

The Valley Club of Montecito
Post Office Box 1140
Santa Barbara, California
March 30th, 1942

John S. Thacher, Esquire
3101 R Street
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Thacher:

Your letter of the 26th came yesterday morning with its enclosed cheerful budget which I am returning to you, having made a rough pencil copy of it to serve until we hear the fate as decreed by the heads. A telegram went to you yesterday approving most highly the suggestions made and congratulating you for having achieved an impossibility. You have been most wise in adding to the wages of the whole garden group. They are excellent men and need encouragement to make them abide by the less well-paid but wiser use of their strength and ability in gardening rather than in factory work.

Naturally I shall be greatly interested to know how the 1941-42 budget is coming out and wonder whether we can form any idea of the approximate totals by the time I reach Washington in late April.

If it proves possible to keep Miss Sweeney on the payroll, I think it will be one of the wisest moves that Harvard can make toward the good will of our neighbors here.

You know without my underlining and repeating it that my occasional outbursts for the protection of the grounds and flowers are made not only because of my own personal and intimate affection for the grounds and the planting but because I realize that the neighbors feel (as indeed I do) that one part of the establishment cannot be divorced from the other and that Dumbarton Oaks is a unit in which the grounds play an important part.

The neighbor was told the double news of the flooding of the stream and drowning of the pools as well as your notice that the workers were busily occupied in cleaning them out. I hope Bryce can keep an eye to the scrubbers so that they don't remove the plants as well as the mud. One can trust his keen Scotch eye for this.

This morning's newspaper brings us news of the big snowfall in Washington, and we both wonder whether Dumbarton Oaks has lost any of its fine trees.

A discreet inquiry has come from a feminine friend of one of the Library workers as to whether Dumbarton Oaks ever stretches its swimming pool hospitality to those immediately outside the Library and Dumbarton Oaks group. This inquiry is made of you and is intended as a query and does not imply any obligation on your part, so let me know what the custom is.

You are patient to bear with me: sometimes I feel as though you could not half realize how greatly I value the association with you and how truly I am in sympathy with what you have done and with the lead you are giving the whole establishment.

It is very disappointing to have to say here another fortnight when one is keen to get back to work, but it is only common sense to chase out the last vestige of influenza germs before undertaking the long journey.

Yesterday a brief visit to the neighbor told me she thought it not at all unlikely that an eastern journey might be necessary and that you had, as always, been thoughtful and considerate and helpful in every way. So you see what a reputation you have made with your two California friends!

Yours ever sincerely,

BEATRIX FARRAND

(Not signed by Mrs. Farrand
as she was anxious that this
catch the first post out.)