

BEATRIX FARRAND  
LANDSCAPE GARDENER  
REEF POINT  
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

August 30, 1943

Lieut. John S. Thacher, U.S.N.  
Dumbarton Oaks  
3101 R Street  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Thacher:

There is no question that Bryce's holiday has been a great success considered as a holiday. He really seems to have enjoyed it all and as we had the good luck to enlist the Park Superintendent's good-will he has let the Park naturalist take Bryce around the Island for a long trip and we hope another one can be arranged before Bryce leaves on Thursday night. Frankly I can't tell you that much work has been accomplished as far as he and I are concerned but I think that the main object of the journey, which was a rest and change for Bryce, has been successfully accomplished.

Two or three things have come to mind during his stay here and they are suggested to you to consider. No immediate decision need be made but I should like you to ponder over them so that when we meet in the end of September you would have had time to think over the problems.

The first suggestion will I fear shock you. It is to seed over the herbaceous border this autumn and leave it in grass until the labor situation clears up at the end of the war. It may be also desirable to seed down the beds in the herb garden (F terrace) and only to keep the rose garden and the fountain terrace in full flowery condition. I think we have already agreed that B terrace (where the Box pattern is) is to be simplified as much as possible in its planting.

Bryce has spoken to me with regard to the condition of the east lawn and seems very anxious to dig up the whole lawn in order to get rid of the weeds and wire grass which have crept in as he has not had assistance enough to keep the weeds under proper control. Of course the digging up of this east lawn is going to mar the whole effect of the east view from the house, especially as Bryce is most eager to have the ground under cultivation (perhaps as allotment vegetable gardens) for the whole of the summer of 1944. Individually I find myself see-sawing between the recognition that the move would be a really wise and economical one and reluctance to destroy the attractiveness of the approach to and view from the house. Bryce I know would like to turn the lawn up this autumn and leave it fallow through the winter and then have vegetables grown on it during next summer, but I confess I find myself very reluctant to think of a cabbage patch instead of the smooth green slope.

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It is hard to say how much the turning up of the lawn would lessen Miss Sweeney's audiences. Perhaps they would be so thrilled to see vegetables growing that they would forgive the desolation of the brown earth.

Bryce tells me that Mrs. Bliss had to yield to fatigue and a recurrence of an old complaint and stayed in bed for a few days during the recent hot weather. I hope you can give me a better account of her and that her frantic sorting and packing is nearing an end.

It has been a real pleasure to see Bryce's enjoyment of his days here and to notice how much better and more rested he looks each day. Both of us thank you for your consideration in making the holiday possible.

I hope you found your mother well and that you yourself had at least a brief respite from your double duty.

You will be glad to hear that my Chief gains although it is slow work and while he is never discouraged he is sometimes disappointed in the speed of his recovery. However, he is noticeably better than he was two months ago when we reached here from the hospital and we look forward to a winter in Santa Barbara as the continuation of the healing and convalescent period.

Yours ever sincerely,

Beamy Fawcett