

BEATRIX FARRAND  
THE VALLEY CLUB OF MONTECITO  
P. O. BOX 1140  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

January 22, 1944.  
*Feb 1*

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss,  
1527 - Twenty Eighth Street,  
Washington, D. C.

Much loved Mildred:

The little group of your devoted friends here has been quite uneasy because anxious inquiries from each other bring forth nothing but reports of your silence, so that we have been fearing illness or incapacity, but a letter received yesterday from Mr. Russell consoles me somewhat, as he says he has had a telephone message from you, saying that you have got over your "flu", but that you are not very "robustous". What a dread and nasty insidious enemy that disease is, and how deeply we commiserate with you on the depression and floppiness it seems inevitably to induce. Please don't overdo any more than I do!

We had, of course, hoped that you might come during the winter, but I know well how tangled you and Robert get in your Washington work, and therefore we are rather sadly giving up the hope of seeing you before Spring is in full swing. It is, of course, a bitter disappointment to Anne, and to Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor, and to me, and the group at the Botanic garden are quite down-cast at the thought of your continued absence, as they do so greatly value your piercing common sense and good judgment, and they know how interested you are in the present and the future of the Garden, and how greatly you would have contributed to the important meetings of the last couple of months. However, before plunging into the Botanic Garden problems you will want to know about Maxtrix. They are gladdened by the arrival of two lovely, slender glass bottles, which came yesterday with your message, so that as we unwrapped the parcel, Max and I imagined you and Robert bringing in the two bottles, and giving us our Christmas good wishes. Needless to say the master of the house has chosen the blue one, and I with equal enthusiasm have chosen the mulberry one, and already they are set at work, one with a sprig of jasmine, and the other with bilbergias, and from here they will go to Reef Point to carry on their career of usefulness and to hold a daily, single rose each for Maxtrix. Thank you my dear.

The last two or three weeks have been rather hard going for Max, as, while I think everything has fundamentally gone rightly, the overwhelming nervous shock of the big operation often rears its ugly head, and depresses and knocks him down for a day or two, so there have been decided side-slips, and we have, therefore, realized that the problem was not primarily now a surgical one, and therefore we have supplemented the good Dr. Wills, with the careful and thorough Koefod. I am fairly sure that things are going right, but it is very hard on him to be so up and down, and as he cannot really answer for behaviour of his



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nerves and general make up for any specific time, he and I have both thought it much wisest to rub out the idea of the journey to New York for him, and the excitement of seeing his friends and so on, so we have decided to stay on here in this delightful little nut-shell of yours until about the 20th of April; then to go fairly directly East and home. This will mean that we shall probably get home about the first of May, and Dumbarton will be worked in either on my Eastward journey or soon after we settle at home for the summer. This seems to be our full news brought absolutely up to the minute.

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As to Dumbarton and the herbaceous border walls, I have a strong feeling that the sooner you and I can get to this the better, as after all I am over seventy, and tottering toward seventy two, and one cannot be certain how long the juice will run which makes the engine wheels go around. It would seem as though we should get our whole scheme pretty well outlined, and also for the ellipse before I may have to pass out of the picture for one reason or another - This is not meant to be an alarming statement, as I see no immediate reason for anything drastic heppening, but, of course, at seventy two or nearly that age, it is only common sense to see what may happen fairly soon, and perhaps without much warning. For instance, if I should find that it makes too drear a period for Max to be left alone while I rush off hither and yon, I should of course, stay at home, just as you would, so think over the question of our two big enterprises, and remember that I was quite serious in saying that I felt so strongly about the advisability of going on with at least one of the two that I was prepared to chip in for at least a fraction of the amount involved. The estimates on the herbaceous border walls are in hand, and I have written two or three times to Bryce to be sure an added allowance was made for the invariable "inspirations" that you and I have as we work over a problem. My figures from Steinbraker amount to about \$12,000., which, of course, is a whopping sum, but it is not likely to be reduced as the months and years grow.

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Now as to the Botanic Garden: These have been eventful and, in some ways, rather difficult weeks, and the account of the meetings are, of course, for your ear and not for public consumption. As, of course, you know, Mrs. Thorne asked for my name to be added to Mr. Kellam's and Mr. deForest's as a member of the Planning Committee. This was done. Mr. Kellam has had influenza and has'nt been very well, so that naturally things have not gone entirely easily at some of the meetings, and one or two were particularly discouraging, as he seemed to feel it impossible to make any decision in which he did not have the actual verbal and vocal assent and presence of his son-in-law. At one meeting the situation grew so prickly that the excellent chairman got very pink, and as we disbanded said "We must get somewhere" and he proposed that we should! The result was two or three very fructuous hours with the director and more time given to the Garden problems than for a considerable period, so that this last meeting on Friday made possible several decisions for the future. Mr. Kellam was away in San Francisco, so that, of course, some of the decisions will have to be affirmed when he returns, and there may be difficulties in his accepting the plan as again decided upon by the Trustees. As you know, Mr. de Forest has a lively and active mind, so that a decision reached on Monday



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may be reversed and a new plan made on Tuesday, and this is just what happened at the meetings at Christmas time. After a harmonious meeting at Mrs. Thorne's we had another harmonious meeting at the Garden, in which he and I, with Mr. Van Rensselaer's consent, agreed on a sketch-plan, a blue print of which is shown you, and three days later he sent another different plan, practically throwing the first one completely over-board, and as he had destroyed the original plan on which we had worked together, Mr. Van Rensselaer and I had to re-construct the first plan, which is the No. 1 blue print, on which the Trustees agreed unanimously in principle last Friday. The second plan (No.2 blue print) is the revised plan of Mr. deForest, which as you see, reopens the controversy as to parking space at the boulder, which all of us thought had been comfortably killed.

