

DIRECTORS HOUSE

HENRY E. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY AND ART GALLERY

1650 ORLANDO ROAD, SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA.

Dear M. & Trin -

These notes were made
a week ago at Ha. B. - you
may like to look at them -
on your westward journey -
Mr. Russell has had a copy,
& permission has been given
looking of the new Iron Horse
(Cultivator) & of the seeded
fertilizer -

Yours always with
deep affection -

Dec 18. 40.

T. H. X

Casa Dorinda - Notes - November 20, 1940.

As a result of questions sent to Mr. Lucking, certain points were brought out for decision at a possible future visit of Mrs. Farrand. These points are all covered in the following notes made as the result of visits of Nov. 20 and 21.

Lucking had previously sent word that fertilizer would be needed for the Clivias, Agapanthus, Roses, Oak trees and both lemon orchards, as well as the new plantations. Mr. Lucking said he needed 300 yards, and as the result of a message from Mr. Russell, this order may be filled at Mr. Lucking's convenience.

The plantation on the south side of the south lawn is growing extremely well. In fact, many of the temporary plants, such as the Buddleias, may now be taken out and thrown away. These were known to be temporary expedients, raised on the place and only to fill gaps until the permanent planting could grow large enough to replace them. The young olives are growing well. The old olives are making growth. The salt bush is quite flourishing. The lavenders and rosemarys are beginning to make an effect, and in general the whole plantation is starting to take on its permanent form. Therefore, lumps of plumbago and yellow jasmine can now be removed.

The fuchsia plantation in the "jungle" is growing nicely. They are not yet, of course, handsome, but they are obviously happy. The lemons, both in the orchard near School-house Lane, and up on the spring lot are looking remarkably well. They have been carefully pruned and cleaned and are producing adequately.

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The new avocados are also well set with fruit and promise to give good crops this winter.

The roadside along the Hot Springs Road is developing well and is a decided improvement over the old, rumpled plantation. The ivy should be allowed to fall over the stone border wherever possible.

The "veils" in the west barranca are growing reasonably well, and the whole view of this concrete trough is much improved.

The big oak glade is now very well carpeted with its evergreen plantation of Arums, Salvia, Clivia and Agapanthus. Many of the old trees need cleaning this winter, and this is to be done when the autumn work is over - plowing, fertilizing, cleaning.

The three men on the place have been busy cleaning up the plantation of Vinca, the Violets, Ivy and other ground cover.

The improvement was marked in front of Johnny Week's house, where the shrubs are now allowed to grow in more natural form, and where the Petunias have been gay all summer.

Mrs. Farrand was pleased with the look of the cleaned wall of the south terrace and told Lucking to do still more cleaning of Virginia Creeper, and to cut back the heavy mass of Ficus on the two main south posts. Lucking also will cultivate a few more of the pale Lantanas for planting in some of the south terrace vases.

The old iron horse, while still in reasonably good condition, is no longer in its first youth

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as the result of three years work. Therefore, as Lucking, at Mrs. Farrand's request, had gone to Ott's as to possible allowance on the old machine toward the cost of a better new one, he reported that the allowance on the old machine was \$169.00, which would be used toward the purchase of a new and better, rubber-tired machine at \$545.35, leaving a balance to be paid for the new machine of \$376.35, plus purchase tax. As Mr. Russell and Mrs. Farrand both agree that this is a wise purchase at this time on account of the substantial allowance on the old machine, Mrs. Farrand is authorizing Lucking to make this exchange.

One dead oak near the Music Room on the east side near the barranca, must be taken out later on and one of the young oaks from the north side of the lawn to the north of the house is to be planted in the approximate neighborhood of the old tree.

Nothing further has been done by Mr. Kennerley as to the tree cutting of the big Eucalyptus, and Mrs. Farrand will not absolve the workmen, whom Mr. Kennerley suggests using, from any and all responsibility from damage ~~to~~ Mrs. Farrand feels that it is unlikely that the Eucalyptus can be cut out by the method Mr. Kennerley suggests. Mrs. Farrand noticed a great improvement in the replacement of the magnolia grass lawn by a carpet of Ivy.

