

12-21-2021

1953 August 3 Dear Carol & all

Carolyn Brown Dodge

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/dodge_letters

Recommended Citation

Dodge, Carolyn Brown, "1953 August 3 Dear Carol & all" (2021). *Carolyn Brown Dodge Letters*. 13.
https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/dodge_letters/13

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Community Projects at ScholarWorks@CWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Carolyn Brown Dodge Letters by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@CWU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@cwu.edu.

Letter #6 (black ink, blue clip)

August 3, 1953 –

Dear Carol & all:

What a time I am having getting letters done this summer. My hay fever in late June gave me enuf wakeful hours to get many letters done but since haying done I've had an easy time with the sniffled & have slept well. Days have been busy & little time for letters it seems. We've gone a lot & it keeps me happing while I'm home catching up on washing, ironing, cleaning & canning. But I'm glad I can go too.

Perhaps you heard we went to Dodges sister's near Great Falls for the 4th! Her son was home after his year in Korea, a sister & her daughter to be there from Ohio, so that started the ball rolling for a get together. Two carloads went from here – 12 of us! Surprised even us. The a brother & family from Pullman and we numbered 27 all together. They have range land near Lincoln, west of Helena and that is where we gathered. Its mountainous & timbered and they have a place with a four room house. All rooms large tho with three beds & a davenport there. Then they lined up some canvas cots & air mattresses & we had sleeping bags left over! It was surely fun. We went to Deer Lodge on spud business on the way home & then over Skalkaho Pass to Hamilton where we saw a college friend who has been with tick lab for 23 or 24 years. We found lab interesting too — especially the mice they propagate for experiment purposes. They'd had 159 litters in 24 hours — a poor day they said but the nephew traveling with us scouted around until he found numbers 160 arriving. Home on July 7 — by way of Missoula, Plains, Paradise, Thompson Falls & Sandpoint. We'd gone by way of Wallace & Kellog so saw different country. Saw Cabinet Gorge Dam too & enjoyed it a lot.

We had a trip to Aberdeen Washington later that same week — going over the 10th for a meeting Dodge had there the 11th. He is a fire commissioner for our rural fire districts & is on the state committee. We left there Sunday the 12th & went to Portland — spending the night with college friends and fraternity brother — a home I like to visit. They have children the age of ours — tho the kids weren't along. I always have my pride built up there for they credit me with putting on the pressure that they feel saved one of their boys life. We stopped there & were asked to stay. This boy sick tho — after having stumbled & fallen across a gallon jug of water he had been carrying. There wasn't a bruise or scratch on him but he was so sick. I told them I'd sure take him to the doctor & they did. Spleen ruptured & it was many weeks & many blood transfusions later before he got home. OK now tho & well enuf to pass rigid tests for N.R.O.T.C. They weren't people to neglect a sick child but knew their son & his tendencies to make a fuss so had not that so much of his fussing. Worked out OK eventually. Next day Dodge made a spud contact in Portland then called bag company where they buy many thousand spud sacks yearly. We were taken to lunch then shown thru the plant where we saw the baled of burlap & the process from there to the finished bags. Quite an interesting business. I saw 500 yard rolls of materials in the prints waiting to be made into flour sacks. One roll would be a bit too much of one print so I didn't try to slip it in my purse — tho its most big enuf! Well maybe.

We had company when we got home. This Ohio sister & her daughter had arrived & the daughter had moved in here by previous arrangement. She is 23 & has taught a year. Teaches music to first six grades — giving her about 300 pupils. She stayed here the entire two weeks & I almost got so I thot she should stay on. Her mother visited around more but spent only two days & one night here at our place. The sister such a worker & I often wonder if she wonders how we manage when she isn't here to organize out work. Catty, ain't I? These visits call for many

family gatherings & we sure had 'em – It only occurs about every three years for her tho so we do out best.

They left on Friday morning and Dodge's nephew arrived Saturday morning & stayed with us until Monday P.M. Yes that called for another family gathering! This is the boy who'd been in Korea and was on his way back to Fort Lewis. Monday P.M. we took him over – Dodge's spud pardner & his wife going along. We got a hotel room in Tacoma, had supper at an Oyster House then took Bill to Fort Lewis. Next AM. we went to Nalley Valley — in Tacoma and watched them make potatoe chips, corn curls etc. It was fun & fattening. The guys were “spudding” all P.M. & we didn't get to Seattle until about 5 P.M. Again got hotel room & ate at Ivars “Acres & acres of Clams” a place right on the sound - - - in fact like a boat at a dock almost. Dodge & I had had a whole cracked crab each at the place in Tacoma & all had fish at Ivars. We surely fill up while there.

Dodge had to be home Wednesday for an estate hearing so he & his pardner were up & out to have breakfast with their business guys over there & back to hotel for us by nine. We did make another stop at a place that is just beginning the business of prepared spuds. They are attempting to mechanically peel spuds & treat them so they can be held without spoilage or discoloring for about two weeks. They are also putting out spuds cut for French fries. Are partially cooked then. It may be quite a business but its only starting. We brot some home & are trying them out. That was last Wednesday that we were there & they still look fine. I'll have to use the rest of the French fries next time tho because we are almost out of them. We find all of this very interesting & surely opening a new field of business.

