

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

November 21, 1946

Dearest Mildred:

The faithful Clementine and I got here ten days ago and are happily settled in the cottage we so gratefully owe to you and Robert. It has helped for many a winter, and not a day passes that I do not send a little prayer of thankfulness to you both for what you have done for Max and me, and now for Clementine and me.

As soon as the first fatigue of the journey had worn off Mr. Bullard was telephoned to and with his usual kindness came out at once to the Valley Club where we had a good talk on the Garden future. As you well know, he realizes what expensive mistakes have been made in the past by a Board composed of many who had little experience and foresight in garden planning, and from his attitude of mind I should say that the new Board sees very clearly that no step should be taken in the Garden which is not part of a basic plan which has been carefully thought out and integrated. Therefore, he and I agreed that at the next meeting of the Board some sort of rough sketch report, and possibly a sketch plan should be prepared, to tell the members of what was contemplated and that there would be undoubted changes and unpleasant destruction of existing conditions which they would have to face courageously in order a basic plan may be carried out smoothly and without costly mistakes. As soon as the report is even roughly put together a copy will be sent you, and I shall deeply appreciate it if you will send me a wire telling me whether or not you think essentials have been forgotten, or whether it lies on the lines that you and I have often discussed and which now, thanks to you, seem possible to carry out.

There have been changes since I left last spring, and all of them appear to be improvements. The revealing of the boulder by cutting a vista through a muddle of cherry, the replanting of the Meadow, re-placing of the glass house in its new setting, have all either been finished or are in process of construction. You will be pleased to know that the Garden workmen under the horticulturist Wells, have done a really good job on the new glass-house. The figure for changing its position and reglazing the frame amounted to nearly \$2000., and they have reduced this to somewhere between \$500. and \$600. to which of course should be added the cost of their own working time. But nevertheless a considerable saving has been made, and what is quite as important, the spirit of the men is much lifted by having really forward looking work to do rather than simple and often rather dull upkeep.

Mr. Bullard also wisely authorized the start of a survey which has been needed for years. We have been fumbling in the dark as to levels except as to those immediately around the library building and now we are told to go forward and get the ground sections and grades we require for the main body of the plan between the library, the north end of the Meadow and Mission Canyon Road.

Mrs. Bliss

-2-

November 21, 1946

There is no doubt in my mind that you have given wisely to an organization which deserves support, and with the new Board charting the course it looks promising for the future.

Perhaps in a few days the report will be in more readable condition, in which case the draft will be sent you to cast your eye upon and pick out its flaws.

Don't think of answering this letter, as the only reply needed will be a commendatory, or condemning telegram, after you receive the sketch of what is to be told the Board on the December 20th meeting.

Needless to say I wish you were here. Miss Miller is taking the dictation in your library building and I am looking out at the big boulder and up to the mountain, now greening after the first autumn rain. The Meadow is sprouting with young *Coreopsis* plants. Beyond the Meadow is the bronze foliage of the sycamores, and crowning the mountains a soft cape of fleecy clouds.

My devoted best to Robert, and an all-enveloping hug to you, my dearest.

*Love over
Trix*

You and Robert will also like to know that my Boston medico found me much better than last spring and says I may work, still within rather narrow limits, but that social parties must be eschewed.

B.F.

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 Twenty-eighth Street
Georgetown, Washington, D. C.

*Mr. Bullard & the new members of the
board are really first rate, keen, with
perception.*