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## 1953 Madison Wies. Aug 27, '53 Dear Carol and all

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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**Letter #7 (light blue ink, red clip)**

Madison Wies. Aug 27, '53

Dear Carol and all —

Have just been rereading the Ralph Blair story and he hasn't told anything that we too could have told — and then some — but I enjoyed the story — and wonder what the inspiration was to produce it — probably just inactivity — I can't feature anyone sitting around the house after years of activity without being bored — And guess he isn't too well either —

We are having some warm days here — so that I can take it easy without any pricks of conscience was so pleasant last week, then Esther and I drove to Iowa on Thursday — returning Monday to find that Elium Jr. would arrive that night by plane — so was a well timed trip — and a most pleasant one for me. Visited at Troy Mills Coggon Central City — Waubeek — Center Point — Hazelton Waterloo — in each place meeting friends of long standing. One night at Lucy Cherry Nelsons — who had buried her husband just about a month before — One day — or part of day — & night with a very close friend of mine at Waubeek — two nights at Carls. Berts came in Sunday and we all drove to Waterloo (25 mi) to see another close friend of mine — who had been neighbors and schoolmate — and with Isham I've kept contact all the years —

In Central City looked up 6 or 7 friends — so our time was full of activity and so pleasant and satisfaction — We were at Elmer Wards for a few hours — picked wild black berries — musk — melons & water melons — huge ones — have one in cellar yet — and are eating the last of musk melons today — They were such congenial folks and seemed so pleased we'd looked in on them — It was so fortunate we went, too, when we did — Weather so comfortable and Elwin Jr returning just when he did — tho we really planned the trip anticipating his arrival about the time he did arrive. He is such a quiet type — but so happy to be a free American citizen again — He'll

stay around a while then go back to his former job – We have spent two evenings seeing slides of places in the countries he occupied the last two years. And I am so fortunate to share the experience with them – I have had a part in a bit of jelly & jam making – brot the berries we picked at Wards home with us and found wild plums in Carlo pasture – that I made up into my favorite plum jam. Yesterday also made a little elder-berry jelly we picked on the old home place at Central City – where we called for a short call – (so dilapidated and sorry looking) – Grace Ward gave me a jar of plums too – but I shall leave them with Esther – I guess Edua will come early in Oct – and I will go to Leonards after next week — some time — Harold is coming, too, and we'll drive back – I suppose – from Leonards. Being with Esther has been a most gratifying pleasure – Cherrys – Always so close to us – and Elwin & Esther have taken me in so graciously – You should see the tomatoes we picked this morning! Huge ones – a whole bushel basket full of one kind and as many or more of a different variety; we'll can them in the morning – I canned 3 qts the day we went to Iowa – so now we'll have a real showing if we get these done – they have the vines staked up and are way up over our heads – We have driven about the City quite a lot – went to a home one mile where I saw my first television. Esther is at a noon luncheon at church right now – and tonite they will attend a church wedding – so her day is full — Elwin Jr. & I here – and I must prepare a bit of lunch right now –

Had letter from Grace yesterday. Said Mrs Broad head would leave Sept. and wonder if she means permanently. Laren was just getting over a bad attack again – when she wrote. I had letter from Dorothy. Said “You and Uncle Elmer will have a good time at Leonards” and some mixed up sentences – but on the whole quite good —

Wish I could be in Sidney for the Fair! – Haven't heard from Harriett since she returned from her trip. She went with a new car so it should be a good trip – A good letter from Mrs

Nevins – says she’s planning to leave about November – I could use her apartment – but guess my best plan is to be with Edna – tho I’m still “yearning” for a home in Sidney. And have had such friendly expressions for my return there – I don’t know if Ednas will consider going by way of Sidney. Will arrange that when we see them. Am sorry your folks could not have been there when we were there — Marilyn was to be in Santa Barbara this week but plans to come up from there later to visit Edua – abt 23 of Sept – then back down there again as I remember their schedule – expect to be gone 9 wks so have a long session in that part of the country —

I presume the M.E. Parsonage is progressing more slowly now that the more particular structor work is going on – I hope I can see it after a few weeks again – were just putting in concrete farms when I saw it –

Elwin brot home quite a few things collected in different places – just put up a Cuckoo clock – and it has made several appearances – also a brass gong, some musical boxes – one a stein and a little doll house that tinkles nicely – Mexican matilla – and heavy drop or spread in beautiful coloring silver bracelets – hassocks of leather (tooled leather) – etc —

Well my pen isn’t working well. Hope all is fine there – and that some of your farm work has eased – thanks for the Harold.

Lotta .