I picked pitted & packed for freezing out crop of pie cherries one day. Had one tree — about 4 years old but got 15qt. plus a couple of pies. Had to cover tree with cheese cloth to save

cherries from robins — but it worked. We got Bings & Lamberts from Dodge's brothers — trees we planted when we lived there - & I have plenty of them. I missed Royal Anns but will buy some in tin cans I guess. We like them so well.

Had about a pint of strawberries tonite. Our patch was set out only a few days before Dad passed away but is doing very well & I may not get berries for lacker from them but bet we have plenty of meals.

The raspberries still at it. Had to cover the whole patch the other day because we'd been gadding & neglected them and estimated more than 40 quart in the picking. That would be more than three crates. I have almost all I'll put up & two or three or four others have also gotten some. Nice to have but a few too many to have to keep at. It takes about nine man hours to cover patch so can be quite a job on top of the usual home activities.

Everything is coming fine. I'll soon have to start making pickles. We are using carrots & onions & lettuce, beets & kohlrabi — or whatever. Beans just beginning to bean. Corn not tasseling yet but looks fine. The gladiolus and dahlias are blooming too.

I was given fifteen tuberos begonias and had to hide them to have them in a shady spot but am anxious to watch what they do. Was late putting geraniums out but they are OK too. I have to replant one bed of iris this year & need to move the peonies. The place I have them is by cement steps & I guess cement just draws too much heat. Anyway they bud early & get frosted & then don't bloom much. Think I'll try dahlias in that spot next year.

Many are doing grain here now and fields have really changed in last week. We still have a week before we will start haying again I guess. Maybe a little more. Surely seems like the summer is going fast. School starts 31st of this month! Isn't it awful?

Mothers letters tickle me. She wants to know about the garden & geraniums, the cows & the corn & are you making pickles yet? Are there any raspberries — brother if she only knew how many! She surely is thinking of returning to Sidney. I don't discourage it at all but hope she visits awhile yet now that she has things kind of packed.

I wrote Aunt Grace as well as Ed & Mary & hope I was able to give them some consolation. I was so concerned over the situation down there and don't think things are liable to improve too much at this stage of their lives. I feel certain Dorothy will adjust to her new life & might soon get to prefer it there — I've seen it happen. Anyway — I hope its given a good trial. The change & relief should do them all good. Aunt Grace has had that responsibility so long she is bound to be lonesome. Think of the years of such constant care.

The drain ditch is helping a lot. Has been a big job & still some filling to be done but that too may come to an end. Our well still runs over but they didn't think the ditch would relieve that much. We will have to cup it & put in an overflow pipe — but then maybe I won't have to carry water to the chickens.

We have five first calf heifers fresh within the last month & have 26 cows on milking string now. Its OK now but I always think of when the boys aren't here to be on call. Makes a nice pay check now. Have been getting 85% of base — much higher than local creamery. We sell to Carnation.

The case baler sure was a headache & we finally finished with a baler of a neighbors. However they promised it would work so have had it in the shop for three weeks now & sure hope for the best. The roof looks fine. We hope to still get front steps built before long.. Dodge says maybe this week. We haven't ever had any in front & wonder how often front door will be used but will be glad for steps in case we have the urge at least.

I haven't heard from Betty. Mother did & sent the letter for me to read. I get so on my high horse once in awhile when Betty doesn't write & just quit writing her until I hear - - or at least until Mother hears. She always says she's sure she's written but — — — — Maybe we better skip it for now.

When I started this it was to be short & sweet — but look ten pages later — I probably should write oftener & quit faster but since I don't — I sure run on when I get started.

My pictures taken at Sidney got lost so I'll never know how good they were. Was surely sorry about it but no use to fuss I guess. We got some awfully good pictures & slides on our 4th trip to Montana & got to see them while Dodges sister was here. The boys are getting quite a collection now. If Vernon would care to send some of his slides of badlands family etc I'd sure like to see them & have the guys see them. Anything you think they might enjoy — and be sure the ones of Ernest & his fish is in the bunch — especially the one in the basement! Seems a shame I lost mine but — I'll be careful to get yours back soon if you'll let us see them – please & thank you.

Dodges youngest sister works in registrars office at the local college & said a Pat or Perry Glendenning had entered school for the summer. Gave his birthplace as Sidney. Wondered if he was the boy who got so badly burned once. She was going to tell him to contact us but I haven't heard. Should go in this week & try to see him.

Oh yes – when we went to Dodges sisters we stopped to see Bill Isham at his service station north of Helena. He Uncle Freds youngest brother & the father of Edward who worked with us on the Isham deal. Bill had passed away in June of a heart attack while visiting in the east. His wife – a second wife – there & so glad to visit when she heard who we were. We hope to see Edward next time we go to Seattle & maybe find out how he came out in settling Uncle

Fred's business. Aunt Grace seemed to feel Uncle Fred had quite a bit of value tho we surely couldn't see it when we went thru their papers. Anyway – we will try to see Edward —

Now I promise I'll quit. Maybe you'll let Lena & Vera & theirs read this – I may never get another one done. Thanks for letter –

Love Carolyn

This PS is located on the top of the first page written upside down

P.S. I have taken off only six pounds since I was with you but each pound is that one more closer to my goal. Everyone has slowed down but most are still at it. Four of the 25 had reached their goal weight now tho