Mrs. Farrand noticed that some of the older oaks, which were planted outside of the Library, were not in as good condition as some of the younger trees. She is, therefore, writing to Mr. Hamsher, asking him, on one of his next

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visits to Santa Barbara, to look at these older trees and advise what he thinks would be well to do to stimulate them into better growth.

The big Guadalupe^a cypress on the south lawn is handsomer and in better condition than Mrs. Farrand has ever before seen it, and the young cypresses of the same sort are growing nicely.

On the north side of the lawn, north of the front door, the English laurel are too overcrowded. As it would be both costly and labor-consuming to move some of these big plants, Mrs. Farrand told Lucking to pull some of them out and throw them away, or, if he himself wished to use a few plants near his own new house, he might take them at his convenience.

About 20 laurels were marked in the space between the north lawn and the exit drive, and possibly later in the winter a further lot may be marked.

The Oaks in the old orchard north of the service wing, need plowing up and feeding. The plowing will be done with the new iron horse, and the fertilizer will then be promptly applied.

The spring lot Lemon orchard had vastly improved over its condition a few years ago. The trees are now shapely and in good bearing. The small Oaks on the knoll near School-house Road, are growing adequately, but they did not give the appearance of a grove! They should

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be fed after the hill has been cleaned by the iron horse.

In the "jungle" the Fuschias, Francoas, Anemones and Mooreas are all growing splendidly, and the simplification of this planting is all to the good.

Some White Durantas at the west end of the south lawn may be moved to the south side of the "jungle" on the roadside near others of the same sort. More Durantas, as they can be accumulated, may be planted back toward the "jungle" so as to fill up a present rather flat and dull place now planted with sprawly Yellow Jasmine.

The Jasmine over the balconies east and west of the front door, should gradually be trained so that they will also cover the balcony over the door itself.

As the space outside of the Dining Room had been well cleaned and replanted to Vinca, (old Juniper and Cypress taken out), it now looks fresher and brighter than before. Mrs. Farrand suggested that Virginia Creepers be added to the Dining Room and Pantry walls to clothe these, as they will cling to the walls and require no training. ¶ A few more salt bush are needed near the big old olive at the south west side of the lawn. These may also fill the space where the White Durantas are to be used later on as bordering plantation for the "jungle".

In the "tea" place, one solitary group of Rhododendron remains as the result of the former planting. There is no hurry to take these

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out, but some day they should be moved to the north end of the old big Oak glade.

A few cherries should be taken out on the north side on the north lawn, when the big Pittosporum and small seedling Pittosporum nearby should also be taken out. These small cherries and the White Durantas and the Coprosma should all be taken out, the cherries used in boundary plantation near the entrance, the Coprosmas thrown away and the Durantas used near the "jungle".

It is thought that the cleaning out, fertilizing and digging out of material, such as the Laurels and Coprosmas, will take most of the time between Mrs. Farrand's visit and the new year. After this the dead wood campaign should be started, as many of the old Oaks need reviewing on the place.

The shady space near the "jungle" may gradually be filled with Fuchsias, when it is possible to sort out the kinds, so that the plantations will be in solid masses and not mixed.

The Hibiscus line north of the Rose Garden was in excellent condition and all of them were in bloom, more or less fully. #At the entrance gate, much of the trash has been removed. All of the little Alyssum and much of the small herbaceous material. Some grey Agaves have been put in and Mrs. Farrand urged Lucking to plant all the little grey Agaves that he could find, so that eventually this plantation at the gate would be a mass of this grey, prickly material piled up among the rocks.

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Any pinhole space should be planted to a small Agave!

The Bamboos should be taken out as they show over the wall near the main entrance gate.

The main gate posts should again be thinned from their over heavy coat of Ficus.

Mrs. Bliss Report from Mr. Hamsher -
Big tree move

I am sure we will have no further trouble with the olives and I am just as sure that the reason for the oak trees planted at the west side of the house not having more foliage is due to the same condition which I reported at a previous visit, in that the ivy does not require much water and what water is put on the trees is consumed by the ivy and I am positive that these oaks are never wet enough to make good growth.

When I checked them before, I believe the ground was dryer than if the ivy had not been there because of the fact the ivy does take considerable water and I would like to suggest that the ivy be removed from around the trees and at least a six foot to eight foot basin be remade and then a good mulch of barnyard fertilizer used and I am positive the forthcoming rains will do wonders for these trees.