December 27, 1939.

Mr. Harold Ickes.

Dear Mr. Ickes:

Having listened to a long intimate discourse on your life by an old friend on Christmas night, I feel that I know you. Our mutual friend told me you were most certainly not a Machine-made man--but had achieved your prominence by your own worthy endeavors. For this, I commend you highly. My, what a career you have had. Your first wife was a splendid helpmate, too. Her legislative activity must have been heightened by your aid. That you are happily mated again and a new parent, is just reward for a good life and unspotted career in public office.

At this season, when the heart of man is inclined to gratuities on a large order--I am presenting to you something for your generous heart to ponder over and act upon. Already those lesser powers have done their share to aid this worthy cause. You are the National Park head. In this capacity, the following comes under your charge for consideration:

Just outside the pearly gates of the great Sequoia National Forest in California, I came upon the most beautiful garden I have ever seen. That such a fairyland could be shapen out of rocky mountain and sage brush, is almost inconceivable. But there it was-- a garden behind a high fence, for keeping the wild animals at bay---and flowers in moregorgeous array and pretty formal design, than one is accustomed to.

The owner and creator of this beautiful Garden Where God Walks -- is a simple man of foreign birth, a mere employee of a great power company, whose pipe lines on the mountain sides are his special charges. He rides along their course, looking for leaks, etc. This southern California Edison Power Company has leased for 25 years the tract, occupied by house and garden for its employees. Now, in nine years, this magnificent garden has been brought to beautiful and fulsome growth. Words are inadequate to describe its size and beauty. Even a rose arch has been erected over a formal walk that Park Rangers might have a perfect setting for marriage ceremony.

Retirement age is about to become the unhappy lot of Julius Bauman and his removal from this heavenly spot. I have succeeded in getting the Power head to postpone his retirement. But the issue is larger than that. This man has made something unique and wonderful and his wish is to further enlarge the garden, enlisting the help of a CCC lad (a camp is there) and open the lovely acres to the public -- in this way it would become a public garden right at the gate of a great national park. I shall send you a copy of the story of the garden, being published this week. I mean to make this a wide interest, through publications. You could make this dream of a God-like simple man possible. Won't you consider it?

All this effort on my part is truly altruistic. I have incorporated a talk on the garden in my lectures. The man and his wife must not be left without national help in this matter. Three Rivers is their post office. You see, I now know your caliber and feel sure you will not pass this by. Interest in such matters constitutes greatness.

Bless you. May your life continue to be as fruitful as it has been and in me you have enlisted a new admirer. I should even like to stump for

December 27, 1939.

the return again to power in 1940 of the present administration.
Would you need a forceful woman in that field? I'd love to serve.
But this Garden issue is my heartfelt interest at present.

Please reply at once.

Cordially,

(sgd) JANE HOLMAN.

732 Catalpa Avenue,
Webster Groves, St. Louis, Mo.

Mrs Irons
St. Louis Mo.

Dear Mr Ickes--

Having listened to a long intimate discourse on your Rife, by an old friend, on Christmas Night, I feel rather, that I know you. Our mutual friend told me you were most certainly not a Machine made man-- but had achieved your prominence by your own worthy endeavors. For this, I commend you highly. My, what a career you have had. Your first wife was a splendid helpmate, too, Mrs Wilmarth Ickes. Her Legislative activity must have been heightened by your aid.

That you are happily mated again and a new parent, is just reward, for a good life and unspotted career in public office.--

At this season, when the heart of man is inclined to gratuities on a large order-- I am presenting to you-- something for your generous heart to ponder over and act upon. Already, those lesser powers have done their share to aid this worthy cause.

You are National Park Head. In this capacity-- the following comes under your charge, for consideration.--

Just outside the gates of the great SEQUOIA National Forest in California, I came upon the most beautiful garden, I have ever seen. That such a fairy-land could be shapen out of rocky mountain and sage brush, is almost in-conceivable. But there it was-- a garden behind a high fence, for keeping the wild animals at bay--- and flowers in more gorgeous array and pretty formal design, than one is accustomed to.

