

Farrand
D.O.

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

December 1, 1943
4 3 4

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss,
1527 - 28th Street,
Washington, D. C.

This really goes beyond a joke my dearest gardening twin!

As your letter to me regarding the low place in the north vista brick wall must have crossed an agitated letter of mine to Bryce saying that I felt uneasy about this question, and that I wanted to have an elevation of the wall as it was agreed upon sent me so that I could check over these heights. As soon as I receive this elevation I can make corrections on it, corresponding to those you suggest. I, also, see exactly what you mean with regard to the raising of the piers, as they must look short-necked and squat. The curious thing is that in making these changes in the wall, we go back almost exactly to my remembrance of the first elevation. Probably the panels on either side of the little gates had better stay low, but the piers be raised. It really is almost funny or uncanny, that you and I should be worrying again about the same design difficulty, as we have so many times before, and as usual, I think we are going to agree on the final decision.

In the same mail as your dear letter, came one from General Lassister, asking me to be one of the Planning Committee, and via this same post, I shall answer that I will serve with the greatest pleasure. As I have not been to the Botanic Garden, but have had two or three telephonic communications with Mr. Van Rensselaer, whom I think is very anxious about the working of the Planning Committee, and as usual is perturbed by not having been drawn into consultation by my professional colleague, when he and his relative made the plan excursion around the garden.

You ask my honest opinion as to whether it would be wise for you to come here, and entirely aside from my own heartfelt wishes to see you, it seems to me almost necessary for you to be here at least for a couple of weeks, as you only can deal with the garden and its committees in a way that makes smooth going for all of them and provide for a wise future. So on this account alone it would seem to me almost essential for you to come. The Casa Dorinda situation, also, probably needs more looking into than I know about, as it seems to me to have come to a stand-still and not to be doing what you hoped it would.

As to the A.W.V.S., there you know more than I, but from what I hear you are, you are much not only wanted, but actually needed in several different situations. It does not seem as though the time here would be exhausting for you, but I am sure it would be most profitable for the garden, and the Casa, and as for the Maxtrixes, it would mean

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as much as you know. It is, of course, too bad that you and Robert cannot get away together, as it would be doubly nice to see you both in this heavenly part of the world.

As you know, the journey is a long one for an invalid, but although Max stood it well, he is only now really beginning to feel his feet under him, and to be back again where he was when we left home. I am not anxious, but I shall be glad when I get a good report from Dr. Wills, who will, I hope, see him tomorrow.

Please forgive a hasty letter, written the instant your screed arrived. Possibly in order to save time, I may ask Miss Manning to post this letter to you before I see it for signature, so that if there are inaccuracies, put it down to my mumbling and excuse them.

Your ever devoted,

Lucy
- 9.

P.S. You may like to see this clipping as to change of ownership at El Encanto. It seems as though this culmination explained much of last summers difficulties, as they plainly should be put down to ill-health.