

RUTH M. HAVEY · *Landscape Architect* ❀ TWENTY-FIVE FIFTH AVENUE · NEW YORK 3, N.Y.

December 28, 1954

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss  
1537 Twenty-eighth Street  
Georgetown, Washington 7, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Bliss,

Thank you thank you for your welcome holiday greetings. Many affectionate thoughts and good wishes go to you and Mr. Bliss. I returned from Christmas in Boston this morning----very much alive---almost regretfully---as I love flowers. I will try calling you on Thursday after you have received this letter, but hope you are browsing in Williamsburg.

THE ARBOR---is coming along according to schedule. The contract was signed November 29th for substantial completion February 15th. Mr. Lank wants three weeks before he sees me---about January 18th? I suppose we should be doing something about the balustrade and paving---right on the ground---not on the draughting table---if you can give it a day or two with me in January. We can ask Mr. Kearney to remove the hedge at the last minute as this is a quick operation.

THE BOX TERRACE PAVING drawings are about done and I will ask Mr. Kearney to find a contractor and get a figure. Mr. Coles has been having some trouble locating acceptable limestone for the BOX TERRACE TABLET and the CONSOLE NORTH COURT WALL AT HOUSE. The quality is all right but the color is coming through too light. We want both of these up by early spring so I told him to order it anyway and plan to darken the color. THE TABLET he can have ready for the inscription by January 6th. Wet and cold weather has been holding him up so that the cutting of the moulding of the North Vista Wall is not finished. He has been told to go ahead also with MENDING THE SWIMMING POOL GUTTER and PAINTING THE GREEN GARDEN TABLET. We are also bearing in mind the PERSPECTIVE NEAR THE LILAC CIRCLE ---but he needs me to figure out how that will be supported and get up a framework before he can do much on it. Will do next visit.

The surveying Mr. Kearney, Mr. Coles and I did on the CRABAPPLE HILLSIDE delights me---considering our amateur status---by giving a very clear picture as to the existing grades and tree locations. I have given this quite a bit of study and will have a rare collection of thumbnail suggestions and overlays when I see you.

The Skating Club of New York decided I would not be too much of a hazzard on its ice and skating is fast becoming my major sin---there is the rink sitting there with a nice fresh sheet of ice every day of my life. Now---if I could just stop sitting down hard on the same spot---which is surprisingly about six inches above where anyone would expect to sit--- New blades and an Austrian Rock of Gibraltar for a professional give some hope.

Mr. Allen Klots (President) wished to be remembered to you and Mr. Bliss---recalling happy hours on your tennis court. Another interesting member is Mr. Hubert Martineau who tells me his mother has written several books on gardening---vaguely familiar---I must look in your library.

Sincerely yours,

*John M. Harvey*