

December 22, 1941

Mrs. Beatrix Farrand,
Valley Club of Montecito,
Santa Barbara, California.

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

Your nice letter of the 15th received and eagerly devoured by me. It is so comforting to know that my dear Mr. and Mrs. Bliss are well and, like them to be giving so much of themselves to the new demands upon them. Yes, I am grateful that Mrs. Bliss has the absorbing work to occupy her and the Botanic Garden herbarium must be a joy to work on.

In my wee corner things are slowing up as regards attendance - occasionally an odd visitors, or two may come in but, of course, the grounds are damp and not so good for walking. One nice old dear came last Wednesday morning and I did enjoy her visits. She wanted to see the gardens without their Sunday clothes on and especially the trees and we had such a nice time enjoying the same things. She told me she was 78 years old but she was mentally keen and decidedly alert and agile too. She explained that she was an Englishwoman and had been a good walker all her life. She was delighted with everything and wants to bring her grandchildren in the Spring --if she is still here --as she explained she was 'living on borrowed time'. She was sweet.

I'm glad you approve of the little publicity notice sent out. I have received replies from the Chronicle and Horticulture saying they will be glad to mention the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens and asking if we had any pictures to send them.

We had a Christmas party last Tuesday which was very nice and now the students are departing, some have already gone for their Christmas holidays, and I leave tomorrow for home, returning on the 29th.

I have heard from Bryce about the orchid situation but Mr. Thacher has so many things on his hands I haven't heard from him -in fact haven't seen him since last week. However, I try to carry on in my own way. I have heard nothing more about moving the flip-flap or of the toilet accommodations but I know Mr. Davis has been consulted about the latter.

What did Mrs. Bliss think of the movie of the gardens?

My greetings to you and best wishes to you and Mr. Farrand for a Happy Christmas and aPeaceful New Year.

Sincerely yours,