

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

April 30, 1943

May 3

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

Dearest Mildred:

A brief bulletin rather than a letter goes to you more as an announcement of Van Rensselaer's meteoric plans than as a real epistle. Letters are going today to various garden heads, a list is enclosed, and carbons of the letters are going to Mr. Van Rensselaer at the Hotel Langdon 2 East 56th Street, New York, as he writes he expects to land in New York on the evening of May 4th.

I am suggesting to him that possibly he may wish to omit Baltimore as it seems hardly important and you will know whether or not to have him insert Wilmington. Philadelphia also could probably be omitted as the botanists seem agreed that the Morris Arboretum and the Hemlock Arboretum are both of them in too infant a stage to be of any immediate interest. It would also seem rather wise for Mr. VanRensselaer to omit either Princeton or Yale as there is a certain likeness in University planting, and the more he can telescope his unnecessary journeys in order to lengthen his time at the necessary places, the more he will get out of your benefice. Once he gets into the train at Boston on the night of May 19th he will be under our wing for a couple of days. The Park Superintendent here is reserving the whole day for him and on his second day he can have a look at the near parts of the Island and at Reef Point Gardens where we hope the daffodils will be in good bloom.

You will know what will be wise to add or omit from the point of view of Garden Club obligation. I have looked at Mr. Van Rensselaer's journey more from the point of experience and education for him than from the social end of the scale.

Two letters from Anne have come in, one reporting General Lassiter having retired to our cottage No. 2 at the Valley Club on account of a tiresome attack of water on the knee due to over-fatigue and standing. One of the letters was rather fussed because of a Trustees' meeting at which a rather "blasting" letter from Mr. deForrest was wisely tabled. I enclose a copy of her letter. They are evidently doing well with their picnic lunches and meetings, here is the list of what they have done, and Anne adds that Mr. and Mrs. Bernhard Hoffmann have sent a nice note about the Garden, the Library and the little parties. You are going a

Mrs. Bliss 4/30/43 -2

good job and a really worthwhile one, and the journey for Van Rensselaer is going to be one of the very high spots in his good life. Probably it is just as well that Van Rensselaer is not going to be in Washington on the days I shall be working at D.O. as all the time available must be given to our beloved garden. You will know whether or not you feel it desirable to have a meeting between Mr. Morrison and our Santa Barbara gardener. The whole Washington end of the program is being purposely left vague so that as much can be put in as he can endure and you can arrange.

Yours ever and always my very dear

Beatrice

As Mrs. Farrand has had to go out on field work before this letter was typed she has asked me to sign it for her.

Sabell M. Stover

Secretary

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Letters written by Mrs. Farrand to the following asking for appointments with Mr. Van Rensselaer.

Mr. William H. Judd, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill, Director " " " "

Dr. William Crocker, Director Boyce-Thompson Inst. Yonkers, N.Y.

Dr. C. Stewart Gager, Director, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn N.Y.

Dr. William J. Robbins, Director, N.Y. Bot. Garden, Bronx Park, N.Y.

(carbons of above letters sent to Mr. Van Rensselaer)

Copy.

Sunday Ap. 11th, 1943

Anneacre

Picacho Lane

Santa Barbara, California

Dear Beatrix:

This instant I have stamped my 81st appeal (with letters in each) enclosed for renewal of garden memberships! My head and back and inky paws are tired - but, before I go into my own beloved garden, I must send you a line to acknowledge your letter to me with enclosures to, and from de Forest. re garden plan - Your reply to him a masterpiece. Too bad - the subject had to be brought up at our last trustees' meeting, for Lockwood wrote the board much the same sort of letter, if not more so, than the one he sent you.

They were all read & soft pedalled by the general & by me. Mr. Kellam rather agrees with Lockwood. I finally suggested that the whole matter of way in - (path from the East) new parking space be tabled for the time being - that we had no money, and no materials - that your plan had been accepted "in principal" then Mr. Kellam said the old parking plan & path in, had also been "approved in principal" I said "Yes, but that Lock went on the assumption that the supervisors would do the job and we had no assurances to the effect."

Helen Thorne will be in Santa Barbara next winter & her help & advice would be invaluable & she has vision & experience. You shall be here too - and if Mildred comes (she might) we would really get somewhere.

Have I made myself clear?

Tomorrow we are giving a picnic lunch for the supervisors (5) and town council, 7 or 8, about 20 with our trustees (red wine which they like) We are giving Mrs. Hannasen an extra \$50. when she leaves us - no one wanted to do anything for Stewart.

I've seen a good deal of Van Rensselaer but I can't go on at this pace - am getting very tired and am neglecting household duties & Dorothy who is no better.

P.T.O.

Am longing to hear what you can tell me of
Mildred.

Answers are coming in for membership renewals,
Norm Duane who used to give \$100. cut his to
\$25. Gladness from \$50. to \$25. and so it goes.
One can only do ones best. With real affection
Anne

I do miss you. - Your
We heard a moving broadcast of a speech of
Queen Elizabeth a lovely & good person

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& by Mr. Mr. Kellian rather agree with Lookwood.
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