

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
~~124 EAST 40TH STREET~~
~~NEW YORK~~
Valley Club of Montecito
Santa Barbara, California.

January 31st, 1942.

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Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss,
Casa Dorinda,
Hot Springs Road,
Montecito,
Santa Barbara, California.

Dearest Mildred:

A couple of days ago that sterling friend, Anne Fithian, called me to a meeting at Miss Rigg's office where we went over the plans for your new library building at the Botanic Garden. We went ahead and made certain decisions without waiting to consult you, and next Wednesday there is, I believe, to be a meeting at Mr. Kenyon's office to which I shall go but only for a short time, as I feel I can be of more use in general planning than I can in placing hose bibbs and telephone and light outlets!

Mr. Van Rensselaer told me that the present secretary is leaving the Botanic Garden, as her husband has gone to the north on defense work. He would normally replace her with another individual at the same rate of pay, \$100.00 per month, but he thought that he had better speak to me with regard to Miss Sweeney in case you had any idea of suggesting her for the Botanic Garden here. Her salary is nearly twice what the local lady is getting, and while I think Miss Sweeney would be an admirable person for them, I doubt whether they could afford the extra fund, unless you were interested enough to want to attend to it yourself. Don't bother to answer this as I shall take it for granted that Mr. Van Rensselaer should go ahead on the same basis as the present one unless you have Miss Sweeney firmly in mind.

Although none of us can make plans in advance, Max and I hope it may be possible for us to come back next year to this same comfortable cottage. We have been looking forward to enjoying the orchids that we had at 1650 in these rooms, but it does not seem practical to have them brought on and taken back and they, therefore, are of little or no use. Do you suppose you would like to have some of them for Dumbarton Oaks, and do you suppose they would be worth packing and sending there. Naturally they are intended as a gift, but the packing and expressing might cost \$20 or \$30. Do you think they are worth it? There are a couple of white Cattleyas, about a dozen Cypripediums, three or four Orange Laelias and two or three Cymbidiums. Perhaps we might give two or three of this lot to friends here or in Pasadena, but most of them are greenhouse plants and so would perish if put into outdoor gardens, even in this heavenly climate.

P.T.O.

We are duly grateful to you and Robert for having made this winter possible for us, first in discovering this pleasant cottage and next in having made Max a member. So again, thanks and affection.

Yours ever and always,

Trix