

History

April 4, 1939

Mrs. Joseph M. Cudahy
5 Middle Road
Palm Beach, Florida

Dear Mrs. Cudahy:

The Garden Show seemed to be successful in so far as one could observe from the attendance, however, the actual outcome can only be determined after a final check-up has been made. I think those who were truly interested in gardening got something out of our exhibit, but I feel that a great number who merely passed along the exhibits looking for some exciting color or some baby chicks failed to appreciate its worth. Our plants forced out so that we had continuous bloom throughout the show. The Forsythia and Juneberry were about ready to open the day the show started and were in full bloom by the middle of the week. By that time the Prunus which was in full bloom the beginning of the show was rather faded. Our color combinations were rather soft and restful as compared to the extremely bright colored exhibits next to us and across the aisle from us, which I think to the general group of visitors might have been a bit disappointing. The Park Department had an educational exhibit at the right of us in which they displayed many ways of learning trees, birds etc. The man who was in attendance there at all times told me that he heard many favorable comments about our exhibit, to the effect that it could be reproduced out of doors and that it was decidedly restful after looking at some of the other color combinations.

When you return home and we have a little time, I should like to talk with you about changing our type of exhibit for future garden shows. It is my opinion that we should have a location separate from the garden displays and in connection with the other similar educational exhibits. This would be a space in which we could use tables and the wall to put up pictures, mounted specimens and other material to carry out some particular study each year. For instance, one year we could make a study of root systems, another year identification of plant material from buds, in fact, for four or five years we could put on exhibits which would be very educational and make a decided variation from what we have been doing.

Mrs. JMC, 2, April 4, 1939

For the past week planting conditions have been favorable and we have made a good start on our spring planting work. In addition to this we are grading the gravelled roads, rolling lawns, reseeding, sodding and doing other improvement work.

Some of the Crabapples have arrived for the Centennial Arbor Day Planting. We have arranged with the Centennial Committee to have them furnish several men to prepare the ground for the trees, and they will also see that each tree is sprayed with Dow Wax before the planting. I am glad that Mr. Sterling Morton can be here to give the address which they requested.

There were a great many people in the Arboretum on Sunday. Our newly gravelled roads have been perfectly solid all spring and people have been able to drive through regardless of weather. This has simplified our traffic problem as usually this time of year we only allow cars on the west side. We are putting up our new road signs now and I feel sure you will like them very much, for they are quite an improvement.

I presume that this will be the last letter I will write to you before your return, as I understood from your last letter that you were leaving Palm Beach about the 10th. I hope you are feeling much rested by this time. We shall be very glad to have you making regular visits to the Arboretum again.

Sincerely,

CEG:ER