

BEATRIX FARRAND
~~1850 ORLANDO ROAD~~ Reef Point
~~SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA~~ Bar Harbor, Maine,

October 21, 1941

Miss Anne Sweeney
3101 R Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Sweeney:

Your letter of the 18th was indeed good news as I am delighted to hear that the start of your garden talks and "circulations" has begun so auspiciously. It may mean you and your shoes will be worn out, but after all it will be in a good cause. Don't, however, get too physically tired in trotting around the gardens, and if Mr. Thatcher puts too many different days a week and excursions on you, bleat to me and I will try and help.

You were indeed nice to take so pleasantly the suggestions made on your preliminary talk. It is fun to work with some one who is so heart and soul interested in what she has ahead of her that she never thinks of herself or her own feelings in comparison with the importance of the work. After all this is the only way one ever succeeded in doing a worth while job as it never is a question of personality, it is always a question of how well the thing can be done and not who does it.

When I think of your conducting 75 people around the garden in one mass it gives me many a chuckle, as you will before long have to strap a megaphone to your countenance and behave like a cheer leader at a football game.

Then, also do be careful not to make your journeys too long, personally I think a two-hour trip for school children is not only too long for you but also too long for them. If it must be for such a period of time as this try and spend at least one-half hour of it quietly in the orangery, or whatever meeting place you have. When you get time, tell me whether the orangery is to be used as your starting point, because Bryce seemed to think this was to be completely a staff tea-room.

When the American Horticultural Society meets by all means take the opportunity to associate with them, and place yourself as the guide and not just simply as "nice Miss Anne Sweeney". While in no way pushing yourself, as guide you are again not an individual but you are the garden guide for Harvard University and as such must be recognized as a useful and important member of the staff.

Your October lay-out for the Catalog House is exceedingly good. Frankly I think we are right to keep the Catalogue House show as small as it is, because children cannot take in any more than a few things at a time, and if you can have a couple of blackboards, or such like, up at your starting point you will give them the information, so to speak, from an ink-dropper rather than in a tablespoon.

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Your birds are excellent, and it is a good idea to have put the trees at the top, and your trees also in the middle. Certainly a panel of Chrysanthemums is good and a panel of shrubs. Possibly you could collect still another panel of flowers rather than a second panel of trees and shrubs. Think this over, as it would seem to me that you are accenting Chrysanthemums at the expense of the late flowers such as Cosmos or whatever Snaps or odds and ends there might be.

Have I caught you on a mis-spelling of Xanthorhiza? Look at the top of your right hand, or southwest panel! You probably are right, I have not looked it up (suggest you consult Rehder.)

Do keep me informed as to how things go, as I feel as though I was really not doing my job at Dumbarton Oaks while staying here these many weeks, but, as you know better than anyone can tell you, ones job is to look after ones own, and I feel as though both Mrs. Bliss and Mr. Thacher understand.

You kindly ask about Mr. Farrand. He has had one or two rather discouraging down-hill grades, but on the whole I think he is better than he was a month ago, and only wish there were not so many hollows on the way to the top of the hill.

The weather on the whole has been magnificent. As soon as it gets really unpleasantly cold I expect we shall leave almost at a minute's notice, but just now I am making no plans for leaving as I should not want to leave Mr. Farrand for a week or so, and consequently expect when we close the house here we shall both leave together and journey out to California at the end of November.

Yours sincerely,

Beaumont Farrand