

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

January 8, 1947

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Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss,
1537 28th Street,
Georgetown,
Washington 7, D.C.

My very Dear,

Your bed-written note of last Sunday has troubled and worried me deeply as it grieves me to have added a featherweight to your too gallant shoulders.

There has been heavy pressure on this end of the line, as the Trustees naturally want to get the wheels turning as soon as possible, and before an eastward journey takes me out of their immediate contact. The Road Commissioners told Mr. Lancaster they had a fund reserve for widening Mission Canyon Road and would like to use it before it slipped away into some less excellent project, as such things often occur. This put pressure on our group here and it was not until the formal adoption of the plan on December 20 by the board, that it would have been right to go ahead with engineers' costs. Then came devastating Christmas days and holidays and only yesterday the definite profiles of the new approach walk and parking space were received. They are much more favorable than I dared to hope. The drawings are very complicated so that if you will trust your garden twin to go ahead on the grading problems the big profiles will not be sent you, unless you wish them.

Van R's condition makes me very uneasy also, as he has not so far learned to measure his effort by his strength. (I have known others as foolish!) So he constantly retards his recovery by overwriting and overworking, then has a set-back and consequent discouragement. The next months are going to show whether he can learn to take a new and slower pace.

Thanks to Mrs. Gould's affection for him and his family she is allowing them to occupy her little cottage -- an ideal solution, as it is as quiet as his mountain retreat and he can be kept away from people, meetings, etc until he is better. As he also is entirely untrained in reading plans or seeing them in advance of their finish, he will be discouraged from going to the garden as his wife acknowledges that it would upset him greatly to see the destruction of some of his beloved plants which stand in the way of the new work.

