

BEATRIX FARRAND  
LANDSCAPE GARDENER  
REEF POINT  
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

August 3, 1942

Miss Anne Sweeney  
Dumbarton Oaks  
3101 R Street  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Sweeney:

Your grand letter of July 28th with all its news and lists has come and is still further fattened up by the excellent report dated July 29th.

Truly you do not need props any longer as your reports, and obviously your service, is doing exactly what we hoped it might. The reports could not be improved. They are short and yet sufficiently amusing to entertain even the busiest mind, and obviously you have attended to the news of the closing of the gardens with your usual efficient way. It is grand to realize that you have had over 300 visitors since the 20th of May. The very fact that you account for the presence or absence of people by reminders of what the weather, rain and heat has been makes the whole picture more complete than if simply the dry statement were made that five people came on June 45th or whatever it might be!

While I see no real reason for your coming to Bar Harbor, like you I wish there were an excuse as all of us look back with great pleasure on the brief days you spent here last year. Since you were here the garden has been more steadily open to visitors and we can also count over 300 observers, plus garden club trips and bird club inspections. So I think we for our little district are doing pretty well also!

It is good news to hear that you got your book shelves completed and that your office is now completely installed as it makes for ease of mind and efficient work not to be living in a perpetual muddle. One thing you may perhaps want to tell me later on is whether you have your own telephone or whether it is better not to insist upon this in these hard times.

The Blisses arrived safely in California but were met by the news of the death of a much loved friend, Mrs. William North Duane, whose house was one of their frequent ports of call. Mrs. Duane has been ill for a long time and I fear the last few months have been filled with days of pain and without hope. She will be badly missed in the community and as both Blisses were devotedly attached to her it will mean a real loss to Casa Dorinda and to their feeling for Santa Barbara.

Miss Sweeney 8/3/42 -2

Your list of the plant material is exactly what I want as in many cases I had forgotten the make-up and your resume reminds me of what there is and of some unnecessary stuff which ought to be taken out. When you get back from your holiday and as you can manage it give me more material because I shall try to work these first ones upon into a report for you to see when you are back in Washington.

Your holiday may be a delight to be with your family but quite frankly I envy you not at all your visits to the dentists.

Mr. Russell has just sent me word that the Army has definitely decided that it does not want Casa Dorinda. Now I suppose they will try and hook the Navy.

You may also be interested to hear that Mrs. Bliss seems quite pleased with the changes made in the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden installation, and photographs sent me by Mr. Van Rensselaer do make it look much tidier than with its old helter-skelter arrangement.

There is no question that your work at Dumbarton is not only worth while and that you are doing it well but that it is an essential part of the whole organization and I feel that it is likely to grow and increase in importance so that your Headship of it will become even more interesting in the future than it has in the past. You certainly have worked hard and have accomplished much. All praise be to you and good luck.

Yours very sincerely,

Beauvoir Tanager