example, the grey crystalline substance on leaves which reduces transpiration, the hairs on stems and leaves which also reduce evaporation, the sticky seeds such as burrs and beggars ticks which are distributed by being carried on animals or by people to whose woolly clothes or fleece the burrs adhere, and so on forever.

P.T.O.

In fact there is so much to be done and learned about your job that I wish to patience the winter lasted all through the year so that you could get time to catch up with your audiences in the spring.!!!

I am so sorry to hear that you have hurt your thumb and think you have done nobly in typing with a tied-up finger.

Might it be worth while to go and see some of the teachers or to have a teachers' class meet you so that they could tell their classes what to expect and tell you what would help them in school to have their children shown and taught by you. Perhaps Mr. Thacher would be able to give you and me an idea regarding this.

Your two sheets of garden guide service and notes were excellent and while I know the tax authorities are going to be very much on the job to get everything possible, you certainly have built up a good case and I hope it will be effective. Might it be worth while to ask the teachers whether they would like to teach some of their classes in the Orangery and have an object lesson in walking around the grounds after their formal lecture. As you see, I am trying to think of everything possible by which we can get an opening and earn what the college boys call "credits."

It now looks as though we should be leaving here in the end of next month, and I am hoping to be in Washington about the middle of April, but of course will let you know definitely when the days set themselves and when I hear what is likely to suit my Harvard Chiefs.

Yours with every good wish and sincere friendship,

Beaury T. T. T.