

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

May 7, 1943
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Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
c/o The Shoreham
Washington, D. C.

Dearest Mildred:

The telegram with regard to Van Rensselaer's gold medal and its acceptance was a real delight to one who like you is deeply and from the heart interested in the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and its Director. I would have given a good deal to have been there and to have seen him and heard his modest speech. You must be very much pleased at having given this great boost to him and to the Garden. As he has obviously been far too busy to write anything with regard to his itinerary I don't quite know where he is to be at the week-end of the 15th of May.

The only reason I ask is that Max is very wisely deciding to go to Phillips House in Boston to be looked over by his two doctors and we arrive there next Wednesday morning the 12th. Naturally no one can possibly tell in advance and without medical advice whether a few days treatment will clear up his various difficulties or whether his surgeon and doctor will feel that something more is needed. Naturally of course Max must not be conscious of interfering with my plans in any way. Therefore, if it seems inadvisable for me to be in Washington on Saturday evening the 15th to give the Reef Point Gardens lecture I wonder if good Van Rensselaer could arrange to be there to read the manuscript and show the pictures (as he has heard the lecture and seen the pictures) or whether he could take over my job for me and give a talk on the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens and Ceanothus? If this can be arranged and if he can hold himself in readiness to take over and improve on my trick at the wheel it may be a real help such as only he can give. The difficulty is that it is unlikely that I shall know before Thursday afternoon what the doctors plans are likely to be with regard to Max in the hospital. I may be able to leave Boston on Thursday night and go back to Boston on the Saturday night after the lecture, but everything is so hazy until he has had his examinations at the hospital that it is very hard to make any kind of definite promise. As soon as we are told what is likely in the way of treatment I will of course at once wire you.

It would seem to me thoroughly worthwhile for Van Rensselaer to come down here even though I were not to be at Reef Point. A day has already been arranged for him with the Superintendent of Acadia Park and I am sure the Superintendent would also be willing to show him some of the local gardens as well, and the Park Naturalist would also help in showing him Reef Point Gardens and he would of course be made comfortable here at Reef Point. The chances seem to me good for my being able to be here at

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the time Van Rensselaer has planned to be in this part of the world, but I fear that the possibility of his taking on my work at Dumbarton on Saturday may interfere with some of his Boston plans. If some place has to be left out of his journey on account of this particular emergency it of course must be Reef Point rather than the Arnold Arboretum.

The manuscript for the Reef Point Gardens talk and the slides and my raiment are all going to be sent to Dumbarton in c/o of Miss Sweeney tomorrow so that if it is possible to give the talk and show the slides they will be there and I shall be decently clothed, and if I can't be there the manuscript and pictures will be there and my clothes, and they can be returned later.

I shall probably be at the Ritz-Carlton in Boston as I am asking them to keep a room for me from next Wednesday morning so that unless you hear to the contrary this should be my address after we leave here on Tuesday night next.

It is too bad to have to bother D.O. with my affairs but I am thoroughly glad that Max has decided to go to Boston as he has entire confidence in the doctors who have looked after him before, and I am sure also that he could not get better advice and care. Naturally we are both disappointed that after the successful winter in Santa Barbara Max has had this little upset but we both hope and believe that the condition can be easily assayed and proper treatment given.

Yours ever and always devotedly

Trix