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1953 - Nov. 14 - 1 Dear Carol and all:

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #3 (green ink, highlighter green clip)

Saturday Nov. 14 –

9A.M –

Dear Carol & all:

We are at Twisp in the Methaw (Met – haw/ said as two words) Valley. Came up yesterday with a short snort of spuds for shipment by boat to the inaccessible end of Lake Chelan. So we came by truck. We do expect to pick up a load of onions at Quincy on the way back home tomorrow — unless something else pops. Anyway — riding in the truck not nearly as rough as I expected tho my back complains this A.M. It often does – even if I don't ride trucks.

This is pretty country. The valley right here is narrow & the mountains high & rugged. This is supposed to be good elk hunting country too but the supply of wild life here is really not enuf to give good percent of kill for the optimistic hunters. I sometimes think the hunting trips are largely for “getting away from it all” anyway rather than for the fame. Thats OK too — & surely a worth while relaxation if taken as such. Boynton wanted so much to go this year & surely needed to get out with the boys – but didn't go when a cold descended at the time he was to go. The guys didn't get any elk – most had gotten deer.

A few potatoes are raised here – all small fields & acerage are very small but there is no railroad here so moving spuds out is difficult & expensive. Dodge came up here & bot some spuds from these fellows when they were having trouble moving them. They haven't forgotten it & tho he doesn't buy many he calls on them once or twice yearly & they call him before they sell elsewhere. We have an acquaintance here who kind of keeps track & helps & keeps Dodge in touch. We have stayed at this same motel each trip. Once the lights went out & we were reduced to go to bed at 7 P.M. Luckily we ate before that. Oh, we could use the sleep but when the lights

came on, the town came alive too & we woke & had quite a time sleeping again. We ate early last night & were in our motel by 6 P.M. but read until 8:30 & then went to sleep. Dodge sadly needed sleep so I was glad to have him get extra.

Dodge isn't used to driving the truck & sweat quite a lot as we traveled — partly due too — to his cold. He slept like a log last night & hated to get up this A.M. He's been gone since 8 A.M. & we expect to leave here by 3 or 4. We will go to Mansfield & visit friends over nite & home tomorrow P.M. I take writing material on these trips but as today find my efforts too often interrupted & very poor continuity to my works. Too much to see I guess - & I have to look. This being Saturday many hunters coming & going & its interesting to see how differently people travel. Some just came in with picnic basket, cooking kit, boxes of food etc. We sometimes think we should but always after we get places & then its too late. I ate alone a few minutes ago & had soup & salad so I could have a piece of mince pie. Good too.

I've reached my weight goal & now have to watch to maintain it. I like my looks lots better this way. Dodge lost 25 lbs. too & is equally pleased with it. At the same time & with much the same food, Jack's weight went to 204 - & Bill & Bob stayed about the same. And the extra boy we have so much — the one who had polio — found his weight at 194. I am having some clothes made over now and gradually getting a new supply. I don't know about the other things but guess I'll just put them away for now. A new diet class has started & I helped weigh them in one day & was asked to tell them a few things about my deal. They seemed to find the fact that my stockings are a half size smaller & two inches shorter than those I got previously most interesting. The dress with the red belt I wore at Sidney is one I've had made over — and I've put two more holes in the belt now.

We get pictures taken at the end of our year & I'm so pleased to be one of those few who have reached my goal. A friend asked the other night if I'd been sick. I said no why – He said I was so thin. I said. “But haven't you heard we are expecting a daughter.” His only reply was – “But that doesn't do that to your figure!” He had to have explanations later. Jack bot a diamond before he left for Uncle Sam's army — but the guy insisted we didn't have a boy old enuf to get married — tho he knew better. Oh well.

Jack is still at Ord - - - I think. We did get a card & a letter from him in a weeks time & he said he'd know within two weeks where he'd be for his first 16 weeks. He was finding life different but interesting & I feel certain he'll do OK. He thinks he won't be able to be away from camp much for that 16 weeks but if he stays at Fort Ord he'll be near enuf Fresno to go there & up to Big Creek with Dean if he has a couple of days. Wouldn't that do Mather a lot of good? I'm sure Jack would go camera mad up there too. Its his kind of scenery.

Monday evening – at home. All went as per schedule Saturday. We went to our friends home & found them dated up for fireman's ball – so Dodge borrowed shoes & we went too. His feet hurt by 1 oclock but when we finally left the dance at 3:30 they were really giving him discomfort. We haven't danced much the last year or so — & aren't used to dancing until 3:30 surely — but when in Rome you know. These folks had invited some folks to come with them for after dance lunch & we counted 20 or 22 before the thing broke up. Some of these folks we'd met before & one couple had spent a night with us here once — & they invited us out for breakfast with them. They went home at 5 AM — & Dodge & I were awake at 7 again. Habit you know. Didn't get breakfast until after eleven & started home before 2 P.M. Believe it or not — we slept last night!

Today I've washed, scrubbed, caught up on book work, cleaned inflations for mukers, did some Guernsey work etc etc etc. It seems to take some doing to keep things done here so I'm ready to travel when Dodge is. He says he'll try to go to the coast this week. I'm not caught up but can go I think.

We found a letter here from Jack when we got home & another came today. He has finally been placed for his basic & is to stay at Fort Ord. His letters past marked Monterey & he says ocean within ¼ mile but he hasn't been out to see it yet. He rated high enuf for officer's school but nothing definite as yet of course. Had had one session of being homesick — on a Sunday but he isn't one to sit & let it get him down.

We've had rain most of today. I hang my clothes in the basement tho so rain doesn't bother wash day much. My washer played out tho & I'm quite concerned about getting it fixed — No one interested in helping me today tho. They prefer to have it brot in & that is quite complicated for me it seems.

I've had three or four reports now of the Golden Wedding. A nice note from Mary & Aunt Grace & a letter from Lena & she sent a clipping. And Mathers reports too. Its quite a deal for sure & I know Mather & Dad got a great deal of enjoyment out of the attention they received I was so pleased with Mather's looks. And how well she had traveled. Big Creek seems to have gotten her down some but we knew the attitude coupled with the reaction from her travels would be difficult. Harold is surely wonderful. We even managed to get Mothers favorite rocker in the car for her! I surely hope it will continue to be OK there for awhile anyway.

Wish you could put your overflow in one of our two now empty lockers. We are about to butcher — I hope. I'm sure spoiled. It breaks my heart to have to buy meat. It surely makes it

harder to leave stuff for these guys to cook when I'm gone too. And to pay rent on empty lockers! If some of your meat was here – it sounds like I'd swipe some!

I have to go to bed. I'm tired again.

Sure enjoy your letters. Come again

Love Carolyn