The owner and creator of this beautiful GARDEN WHERE GOD WALKS-- is a simple man, of foreign birth, a mere employee of a great power company, whose pipe lines on the mountain sides, are his special charges. He rides along their course, looking for leaks etc. This Southern California, Edison Power co. has leased for 25 years--the tract, occupied by house and garden, for its employees.- Now-- in nine years--this magnificent garden has been brought to beautiful and fulsome growth. Words are inadequate to describe its size and beauty. Even a rose arch has been erected over a formal walk, that Park rangers might have a perfect setting for marriage ceremony.

Retirement age is about to become the unhappy lot of Julius Bauman and his removal from this heavenly spot. I have succeeded in getting the Power head to postpone his retirement. But the issue is larger than that. This man has made something unique and wonderful and his wish is to further enlarge the garden, enlisting the help of a C.C.C. lad(a camp is there) and open the lovely acres to the public-- in this-- it would become a Public Garden right at the gate of a great National Park. I shall send you a copy of the story of the garden, being published this week. I mean to make this a wide interest, through publications. You could make this dream of a God like simple man, possible. Wont you consider it?

All this effort on my part, is truly altruistic. I have incorporated a talk on the Garden, in my lectures. The man and his wife must not be left without national help in this matter. Three Rivers is their post office. You see, I now know your caliber and feel sure you will not pass this by. Interest in such matters, constitutes greatness.

Bless you. May your life continue to be as fruitful as it has been and in re, you have enlisted a new admirer. I should even like to stump for the return again to power in 1940, of the present Administration. Would you need a forceful woman in that field? I'd love to serve. But this Garden issue is my heartfelt interest at present. Please reply at once.

Cordially Jane Holman

Reply 27

Auger
Collins
Tolson
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Jenny

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

January 15, 1940.

Miss Jane Holman,
732 Sutalpa Avenue,
Webster Groves,
Saint Louis, Missouri.

0-32
~~Nomination~~

Dear Miss Holman:

By reference from Secretary Ickes, we have received your letter of December 27, 1939.

Mr. Bauman's garden as you describe it, must be a delight to see, and we can understand your desire to have it enlarged and made into a public garden.

Laudable as these aims are, we find there is no way in which we can assist in achieving them. The assistance you suggest does not come within the duties assigned this Service, nor is it contemplated or authorized by the Act creating and defining the functions of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Perhaps Mr. Bauman's garden possesses the qualifications of a county park. The officials of Tulare County, the county seat of which is at Visalia, could advise you on that question.

We appreciate your interest in our national parks.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) A E DEMARAY

A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

cc: Region IV, with cc of incoming letter
cc: BRLPSC - Room 5214

JJC-fmd

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK
SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, CALIF.
January 25, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

The Regional Office in San Francisco has referred to us some correspondence from Miss Jane Holman to Secretary of the Interior, together with your reply of January 15, relative to the Bauman Garden which Miss Holman describes as being just outside the entrance of the Sequoia National Forest.

In order that you may have complete information regarding this matter, I wish to state that this garden is located in the Potwisha District in Sequoia National Park. As outlined by the writer of the letter, Mr. Bauman is a caretaker of the Edison Company flume and lives on lands leased by the company in the above location. For a number of years, during his spare time, this old German gentleman has developed a very beautiful garden, and one which is enjoyed by a number of visitors to the park. However, there is some indication that he will be retired in the next year or two, and he is greatly concerned about his garden. A few months ago he approached me with the proposition that we induce the power company to turn the leased land back to the National Park Service, and that we then hire him not only to keep his present garden going, but to extend it considerably and include enough land so that he might initiate and develop an arboretum of practically all the natural plants found in Sequoia National Park.

Of course, it is rather difficult to hurt the feelings of the old gentleman by telling him frankly that the National Park Service, as a Service, is not particularly interested in a formal garden of exotic flowers, no matter how beautiful it may be. However, I did explain to him that even if we followed out his suggestion, we would immediately come into conflict with Civil Service regulations and there was no assurance that he would be the man selected to handle the job.

I do not know just what the final outcome of this matter will be, but we have been under considerable pressure from local garden clubs to do something to assure the preservation of the garden which Mr. Bauman has established. So far we have merely stated that this is a spare time project of his, and the whole future of the project depends upon the Edison Company as they occupy the land upon which the project is being carried out.

