

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

11 February 1946
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Dearest Mildred,

Last Friday we had an important meeting at the Botanic Garden and, as you are swamped, the letter this time will be made as brief as may be. Good General Lassiter retired from the presidency and in his stead Mr. Sellar Bullard was elected. General Lassiter will be missed and he has served faithfully and well. Mr. Bullard is a much younger man and he and a younger group seem likely to take over the Garden management, which is all to the good. Mr. Kellam also retired from the office of secretary and, as he has been quite old and ill, he has been rather the problem child of the board in recent months. In Mr. Kellam's stead, Mr. Louis Lancaster (one of the younger bankers here) has taken over the office. He is a friend of, and very sympathetic with the director who has not had too easy sailing with some of the old board.

Mr. Bullard plans to go east in a few days and may come to Washington and is most eager to see you. He took your address and said he would try and get to Washington and if he did would see if you could arrange to see him for a few minutes.

During the course of the meeting, it turned out that the modest and most competent treasurer, Mr. William Body, has made no charge whatever for the time and skill he has spent in making the director's reports. It is proposed to give him a present and, if you felt like it, it would seem that whatever gift you might feel like making to the Garden might come in a check - say for \$50.00 - to be made a part of what will be given to the treasurer.

The change in the administration is going to help Van Rensselaer. I don't think any one realizes what difficulties have been put in his way (often quite unconsciously and over trivial things). As you know, he has not been well and he came back from his autumn rest rather too soon and has been working too hard so that Dr. Koefod has ordered him away for a three weeks' complete rest. We all hope he will get off to his beloved desert within a fortnight.

The garden looks lovely and the first ceanothus is clothing the hills with a silver mantle.

Yours ever and always

Beatrix Farrand

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 Twentieth Street, N.W.
Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

(Mrs Farrand asked me to sign this letter so that it might make an earlier post) H.P.

I am contributing \$2. for you to a little memorial present to the retiring members. Is this all right?