

The Valley Club of Montecito
Santa Barbara, California
March 23, 1943

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D. C.

Farrand

Dearest Garden-Twin:

It is pretty exciting to think that in hardly more than a fortnight you and I will be working together at Dumbarton, and just because so much has happened in the last days at the Botanical Garden, a line of gratitude goes to you for your prompt action on the matter of Stewart's salary. The whole situation has been rather coldly managed and without much regard to Stuart himself, as he has been allowed to depart without any kind of commendation or letter of thanks after three years of faithful service. More of this when we meet.

Also the General is having one of his attacks of discouragement and depression, which is reflected to all who surround him by a quick refusal to consider anything which might involve expenditure or encouragement to the head of the Garden. Apparently, there is no one to whom the president listens in your absence, so probably after we meet you will be able to send him an amiable prodding letter, telling him how essential you feel the continuance of the Garden and its present director to be.

Your heartwarming instant response to the General's notice of Stewart's impending departure has done more to cheer up the rest of us than even you know, as there have been doldrums and moments of rather deep depression and a feeling that "oh, what is the use!" It really is not quite as bad as this sounds, but the situation is not an easy one, and as aforesaid, you are the person to whom they listen, and to no one else.

There will also be news of Casa Dorinda as I have just talked with Lucking and expect to go over to see the place before we leave. He tells me he is not allowed to buy a penny's worth of fertilizer or gas for the lawn, and therefore I feel the place must look rather distressful.

If you think there is any likelihood of our needing the Haveylet in Washington, let me know. She writes that she has had a hard winter and has had a nasty case of bronchial-pneumonia since the 1st of February, but says she is better and does long to be needed at Dumbarton! Do you suppose the topknot to the historic tablet will need so costly a lady--as well as so pleasant a one?

To return to the Botanic Garden here before ending this screed. I shall bring with me the new outline plan and a series of notes which have been compiled as to policies for the present and future in the

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss - 3-23-43 - p. 2

Garden, so let us see if we can reserve a morning for Santa Barbara in the whirligig of Washington and its doings.

Yours all the time, & every where

R

Trix