We shall do everything possible to have an extension made in the retirement age of Mr. Bauman, but if several thousands a year extra were to be assigned to this park there are several projects I would rather have

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

it for than the maintenance of this garden, which, although very beautiful and showing a great deal of intelligent and loving care, is not a proper part of a national park operation; and, as you have pointed out, is not authorized by existing laws governing the national parks or the National Park Service.

E. T. Scoyen
Superintendent

CC: Region IV

Perhaps this acknowledgement isn't the right sort, but it does seem that it is a little encouraging, which seems justifiable in this case..

Bauman's garden is a delightful spot - does no harm to the park & gives pleasure to many residents & visitors

GRallen

ERIOR

February 6, 1940.

Sequoia National Park.

Thank you for your informative memorandum of January 25, concerning the Bauman Garden located in the Potwisha District in Sequoia National Park.

There appears to be no lack of understanding as to Service limitations in this matter, or of the general feeling of affection for the garden and the gentleman who developed it. Perhaps the Edison Company if approached by enough individuals and organizations would feel that the garden should be maintained as a company enterprise simply as a matter of good will. Certainly this Service would be altogether sympathetic toward such a viewpoint on the part of the Edison Company.

(SGD) Arno B. Cammerer

Director.

GLC:nrs

cc: Region IV
BRLPSC-Room 5214

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION FOUR
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

May 9, 1940

Miss Jane Holman
Stinson Beach
California

Dear Miss Holman:

Mr. Davidson has just returned from a field trip to find your letter referring to the Bauman garden in Sequoia National Park; this will explain our several days delay in answering.

Being a landscape architect, Mr. Davidson realizes why you are so interested in and enthusiastic about, the fine garden Mr. Bauman has developed at Sequoia, and shares with you a great admiration for a man who has such an accomplishment to his credit. It is well that arrangements have been made to permit Mr. Bauman to continue with his work.

With your understanding of the finest of all gardens, the ones which Nature herself has developed without the aid of mankind, you will be very appreciative of and sympathetic with the work the National Park Service is accomplishing by preserving in the great National Parks, the great Natural Gardens of the Creator. We have a sacred trust to carry through, and an obligation to fulfill to the American people, to preserve these National Parks in such manner that they will be disturbed to the least possible extent by the works of man, and by desecrations which are so hard to avoid when these "open spaces" are enjoyed by great numbers of the general public. We are especially in need of the help of people like yourself who have so great an understanding of Nature's processes, of gardens, and of forests and fields, to assist us in educating the public in a sympathetic attitude toward our preservational efforts. So many people find it difficult to understand why we discourage and prohibit hot-dog stands along park roads; why we have rules prohibiting the picking of shrubs in blossom, of flowers; why we do not permit dogs or cats to run at large in the Parks; why we do not lease summer home sites; why we have a policy of discouraging the use of exotic flowers in plantings about homes where our park personnel live; why we do not, as a rule, permit the kind of exotic, or city-type, gardens which Mr. Bauman has developed.

032 California

Without in the least disparaging the achievement of Mr. Bauman in the development of his remarkable garden, you yourself will realize

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

that if we adopted a general policy of permitting a number of such gardens in the various National Parks, the result would be quite unfortunate. Our "Natural Gardens" would be modified and changed to a certain extent by man-made gardens which, while they might be masterpieces of beauty and excellence of their type, would still be very different from the wild and unspoiled character of the wilderness lands we are charged with protecting. As a general rule, it will be much better, we are sure you will understand, to develop such man-made gardens outside the boundaries of the primeval areas of the parks.

With this general picture in your mind, we feel sure you will wish to carefully study and doubtless reconsider the suggestion you make as to the initiation of any legislation looking toward any specialized status, such as a national shrine, for Mr. Bauman's fine work. The Sequoia area is, of course, itself a National Park, which may be thought of as a Shrine of the very highest type, and wherein the public may have opportunity to see and enjoy the beauty of Mr. Bauman's garden without any further specialized legislation being necessary.

We again wish to express our appreciation of your great interest in our Parks and in their preservation and protection, and seek your continued support and interest in our efforts toward that end.

Sincerely yours,

H. Maier
Acting Regional Director

CC: Director
Supt. Scoyen