

John
June 8, 1926

Mr. William Randolph Hearst,
Ambassador Hotel,
Los Angeles,
California.

Dear Mr. Hearst:

This is in regard to the planting.
I passed on your message to Mr. Keep to use the
eucalyptus trees in a single row about 15 feet
apart instead of 12 feet.

I like your idea of carrying the
eucalyptus entirely around Chinese hill, as it
probably would not look well to change the color
and type of tree abruptly and without some apparent
natural reason. As the pink crepe myrtle and red
eucalyptus neither blend nor contrast well together
in color, it would seem that the place for the pink
myrtle would be on the new north road, and the jac-
amanda on the south road, as you suggest. The way
the road lies the crepe myrtle and eucalyptus would
be seen together but for a very short distance and
from the road only, while the jacamanda and eucalyp-
tus would be seen together always from the house, as
well as from the road. It is regrettable that the
flowering season of these trees is so short. The crepe
myrtles at Porterville are huge trees, so that if they
follow precedent, the myrtles could be planted 20 feet
or more apart as against 15 feet apart for the euca-
lyptus.

I would like either the blue plumbago
or the heliotrope with the eucalyptus better than the
cassia. Also, as the banks either side the cross axe
stair are planted with yellow broom, and will present
a mass of yellow, it would be more interesting to have
the blue bank - as an introduction. The plumbago has
the advantage of being hardier than the heliotrope,
requiring less water and attention - but it is true
that I never saw heliotrope grow as it has on the Hill,
and it might thrive on these banks, but again it might
not do well on all sides of the Hill.

Yours very truly,