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December 31, 1947

Jan 2/48

My very dear Mildred:

This is not intended to be the letter you and I want to write each other, but it is a stop gap to bridge silent days. You were no more disappointed than I to miss the telephonic talk on Christmas Day, but wires seem as loaded as in war time. So a deputy hug goes to you and Robert together with all wishes for the New Year that are nearest to your hearts.

The immediate excuse for this screed is a letter posted to you this morning from Mr. Bullard telling you of an abutting property that seems wise to consider purchasing in order to protect the Garden. You of course remember the steep olive covered hillside opposite the Garden entrance on the east side of Mission Canyon Road. This is explained in Mr. Bullard's letter. What he has not said, is that his foresight and quick action has prevented houses being immediately built on the hillside and intruding on the Garden.

From the point of view which I think you and I share, the surroundings to the Garden are vital to its future appearance. Therefore I have told Mr. Bullard that if the Executive Committee wishes to do so, they may take the gift made them by me last summer toward acquiring the \$7500. plot. To me, the house and its surrounding 2 acres are less important than the rest of the property and at present they do not seem worth the additional \$7500. Mr. Bullard says it is possible that in the future, some part of the land being considered by the Garden might be sold if this purchase is made, but he thinks that even if sales are later made that a capital expenditure of at least \$5,000. must be reckoned as coming from the Garden's capital funds.

Mr. Bullard and I are writing you to ask your opinion of this suggested purchase. You have so clear and keen a view of the Garden and its future, that as a Trustee, as well as a wise giver, your judgment is asked. As you have seen, at the meeting on Friday, January 9th the matter will be discussed. Do you care to send a telegram or a line either to Mr. Bullard or me if you can free yourself from the daily entanglements and enmeshments?

A proper letter will go to you before long. Just for you and Robert - to my great regret the Valley Club Board has ruled that no cottage tenancy over 90 days is permitted so this limitation makes my regular winter sojourn impossible - there is nothing to do but be grateful for past years - and resign. Max and I owe you happy winters and I am grateful for us both.

Your ever fond Trix

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
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