

REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

April 21, 1943

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss,
The Shoreham Hotel,
Washington, D.C.

Dearest Mildred:

Here is a very much garbled and rather poorly dictated letter (or rather time table) sent to Mr. Van Rensselaer last night. I am adding a post script to it, a carbon of which I enclose, so that you will see that I suggest that if he feels he must curtail his trip, where the omissions can be made without a lack of education on his part and only a loss of pleasure to us all.

As soon as I get home a further letter will go to you and I hope there will still be time to catch good Van Rensselaer before he starts.

ever
Yours and always,
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Trix

REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

April 20, 1943

Mr. Maunsell Van Rensselaer,
Director, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden,
Santa Barbara, California.

Dear Mr. Van Rensselaer:

We must reserve our shouts of joy until you arrive in the East, as I am being helped by a kind friend to send off a hurried letter roughly suggesting an itinerary and sort of time table so that you can see whether or not the journey suggested proves too long or too complicated.

After trial of many different routes, we have found that the Santa Fe is probably the most comfortable and at this present moment likely to be the most nearly on time. I therefore suggest that on the day of your departure, which should probably be Saturday, May 1, you get your reservation in the "Chief", which leaves Pasadena at 12:30 noon that day. The reason I suggest the "Chief" is that it is a direct, through train, and although it means a \$10.00 extra fare, you will get food and be less likely to have a 7-hour delay than if you take the slower and less expensive trains. If you leave Pasadena-- and I suggest your leaving Pasadena rather than Los Angeles, as the railway station in Los Angeles is bedlam itself, and you may find it possible to drive to Pasadena in order to catch your noon train from Santa Barbara. Otherwise, it may mean the afternoon train on April 30 from Santa Barbara or a very early start about 6:00 in the morning on May 1. On Monday, May 3, your train is likely to be from one to two hours late, and therefore you should not count on making a close connection for New York. I therefore suggest that that afternoon or the following morning you go to the Morton Arboretum at Lisle, Illinois, about half an hour out of Chicago by train. I will write to Mrs. Cudahy, the President of the Arboretum, and to Mr. Godshalk, the Director, and see what arrangements they can make for your visit. On Tuesday, May 4, you will have to leave Chicago in some afternoon train. I suggest the 2:30 (or thereabouts) train on the New York Central called the "Advance Commodore" which should land you in New York on Wednesday morning. It would not be safe to time your arrival for May 6, as a delayed train might make you miss the ceremony of the medal award. On May 5, Wednesday, you might well see the Brooklyn Botanic Garden where you will be received by Mr. Stuart Gager, ^{115 Director} to whom I will write of your arrival. On May 6 is the medal award, and that day is being left free for garden club busynesses. May 7, Friday, at the New York Botanical Garden, you will be received by the Director, Dr. William J. Robbins, who will also probably call in the aid of Mr. T. H. Everett, the Head Horticulturist, and an excellent plantsman. May 8, Saturday, you would probably profit by a visit to the Boyce Thompson Institute at Yonkers, about which Dr. Robbins and Mr. Everett will be able to tell you. The Director, Dr. William Crocker, will know of your arrival in advance. On the 9th of May you might go to Philadelphia, and possibly that afternoon a visit to the Morris Arboretum could be arranged. I am writing Professor J. R. Schramm, the Head of the Department of Botany of the University of Pennsylvania. The Morris Arboretum is a place which has to be seen with an

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eye looking toward the future rather than the present, and if a day or two have to be saved, you could omit Philadelphia without serious loss. Monday, May 10, if you make your Philadelphia visit, a journey to Swarthmore College, about ten miles out of Philadelphia, would be a profit, as the campus is kept up by the Arthur Hoyt Horticultural Fund, and is said to be well-cared for and a good exhibition of shrubs and perennials. That afternoon of May 10 you could get on to Washington, and Tuesday, May 11, be in Washington where Mrs. Bliss will want to show you Dumbarton Oaks. Wednesday, the 12th, you might find it profitable to go to Beltsville where Mr. Benjamin Morrison will, (or he may turn you over to someone who will) look after you in his absence. May 13 you may wish to leave Washington and to stop on your way at Princeton University for a few hours where Mr. James S. Clark will look after you. If you care to spend the night of the 13th at Princeton, Mr. Clark will, I am sure, be glad to see that you also are shown something of interest the following morning, and this will still leave you time to get to New York that afternoon. Saturday, May 15, you may wish to stop in New Haven to see the buildings and plants at Yale on your way to Boston. Sunday, May 16, should be devoted to the Arnold Arboretum, and I will write to Dr. Merrill and will also let Mr. Judd know that you are coming, as he will want to see you and show you the Arboretum more intimately than Dr. Merrill. Monday, the 17, you may also find it profitable to spend at the Arboretum, as this should be the best season for either the crabapples or possibly the early lilacs and some of the azaleas. Tuesday, the 18th, you will doubtless want to see the Gray Herbarium at Harvard where I will write to Mr. Fernald, who is the keeper, and you will also want to see the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and its magnificent library. Wednesday, the 19th, you may wish to see some of the Boston, Perka or make a return visit to the Arboretum, and that night I am myself going down to Reef Point in the evening train, and if you will join me (I will later write you details as to this) we can have the pleasure of showing you Reef Point on Thursday, May 20, and Friday, May 21. That night the night train could take you to Boston in time for you to catch the train from Boston to St. Louis on Saturday, May 22, which should land you in St. Louis on Sunday. You will doubtless wish to visit the St. Louis Botanic Garden and then go on, possibly the next day, May 24, to the Coast, arriving at home two days later.

