

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

14 January 1946

24

My very dearest,

Your letter has come. It shames me because you have written about the dates when I have sat mum chause about "The Little Fishes of the Sea" which are, as you say exquisite in color and form. They have given me real pleasure as anything as technically perfect as the execution of this pamphlet tickles ones sensibilities.

Thank you for the many distant but most perceptible ~~hugs~~. As I today think of what Max and I have owed you and Robert in housing us so perfectly in the little cottage where we have had four winters together. Now, as I write, sun is pouring inn the south windows. The long green slope to the ocean is only interrupted by the distant line of olive trees and the crests of the eucalyptus.

You will like to know that yesterday at the Botanical Gardens meeting there was a little purr of excitement when the surplus of last year's fund, amounting to \$2100.00, was turned over for the foundation of a fund for the director's use and you will also like to know that the person who made the resolution was the treasurer himself.

Since then there has been another gift from Mrs. Gould of \$100.00 for the Director's ~~Hose~~ Fund so that now there is at least enough toward a respectable foundation and once started the fund will grow. The whole attitude of the board has changed from a group of bickering elders to a very much younger, broad minded group with, of course, the elders still on the board but, wisely and properly, being lead by the younger men. The wholse aspect is different and when Mr. Louis Lancaster came back to the board and yesterday s meeting, he said it was to a totally different establishment from the one he left when he went away to war work, which has kept him for over three years.

The garden is going steadily forward and, although I am not going to beg anything from you, I have the impression that if you wanted to make a small gift of twenty-five or fifty dollars the board would greatly appreciate it although they don't expect it - it would however show that your interest remained and that you wanted them to know this. If I should not have said this, please forget it. Mr. Van Rensselaer has really sacrificed himself for the gardens in the last years magnificently but, from his physical point of view, unwisely as he has worn his nervous and physical reserve to a greater degree than was wise and went away, on the doctor's orders, for six weeks in November but, because of his devotion to the gardens, he came back rather sooner than he should have and now Dr. Koefod insists that he must go away for another three months, which the board passed on yesterday and is sending him off with a full salary. In fact, one of his opponents was the one who made the motion to have him sent away and who said the gardens owed him very much more than the three months' salary he would earn in resting. All this shows you what a different spirit you have infused into our group.

Anne looks well and very handsome but she is extremely tired and considerably troubled about a brother who seems far from well but she is busy on the ranch work and, even though she is tired, I think she is interested, as I rather think between the ~~ranch~~ ^{lines} she is doing too much in the way of running the whole establishment.

2 -- Mrs. Bliss 14/1/46

Some of these days I shall hope to write you about Dumbarton but just now it seems more important to work on the big report than it does to talk about it and I am doing a little each day on the remodeling of a section you passed on some two years ago.

If only you could be here! What fun it would be to catch up some of the threads that are now far too long uncaught. The "bronchs" seem quieted and I have done the first part of the Le Viellard Franklin manuscript for Max's book.

Again thanking you for the lovely sunshine you have given us, the perfect neighborhood, and for making life a very delightful place.

My love to you and Robert, as the old ballad says "Every day and alle."

Yours fondler than ever
Trix

*Take a look at the
30th. Par. Treasurer's report, if you want to
read a satisfactory document -*

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

Just the other day, Mr. Louis Lancaster made a very wise suggestion. He said he thought it would be thoroughly wise if some one could be trained to be an assistant to the director and asked whether a student (a certain Mr. Tucker) might be a good person to think over. He is used to the Garden and Van Rensselaer. They get along very well together. So if the suggestion comes up, and you approve, I may ask you for a small contribution toward his salary for a try-out period as he might be particularly useful during some of the time that Mr. Van Rensselaer is away.