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1953 - Feb. 24 - 1 Dear Aunt Grace

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #4 (black ink, green clip)

Feb. 24, 1953-

Dear Aunt Grace:

I had expected to get a note or card to Uncle Loren for his birthday but missed the boat. Tell him we thot of him & talked of him & send our best to him. We hope the day was good.

Mother is in the midst of one of her sick spells again & in as much as I missed writing I thot I'd take this opportunity to get a report to you. You probably realize she has been fighting this for some time now. I was afraid Mother would be sick again for Christmas but she same thru that with minor upset. Several times since she's been on the verge & recovered again. This time she gave in. I feel it was brot on partially by the fact we were gone. Boynton had to go to Seattle Tuesday & there was no indication that things too different here. Jack home nites & acts as stabilizer etc. The hired man & wife offered their help & support & Mother likes them well. We expected to be back Thursday but Dodge didn't finish & I called Thursday AM. To check. Bob said Dad had been bad Wed. P.M. & Mother had had Betty Dodge here awhile. Mother said not to come home on her account but I caught bus & came anyway. Things seemed OK here but I felt better being here. Dodge came Fri. eve. Friday afternoon Mother & I went in to buy the necessities of life – (food) – since Bob was home with a cold & Dad then would not be alone. We were gone 2 ½ hrs. & Mother seemed to enjoy being in town & saw many to visit with. We traveled in pickup since the car was in Seattle.

All OK Saturday. Mother didn't feel much like eating with us at noon but we had smelt & she did eat with us & enjoyed it. Fixed Dads lunch & got sick before she fed him. He needed care & just that seemed to floor her. Its been nausea, vomiting & pain since. Its too bad the folks need to share their room at such a time but Doctor refused to let mother come to the hospital.

Mother's illness bothered Dad Sunday P.M. & Monday but today he has slept deeply all day.

Too deeply but at least he roused to eat & he cared for. He feels warm & pulse good so guess its reaction from an upset day.

I've been up some nites but get plenty of sleep to get along. Mother needs food as well as medicine & to be up upsets her. We can hear her moan or call in our room right above her so it works OK. I waken easily enuf. All quiet this evening and we hope is the beginning of improvement. She says this spell much more severe than the previous one but then agreed that each one seems the worst at the time. We have kept her perscriptions on hand so can start medication at first let down. I think this attack much less severe than the one a year ago Christmas & seems to be getting under control better. Each day brings a new situation tho and we'll hope tomorrow is a good day. This AM. Was quite bad but all P.M – not too bad. Evening good so far — & its 10:15 P.M. I have written the others & send daily postcards to keep them informed. Knowing how you & Mother exchange letters I knew you would soon wonder how come no news. If you depend as much on mail as Mother does — any letter is welcome.

I've hit a rut & can't write more now. Guess I need sleep & better get it while I can. Will finish in A.M. with latest bulletin.

I'm going to be too late for mailman but may have a chance to send this to town. Its eleven thirty and I'm just doing the second washes of clothes. Dodge stuck around an extra half hour & I find if I don't sit around with him while he's here in A.M. I have little other time to talk with him. So by the time Dad was bathed & changed & bath Mother & Dad fed it was after ten. Mother has pain in her back but nausea seems to be decreasing & I think that is a good sign. I was up twice in the night but not because I was called. I just couldn't believe all was so quiet & I had to get up & check to see if everyone was still breathing. Dad seems very normal again this

morning & that is good too. Today may show what things are in store for Mother. She wants to try a tub bath and if she feels like it can try. She's pretty weak but I can help as she needs help. I think she is kind of afraid of the tub. She doesn't use it often but if she has the strength I think a leisurely bath would have advantages. My greatest concern is with her overtaxing her strength & we've seen the quick return of nausea with too much activity.

There is lots of flu around & many are quite sick. The boys & all have had colds. Boynton was worse than all the rest of us put together but he usually is. I was able to go to work but shouldn't have. Its taken quite awhile for him to get back his strength. That was one reason I went to Seattle with him besides the fact that we both like it that way. I can help drive tho & try to do my half of the driving on these trips.

Thursday A.M. & today I'll get this on its way. The morning looks good. The minister & Mrs Brandt came yesterday for a few minutes & Mother slept for two hours after they left so is pretty weak. Slept well all night — well not all night but was all right all night. Was hungry this AM. & I fixed poached egg, toast, coffee & applesauce — small helpings but Mother ate all & enjoyed it - - about the first that has clicked. Didn't get her tub bath but still wants to try it. So — it looks better. The trick now will be to keep her from overdoing.

Dad about as usual — not restless & not too sleepy — but not too keen either. I sure feel sorry for him. Seems like he pulls more & more to one side. Too bad.

Now I'll quit. Hope you are doing OK. Carolyn