

March 4, 1943.

Mrs. Beatrice Farrand,
Valley Club of Montecito,
Santa Barbara, California.

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

It has taken a special date like the 4th of March to inaugurate me into some kind of action - perhaps it's Spring, though the temperature nor the outlook is anything but Spring-like. My conscience has been jabbing me for two months and I've had the January report in an envelope to send you,--but-- I've no valid excuse except my own laziness.

This Winter has been dreary and cold and I don't believe I have ever been so cold, at least never in Washington. Strange to say, that in spite of the nasty weather I have been well when so many have been laid low with flu, bronchitis and pneumonia. Mrs. Bliss has been confined to her room now for several days, Miss Kingsford is home ill with flu and, you know about Mr. Russell I suppose? I had a note from him the other day saying he was getting along wonderfully and thought he would be able to get away soon to some much warmer climate to recuperate.

I had a letter from Mrs. Stover sending me the Garden Month by month and telling me of the terrible rains California has showered on You but I hope you and Mr. Farrand have kept well and have got real benefit from peaceful California and its sunshine - if there was any.

The A. W. V. S. Victory Garden Committee have been holding lectures at the Georgetown Public Library for the past three Tuesdays and I have gone. They asked Bryce if they might have permission to come here and study demonstrations in the growing of vegetables and he has consented, so they are to have two dates in March, two in April and perhaps two more in May.

At first, Mrs. Sweeney, who is in charge of the programme, spoke to the meeting of the National Association of Gardeners and they were all enthused over the idea and Bryce promised to have some of the members come here and be responsible for a certain section and be on hand on the day the classes came, to talk to them and answer questions --but, in the meantime, gas coupons were reduced and transportation difficulties made it impractical to have men come from any distance, so I believe Bryce now plans to have his own garden used as a class demonstration, the idea being that I am to shepherd the class to a selected spot and Bryce or one of his men will answer the questions put to them by the Victory gardeners. The first date is set for March 18th and the next on the 23 of March.

I hope it will work out all right but so many enthusiasms have burned out that I'm prepared for anything. However, while I have nothing to do with the demonstration, I'm on hand as general guide.

The American Horticultural Society is having its annual meeting here again on March 20th at 8: p.m.

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Visitors this month have been very few - 15 in all - as the only fine days we had were two Saturday - the other four days have either brought forth snow or rain and bitter winds. Now that snowdrops are out and the winter jasmine bursting forth and a few little scillas showing under the Magnolia south of the Orangery, it won't be long before the hordes will come.

The school teachers tell me they have been so busy with rationing work and demands made on them for war activities they have had no time to venture forth exploring but when the warm weather comes they will again take advantage of our open days.

I have been pinch-hitting for Mrs. Bliss again until she gets a secretary. She tried when in New York but was unable to get anyone but she told me the agency was still looking for the right person.

I hear the cardinal singing so, even if there is snow on the ground, he knows Spring is just around the corner and that for me means I'll be seeing you before many weeks and I look forward to our meeting with much pleasure.

With kindest greetings to you, Mr. Farrand and greetings to Miss Walter and also to my Casa Dorinda friends who are left,

Very sincerely yours,