In one way, the unsatisfactory meetings, trying as they were, produced a good result, as they made the chairman so impatient with the dilly-dallying and waste of time that he got quite firm and strict, and said we must have a list of priorities and in order of importance, and those which would require no endowment for continuance, as well as those which would require cost for annual care. Naturally making up the plans and the priorities was done with enthusiasm by Mr. Van Rensselaer and me, and while they are, of course, only guess costs, they represent at least what Mr. Van Rensselaer and a certain group of the Trustees think are wise expenditures and ones that are really needed.

Let me here interrupt this narrative by saying during the meeting the question came up as to whether you would contribute the \$2,000. you said you would give the Garden this year for its horticulturist, and whether you would, also, give them \$200.00 extra, which you promised to add to last year's \$1800.00 contribution - the question was asked me almost directly as to whether you would be likely to do this, and I am afraid I was rather hot in answering quickly that where you had given a promise, as you had in each of these two cases, I could not for one instant imagine that you would not fulfill it, no matter how difficult it might be, so perhaps your old Trix has lead you into a pit-fall! Sometime when you have a moment, either send me a wire or a line or something to the chairman, which will tell him about my indiscretion and promise for you.

Of course, if you were here you would see and we could go over the various priorities together, which don't look very convincing when they are dribbled out on a long sheet of paper. As you may like to look over and study the various items, I am sending on my own copy of the priorities list so that you can look them over.

Frankly, I don't know whether you are able or want to make any extra contribution to the Garden this year in the way of construction, but, of course, I cannot help seeing that a sum anywhere from \$3,000. to \$5,000. would make a first-rate start on some of the pieces of work that really should be done and fairly soon.

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How footling all of this letter writing seems in comparison with a couple of hours' talk on the spot, but I am rather despondent

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about seeing you here this winter, and so am obliged to bother you with this long screed.

Poor Casa Dorinda looks rather deserted, and I am told, though not officially, that it is empty.

We sit quietly here day after day with our life interrupted by our little toddles around the golf course, and by a very occasional jaunt to the village, but the weather has been heavenly, and we are lucky beyond expression in being here out of the cold and safe and well looked-after by the good medicos and the devoted Clemmy.

No more now from your always fond -

Trix

encs.



Major Priorities - I  
Guess Estimates  
Construction on lines of Master Plan

Items implying no upkeep funds.

1. Road east of meadow Flagging	\$300.00 300.00
2. Removal of parking space at boulder (Boulders under present space make cost of removal heavy)	500.00
3. Walk to boulder from Library gate, grading, planting, wall	500.00
4. Greenhouse moving	600.00
5. Parking space (new), grading, surfacing wall building, planting	5,000.00
6. Removal of present pools	300.00
7. Mission canon road, bank treatment, wall, planting	1,000.00
8. Work yard - finish fence, soil and compost bins, added shed	1,000.00
9. Fittings for herbarium cases, etc.	500.00
10. Plan and survey to finish (Master Plan)	100.00
11. Ceanothus Section, road-path access	750.00
12. Road southeast of Library	400.00
13. Tractor ramp from Canon road to service yard	300.00
14. Surfacing of roads and paths throughout the Garden	?

Major Priorities - II  
Guess Estimates  
Construction on lines of Master Plan

Items implying additional annual upkeep funds.

1. Steps and ramp from Canon road to boulder Upkeep \$250. per year.	1,500.00
2. Meadow planting, enlargement, grading Upkeep per year \$500.	500.00
3. Desert Section above Canon (including wall) Upkeep \$200. to \$250. per year	300.00

4. Desert Section below canon, construction, walls walks	\$1000.00
Upkeep (special) \$900. per year	
5. New pool, bog garden, water supply & drainage	1500.00
Upkeep \$500. per year	
6. Gray plantation, grading, paths, planting	750.00
Upkeep \$600. per year	
7. Additional land west of canon cost	20,000.00
Upkeep \$1800. per year	

#### Minor Priorities

Items implying no added upkeep funds.

1. Rainwater storage tank and pump	750.00
2. Service pathway to Library (Not necessary if southeast road is built)	100.00
3. Brush removal on Richter land	200.00
4. Sundial moving	150.00
5. Widen Arroyo Trail to south boundary, including retaining wall on steep bank	1,000.00
6. Canon service road to south boundary	200.00
7. Service road across Mission Creek to quarry south of Campbell Bench	500.00
8. Service road from Tunnel Road to north observation point	200.00
9. Hillside road to gray section	200.00
10. Paved wheel tracks 4' wide from Library to gate	300.00
11. Paved wheel tracks 3' wide from gate to boulder	250.00
12. Additional books for library	

#### Minor Priorities

Items implying additional annual upkeep funds.

Calochortus Plantation	Oak Section
Brodiaea "	Canon Section
Lily "	Island Section
Fern "	Rock Garden
Erythronium "	Pritchett trail
	Campbell bench



Endowment Needs

Staff needed for development.

Geneticist - yearly salary		\$2400.00
Horticulturist	" "	2400.00
Arborist	" "	2400.00
Guide	" "	1500.00
Gardeners (2 at \$1500.00)		3000.00