

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

27/5/47
Sta B.
Botanic Garden

May 26, 1947

Dearest Mildred:

The Santa Barbara Garden situation continues to promise well. Apparently the Board have bought a good house reasonably near Mission Canyon in which the Van Rensselaers can live until the Director's House can be wisely built and for prices lower than their present level. The newly acquired house will be considered a temporary expedient, and will be sold when the Director's official dwelling is finished and ready. Van Rensselaer seems to be gaining from accounts given by Mr. Bullard, but he will have to "gang warily" for the future.

The bull-dozers are at work preparing for the new parking space and unless the situation changes materially it would seem likely that the approach steps and new entrance road will be built, and at least a part of the parking space.

The new Board now begins to realize what mistakes have been made through lack of foresight, in allowing adjoining land to be privately bought when the acreage was vitally important to the garden. I fear it is too late to hope for owning the western hillside, but at least the Board is trying to fend off further nibbling encroachments. Have you any idea whether the next months may see you near Santa Barbara or is it too far away to look?

Yours with affection,

Beatrix