

August 14th, 1944

Dear Mildred:

The August 11th meeting of the Trustees of the Botanic Garden was a notable one. Your letter of August 1st, 1944 was read in which you present the Garden with securities of the value of \$200,000.

None of the Trustees has doubted that the Garden would carry on. It simply could not be allowed to die. We have however spent many anxious hours hunting for ways and means to close the gap between income and expense which has kept increasing until it has reached about \$8500. Now the prospect is bright before us. The income from your munificent gift should narrow the gap to manageable proportions. The Trustees accept the gift with joy and send you their most heartfelt thanks. Herewith is resolution of acceptance adopted by the Board:

RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden unanimously and enthusiastically accepts the munificent gift of \$200,000. of capital funds from Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss, with the understanding that the income only is to be used for current expenses, the principal to remain as a permanent fund, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Chairman be requested to extend an expression of the Trustees' deep appreciation to Mrs. Bliss for her kindness.

Now for attention to the points you raised:

1. The Trustees of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden accept your gift of capital funds, the income only to be used for current expenses, the capital to be retained as a permanent fund.

2. The securities should be sent to the First National Bank, Santa Barbara, California.

3. The increase of the Director's salary to \$4500. per year has been authorized to take effect January 1st, 1945.

4. With regard to the house Van Rensselaer is now occupying:

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- a. \$4100. is still due out of a total of \$8200. It will take 15 years to complete the present payments.
- b. The house is not suitable for a permanent Director's house since it is too far from the Garden. The Board agrees with you that there should ultimately be a house in the Garden for the Director.
- c. It is estimated that the rental value of the house is \$75. per month. Compensation of this amount for rent has been authorized by the Board and will be allowed the Director.

5. Your suggestion relative to the single signature of the Director for expenditures on behalf of the Garden will be put into effect.

6. A committee consisting of Mr. Body, Mr. Schauer and Mr. Van Rensselaer has been appointed to publish a pamphlet outlining the needs of the Garden, with a view to encouraging additional contributions or legacies. Would you kindly let us have your ideas regarding modification of Van Rensselaer's draft, particularly with respect to its possible condensation.

7. At the request of the U. S. Department of Agriculture late in 1942, the Garden agreed to establish a test plot in Mission Canon of a few acres of selected strains of guayule. When Stewart left early in 1943, it became necessary to abandon the project. The Garden had already lost a valuable man in Holgar Funderup. The Department of Agriculture then sent a guayule specialist to Santa Barbara who established headquarters in the Garden. This man has the use of a portion of the glasshouse, lathhouse and herbarium, and has now been carrying on experimental studies for over a year. The Government is paying the Garden \$300. per year for the use of buildings and equipment.

8. The City Council has passed an ordinance granting the Garden 300,000 cubic feet of water free per year and setting a rate of 15 cents per hundred cubic feet for water used in excess of this amount. Average water consumption by the Garden for the past five years has been 375,000 cubic feet, so the cost of water should not exceed \$100. per year.

Personally, I must assure you that your action in this matter means a very great deal to me and to all who know what this Garden stands for.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 Twenty-eighth Street
Georgetown, Washington, D. C.