

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR
MAINE

September 1, 1944

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 28th Street,
Georgetown
Washington, 8, D. C.

Dearestest Mildred:

It is a joy to think that you and Robert will soon be off on holiday and I promise not to bother you more than is absolutely necessary during your leave. This note will be brief in order to save you time in reading it. "Pest Control in the Home Garden" not worth your bothering with.

Thanks for the draft of the Van Rensselaer "Needs of the Botanic Garden". I will work this over and try a digest of it and will send it direct to Van Rensselaer unless it seems necessary to worry you to again look over it.

It's maddening to have to plan to come to Dumbarton just for the couple of days before you get home from your leave but these two days will be more than used up in the chores, measurements and working over arrangements with Bryce, and then I am hoping to come back again in October and will try and fit my dates to exactly marry in with yours. It now looks as though the best days for me would be to arrive sometime on Sunday October 29th and probably to leave again sometime on Tuesday the 31st. Let me know if these dates seem totally impossible for you. I have to remember of course that Mr. Thacher's freest days are Saturday and Sunday and therefore usually regulate my visits on this basis.

A particularly nice letter came from Mrs. Thorne speaking with enthusiasm and admiration for not only your gift to the Botanic Garden but also for the wisdom and foresight which have prompted it. Evidently she feels as I do that the Botanic Garden's future is now assured and that it has a very real important future. Mrs. Thorne further says that she stands ready to do anything in her power to see that what you hope for the Garden may be accomplished. Without underlining the riffles in the Board of Trustees she recognizes them and feels that a more generous and understanding attitude toward the Director should and must be adopted.

Frankly it is very foolish for the obstructionist on the Board to object to Mr. Van Rensselaer's single signature to checks and vouchers, and also to oppose the publication or circulation of the leaflet to encourage further gifts. If ever there was a moment in which to strike for further generosity to the Garden this is it, as your shining example will show others that a person whose opinion in the community is respected feels that the Garden is worthy of backing and financial support.

You will be delighted to hear that a report has come from Van Rensselaer as to the condition of the two trees at Casa Dorinda. He has evidently gone into the matter carefully and says that the great Guadalupe Cypress and the

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King Albert Sequoia are both in excellent condition. He reports that Johnny Weeks fed the cypress a year ago and now has a good mulch of feed under the sequoia and that the fences are adequate and have undoubtedly served a good purpose. Mr. Van Rensselaer goes on to report about the lawn and its need for care and fertilizing, but he says that on the whole the place is in remarkably good condition considering how little help Weeks is getting.

This seems the end of my budget and I apologize for making it so long. Max and I are daily in the garden and he is so happy in being strong enough to do more work on the Franklin than he has been able to accomplish for over two years.

What dears our two are.

Yours ever with devotion

Yours very own
Trix

Mr. Wm. Barden - telephoned yesterday
saying by way of introduction that he knew
Joe - Robert well - & asked keep on a
place he has just bought at N. P. Harbor
So off I go —