Your return ticket should be bought via Santa Fe to Chicago, New York Central to New York, New York, New Haven, & Hartford to Boston, Boston & Maine and Maine Central to Ellsworth, Maine. Please insist that if possible they get you the ticket to Ellsworth rather than to Portland, Maine, as you will get the extra journey for no extra expense. Returning from Ellsworth the route will be Maine Central & Boston & Maine to Boston, Boston & Albany and New York Central to St. Louis, and thence westward by whatever line you think best. I have purposely omitted a journey to the South and Charleston and New Orleans, as the best of the azalea and camelias in that region will be over by the time you reach the East and, moreover, the trains in the South are incredibly crowded, uncomfortable, and delayed by the movement of many troops. The ticket from New York to Washington you will probably have to get in New York, and this should be a return ticket by the Pennsylvania Railroad so that you can stop over at Princeton and Philadelphia, if you so choose.

Please forgive so abrupt and time-tably a letter. I will hope to write by air mail by Saturday, Sunday, or Monday of this week with further information, but you will need this itinerary in order to make your reservations, as these are essential to make at the first possible moment. As to a hotel in Chicago, I am afraid the only one I know is well out of town -- The Windermere, East, which is not expen-

Mr. Maunsell Van Rensselaer

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and is reasonably comfortable. Possibly your Santa Barbara friends can advise you, and also as to New York, I am not very wise in hotels, as we usually go to the Roosevelt, as it is so convenient. Getting into hotels in Chicago, New York, and Washington is not easy in these days. A separate letter may follow to-morrow if I can get time to add a few notes, and if this one isn't finished in time for to-night's mail, the balance will go to you to-morrow.

Looking forward with keen enjoyment to seeing you,--and I know you feel the same sense of deep gratitude as I do toward our benefactor, the Santa Barbara "guardian angel".

Garden

Yours ever sincerely,

BF-R

April 20, 1943

Suggested Itinerary for Eastern Journey

May	1	Saturday	Leave Pasadena (rather than Los Angeles) by Santa Fe Chief 12:30 P.M.
"	2	Sunday	Train
"	3	Monday	Arrive Chicago about 1:25 P.M.
"	4	Tuesday	Leave Chicago about 2:30 P.M. by Advance Commodore, New York Central.
"	5	Wednesday	Arrive New York morning - Brooklyn Botanic Garden
"	6	Thursday	Garden Club of America - award of Medal.
"	7	Friday	New York Botanical Garden
"	8	Saturday	Boyce Thompson Institute - Yonkers.
"	9	Sunday	New York to Philadelphia (?) Morris Arboretum
"	10	Monday (?)	Swarthmore. To Washington in afternoon.
"	11	Tuesday	Washington
"	12	Wednesday	Washington - Beltsville - Department of Agriculture - Horticultural Experiment Station
"	13	Thursday	Leave Washington for Princeton (?)
"	14	Friday	Princeton - and to New York
"	15	Saturday	Boston - Possibly stop-over in New Haven on the way.
"	16	Sunday	Boston - Arnold Arboretum
"	17	Monday	Boston - Arnold Arboretum and Gray Herbarium and Harvard.
"	18	Tuesday	Boston - Massachusetts Horticultural Society and Boston Parks.
"	19	Wednesday	Boston - Arnold Arboretum (?) and to Reef Point at 9:30 P.M.
"	20	Thursday	Reef Point
"	21	Friday	Reef Point - Leave for Boston in evening.
"	22	Saturday	Boston - Leave for St. Louis.
"	23	Sunday	Arrive St. Louis - St. Louis Botanical Garden.
"	24	Monday	Leave St. Louis for return journey.
"	25	Tuesday	Train
"	26	Wednesday	Arrive Los Angeles or Santa Barbara.

REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

April 21, 1943

Mr. Maunsell Van Rensselaer,
Director, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden,
Santa Barbara, California

Dear Mr. Van Rensselaer:

This is a postscript to the letter which went to you by Air Mail last night.

I find I was mistaken in saying that the 2:30 train from Chicago by the New York Central was the "Advance Commodore", it is the "Commodore Vanderbilt" which leaves at 2:30, and the "Advance Commodore" leaves an hour earlier.

If you find that you must curtail your journey it can be done by omitting the following places. You will lose nothing in the way of interest and education of your journey but of course you will have to forego a certain amount of pleasure in visiting the Universities in Philadelphia and also, if you do not come to Reef Point, we shall be bitterly disappointed but the result of your trip will be just as good as far as the Botanic Garden is concerned without the journey down to Maine. The omission of the following places will probably reduce your journey by nearly a weeks time.

You will be the best judge of whether or not this is essential.

Again forgive a hurried line. I hope I can catch you with still another letter from Bar Harbor.

Yours ever sincerely,

Philadelphia
Princeton -
Yale - New Haven
Reef Point Bar Harbor