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SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

MAUNSELL VAN RENSSELAER, DIRECTOR

January 2, 1947

My very dear Mildred:

This will be but a brief impersonal "shop" letter as to the Botanic Garden affairs.

The meeting of December 20th went well under Mr. Bullard's tactful guidance and the report and plan were given unanimous approval.

A gift has been promised from Mrs. Bullard which would seem to assure the major part of the cost of building the steps from the highroad to the boulder. It seems likely that the County Road Commissioners will have a fund available for widening and improving Mission Canyon Road opposite the new parking space. This seems an unhelped for help toward the Botanic Garden changes. The engineers are working on profiles and grading levels for the south end of the Garden parking space and if these come out right and the County will help in making the big fill that will be needed it would seem a heaven sent chance to start the major improvements. The profiles and trial grades will be ready for the next meeting on January 10th.

Your gift has been allocated, as you remember, approximately as follows:

Revolving publications fund	\$2,000.00
Assistant's salary for one year	2,750.00
Moving of glass house	750.00
Service Road through Ceanothus section	1,200.00
Widening of Arroyo Trail	400.00
Building a Director's house	15,000.00

This will leave about \$5000. to \$8000. "free" with which to start work on the grounds. Even with gifts promised and expected this will not be sufficient to do more than the preliminary grading and to start wall building at the south end of the parking space. There is a serious question in my mind as to whether you would be willing to release the \$15,000. now set aside for the Director's house in order to apply this fund to structural changes. It may also be wise to defer the Ceanothus service road and the widening of the Arroyo Trail until the parking space, its levels and approaches are definitely settled. The reason this suggestion occurs to me as a wise one is a double one: (1) The costs of construction are fabulous and even with controls removed the building of a house may be impossible or at least unwisely costly. (2) While Van Rensselaer is better, it is uncertain when he can come back, or indeed if he can so govern himself to face the fact that he must ration himself more strictly as to effort. He is physically better and nervously also but not out of the woods. On account of these two conditions which must be faced and your approval

Mrs. Bliss

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of the method of procedure suggested in the report, would you be willing to release the house fund and possibly the Arroyo Trail and Ceanothus funds for present construction? It goes against the grain even to suggest this, as you and I are sure that a house, the Arroyo Trail and the Ceanothus rearrangement are essential parts of the Garden setup, but the suggestion seems to me wise.

If you agree, could you send me a wire which might be reported to the meeting next week.

The publication fund, the assistant's salary, will of course be kept and used as allocated.

You and Robert look at me from my dressing table to my heartfelt and daily happiness and satisfaction.

Yours with dearest love,

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Trix