

September 16, 1942.

Mrs. Beatrix Farrand,  
Reef Point,  
Bar Harbor, Maine:

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

Your nice letter of August 3d nearly didn't get to me at all. Irene evidently intended putting it on my desk as you had marked the envelope "Do not Forward", but instead she carried it to the linen closet and Ellen found it on her return from her vacation. It was so nice to hear from you and to know that what lists I sent were acceptable to you and that you thought the garden reports satisfactory. To me they sound so stiff but I don't want to go into writing all the ohs and ahs of my visiting garden lovers - it would be such a repetition. However, it does please me to have so many return and bring other friends to enjoy it with them.

The news of the Blisses in your letter was the first I had received and I am glad to know things are going well. I was sorry to hear of Mrs. Duane's death. I knew, of course, that she had been very ill for some time but it was a shock to know she had gone and I realize what a gap it will leave in the chain of the Bliss real friends in Santa Barbara. I hear that Mr. Eichheim also passed away and that will be another sadness for Mr. Eichheim was such a genuine music lover and a good friend and neighbor.

I am glad to get your news of the changes in the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and to know that Mrs. Bliss is pleased with the changes made there. Mrs. Bliss told me of what a staff you were to them when they were making decisions about the garden and she didn't know what they would have done without you.

When I was in New York I went up to the N.Y. Botanic Garden and spent some time in the library and managed to get a few needed prints. I finally got the Viola priceana of the Confederate violet which you mentioned and which I had never seen before - I mean the picture. I also got some old English botany prints here in Washington to add to the collection.

Yes the shelves are tidier and the panels make quite a showing in the closet but I made a mistake in having the shelves made the way they are as it is a job to lift so many panels in filing or taking out new material. Yesterday I changed the Catalogue House Display and had to do a little scouring on the cellophane protectors and a good many panels showed signs of too much water as does everything else hereabouts - mildew and mold on so many things because of the dampness.

Changes are being made on this the third floor and the maids' rooms are being taken over by some of the students. You have no doubt



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heard of the meetings held here by Prof. Conant, Mr. Baruch and others in the rubber situation - the place was like a beehive but now most of them have gone and the result of their gatherings has been presented to the President. The Government has asked for more space which accounts for the re-routing of the third floor rooms so as to give the Government the space on the second floor formerly used as students reading rooms.

I saw Mr. Russell in New York but he had had no news of the family. Miss Snow, Mr. Bliss' secretary fell and broke her arm while on her vacation and was staying at the apartment so I saw her a few times while I was in New York. She is getting better but won't be able to use her arm for some time I'm afraid. Besides putting a crimp in her holiday it is very trying to be so bound up and unable to help one's self, especially such an independent person as Miss Snow.

I finally got my new glasses and they are a big improvement - I hadn't realized myself how much I needed them; the teeth also had a going over so I feel as if I had a good deal of repair. My month passed all too quickly as vacations always do but it was nice being home with the family. The weather was rainy for the most part but not hot, but now that I've returned to Washington they have turned on the heat. Yesterday was a real scorcher and today is a forehead wiping day.

The gardens are to be open on October 15th for the Scottish Evacuation Plans Comm. the particular date being set to have the chrysanthemums at their best. I don't know of any other open days except our regular ones. The United Nations have had their last fling and everyone is glad for they certainly made a mess of the orangery and flower arranging room. I know Bryce is glad.

I hope you have had a very pleasant summer and that Mr. Farrand is completely recovered and you have enjoyed each other and the gardens and seeing much accomplished at Reef Point. I do hope you are coming our way this Autumn. Please remember me very kindly to all the household and my very sincere thanks to you for your encouragement. Kindest greetings always,

Very sincerely,