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1953 - Oct. 16 - 1 Dear Carol & all

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #9 (green ink, highlighter yellow clip)

October 16, 1953,

Dear Carol & all: Its 7:45 A.M. Everyone has gone on their various enterprises, dishes are doing & beds are made so I thought I'd write a bit before I got at that Guernsey work. It takes a clear head and steady hand & so this is for purposes of limbering up. I wonder if you have company again. To tell the truth, I feel kind of lost when I don't know when to write to Mother. So that if I wrote you — if she & Edna & Harold are there they'd know things are still on the level here. In one of my busy periods I didn't get a letter to Mother for an extra long time and she really worries I guess.

Sun is shining thru the overcast now so it looks like another nice day. We are having wonderful harvest weather & everyone is surely right at the digging of spuds & beets. Dodge says next week will see the spud rush slowing down. From the looks of him I'd say its time. Its been a short rush but the condition of the market and spuds makes his job extra trying.

This sunshine is ripening strawberries & raspberries — both planted this spring. I get enuf strawberries for a meal plus — for five of us and Wednesday got enuf bit luscious raspberries for five of us. Maybe a person should plant raspberries yearly for that lush fall berry. It might get involved.

Dahlias have finally frosted too much to use for bouquets any more and I surely miss that bit of brightness. They have been beautiful. I do have a tuberous begonia blossom that is gorgeous — almost like a camellia. Begonias next to the house on the west & under shrubs but will soon catch it I suppose. They are too hidden really but I got them late & had to stick them in where I could find the space. Hope I can hold them over. Never had them before.

I finally quit canning — I, who was going to can very little, — find my jars all full & more fruit, jam & jelly than we are liable to use. Perhaps, if Edna's come this way I can give them some. Used Mothers jars too. Do admit I've been sorting & discarding poor jars. My dills turned out extra good. Those I made in crack & then canned have wonderful flavor but not as crisp as they might be.

Our Jack registered in school Monday, got a letter Tuesday from Selective Service & withdrew from school Wednesday. We had hoped he could finish school but he is relieved to have this service thing on its way after waiting & wonderings. Reports to Fort Lewis Nov. 2 & says the training center is Fort Ord, California — so may spend the winter in sunny Cal —

Bill is staying at dormitory and driving school bus. Home week ends — & last Saturday nite brot three friends out for the night & hunting Sunday. They only got one pheasant so I imagine will be back this week end so as to have enuf for a meal here of course. Its fun to have them tho.

Bob enjoys school in Ellensburg and says he is getting 6 to 8 hours of supervised music per week. He goes in for 8 AM. practice of boys double quartette every Friday morning and sometimes Tuesday too. He surely likes it. Went for X Ray Tuesday and had his straps removed from shoulders after just six weeks of wearing them. Shoulder ached some — but it did anyway. Another X Ray in a month should tell the final story but it seems OK now. He does look thin & puny after seeing him with padding for six weeks.

Many interruptions, truckers, hunters etc. Now a few minutes after nine & Jack going to get beet tops for cattle & I'll go along and pick apples. We harvested our Jonathans — but had several good meals. Next year may supply us with quite a nice percent of our needs. Its nice to have even a few.

I wonder what all happened on the 7th. Hope it was a nice day for Hardys and that things can be easier for them. Guess they didn't have the double celebration Mother said Adelaide mentioned. We hope for good things for Mary & Ed. Disappointments don't often happen twice & theirs was one that seems common.

All of a sudden I've just run down. Guess I might as well just quit. I'm not in that clear & steady condition for Guernsey work that I mentioned. Maybe the fresh air & apple picking will help. Just have to keep at it in order to get caught up on Guernseys. Jack hopes to get rid of all of his — either to us or to others. We'll probably buy most of them. Bill hopes to buy Jacks car but we'll leave it in Jacks name because of lower insurance until Bill is of age —

Heres my ride —

Bye now

Carolyn