

Morton Sterling

December 23, 1953

Mr. Sterling Morton  
632 East Valley Road  
Santa Barbara, California

Dear Mr. Morton:

I regret very much not to have answered your letter sooner, but getting Mr. Tyznik started and catching up with my work which was postponed while I was trying to get ready for the trustees meeting, my correspondence has gotten quite far behind.

I am indeed happy that Mrs. Zurcher with Dan Peterkin are going to be vice-chairmen, for it will give them a much more active part in the Arboretum work and a better understanding of things that go on out here and of our many needs. In fact, a few days ago Mrs. Zurcher called and said she thought that we should have a Christmas party for the staff and employees, and the expense charged to the chairman's fund. We had been planning a sort of pot luck lunch and party, but after talking to her I ordered two turkeys in Downers Grove and had them roasted and Miss Rasch looked after the other details. We just finished about an hour ago having our first Christmas party and it was a huge success. All of the employees and staff members and wives have asked me to thank you and the rest of the trustees for making it possible.

Mr. King was out a few days ago and we talked over many Arboretum activities and the steer feeding program, which was another indication that the trustees are taking a much more active part than they have in the past, which I am sure will please you very much.

Mrs. Zurcher has suggested that the trustees and staff have a party some time in the spring which I think will be a worth while thing because it will help us to get better acquainted and form a little better working relationship. She is very anxious to have us get out a more comprehensive information booklet about the Arboretum which would sell for twenty-five or thirty-five cents. It would contain the present colored map that we have, pictures of some of the good plants and perhaps a more extensive write-up of Arboretum activities than is now in the information folder. She will probably be writing to you about this and wants to talk with Mr. Kammerer about it after the new year.

Mr. Sterling Morton, 2, December 23, 1953

At the moment I cannot offer any suggestion whereby Mr. Hamill as a trustee could do any particular task which would be helpful to the Arboretum. I hope soon to discuss this with Mrs. Watts and Mr. Kammerer and see if perhaps we can have him do a little investigating of some institutions in that part of the country which might be of help to us one way or another. Perhaps even in our maintenance research program.

I think the Skilsaw which you looked at is exactly the same as the one we have as the specifications are the same as the one we purchased and our price is thirty-five cents cheaper than the price you were quoted.

The generator which we purchased is one called Winpower. They make various sizes. The one which we bought was a 1500 watt size. The price we paid was with a considerable discount, being \$283.50.

You mentioned in your letter about the Pneumatic tree trimmer. I have seen this Pneumatic equipment at several exhibits such as the National Shade Tree Conference and have been quite impressed with it, however, I have had some contradictory reports as to the upkeep of it. When we get further along in our maintenance research program we shall contact these people and compare this type of equipment with other tools which will do practically the same kind of work. If we find that it compares favorably and that we have any special use for it I will write you more about it.

I have had Mr. Tyznik working on a plan which will include all of the area south of the Administration Building so that we will know definitely how we want to treat the farm land that we will be taking over this year for the maintenance research program. We are also making a very detailed outline of all of the phases of the research program and then will select out of it things that we can do on existing plants and especially things that can be done this winter in the dormant stage, thus enabling us to begin getting results in a short time. The longer range part of the program will include planting in the new area for future study. I will write you soon and give you more details of what we have been working on.

I am glad to know the weather is beautiful in California and that your place looks so well. Thanks again to you and all the trustees for this very fine Christmas party which we had today though maybe you didn't know before receiving this letter that you were giving us a party. I shall report to Mrs. Zurcher tomorrow morning telling her what a success it was.

Sincerely,

C. E. Godshalk

CEG:ER