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1953 Fri. Dec. 4 Dear Carol:

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #10 (green ink, purple clip)

Fri. Dec. 4, 1953

Dear Carol: Shouldn't sit & write now but have been hard at it all A.M. & as I cleaned up my work table decided I'd send you this sample for a nice pattern for textile painting. I did two pair of pillow slips last night using this for standard & they do look nice for my work — especially at a distance. I used two shades of blue & pink & I like them. Also used about six colors — including lavender on one pair & they are so colorful. I'll use the pink & blue for part of a wedding gift — that's what got me started! I was always partial to these slips — I'm sending pattern from - & that is why they are shot now. A friend made them for us. I'd furnished transportation to club for her a lot several years ago. My, think of all the gifts you'd have if people would remember to express your good deeds that way!

We hear from Jack frequently. I thought he was getting along OK & well adjusted to his new life but his girl thought he was pretty unhappy but of course he wouldn't want her to think he could be happy so far away from her.

With Bill staying in town except for week ends our family seemed quite depleted when Jack left. We had this college friend of Jack's staying here, helping & going to school & he was good company. He is the boy who was visiting here in Sept. when he got polio — just a few days before he was to leave for Pensacola for Naval Air Force training. Well — he went to Spokane in October & passed his physical then decided to start college. Monday of this week he got word to report to Spokane Wed. A.M. for physical & if he passed to proceed to Pensacola. That was fast of course but he was glad to be on his way. So our family is once more cut down. Our hired man has a teen age boy & he & Bob take turns helping with milking. We are milking 30 now & they have to get up at 4:30 to get milking done by 7 when milk truck comes. Makes a pretty strict

schedule for these boys but perhaps some arrangements can be made for relief. They find these milkings mean very little night life — & they will expect some of that. It figures out more than three hours a day for chores & with an hour or neares 1 ½ hrs. on school bus their day really depleted. It should work OK if both stay well but if one gets down I know a Dodge man & woman who are liable to get involved very fast. The hired man & son trade week ends with the boys so they do get three milkings off that way – Sat. nite & Sundays. That surely helps a lot too.

Something happened & its Tuesday AM. now. I am having to go to town soon & I thot I'd try to finish this & get it in the mail today.

A good week end has just finished & its nice to have them go well. A busy day Saturday but boys felt like going dancing that nite. Bob to show & hi school dance at Y - & Bill to Snow Ball at college a tolo & the girl invited him practically at the beginning of school. Bob went to dorm & slept in Bills bed after his dance until Bill ready to come out. They do enjoy each other! Sunday being their day off they could slept but Bob up early to go duck hunting with a friend so guess he isn't too over worked. They brot home one duck only but were proud that that was the only shot they made. We had it for supper last nite. It was good & enuf for three of us. I still can't get used to cooking for three. One duck, one potatoe (& some of that left) – three carrots. Oh herm.

Sunday P.M. we all went to the wedding of a young boy – the son of a cousin of Boyntons. It was a nice simple little wedding in Lutheran church. The cousins husband is working in California & did not come up for the deal so she felt quite alone & we were glad we lent out moral support. The husband's sister & family & a younger brother in the service come from Seattle; Our family, Dodge's youngest sister & her oldest boy & Dodge's youngest brother's wife & her daughter there so there was some family. The cousin has five children &

they all there — including the groom —! The sister of the bride was to cut the bride's cake but because of illness could not, tho she came to the wedding, & I was asked to do that job. My first attempt but the kitchen crew said I'd done a good job of it. It looked fine – the cake I mean - & cut nicely but by the time I'd served 100 – I had no desire for cake — drank a cup of coffee & was glad to go home.

We had a heavy rain Saturday night & we have snow now. We are getting moisture at last. Its been a fine year for harvesting but surely had reached the time for moisture.

We have been expecting to get up to the Methow again with a load of spud sacks but Dodge hasn't been able to get away. I went in one day last week & helped sack 500 — ten pound sack of spuds. They have a machine for sacking them but nevertheless I wore a blister on one finger at the job. They were mesh bags & we put five of them in a paper bag for shipment. Didn't take too long & I was glad to help — but also glad I did not have to do it for a living.

I had quite a spell of Christmas spirit at Thanksgiving time & got some shopping done then but since have quite run down. Really am about three tho the things yet to be mailed & wrapped etc. — & I have no desire for the card business but suppose I'll get at it.

I got such a nice letter from Mary. How happy they are with their boy! Mary writes a good letter. She was quite concerned about Aunt Grace & felt that Dorothy's present altitude was partly responsible for it. Well – the shock of having to go against her religious belief & give in to having Dorothy in hospital would be tough — as well as the separation after all of these years of heavy responsibility – would be quite a shock. And when you think back to Aunt Graces life you know its been an emotionally high strung one & calmness now would be impossible to achieve. I hope that having Edwin & Mary in the house will give her the feeling of security that she surely

must need. Well – its a problem with many angels (or is it angles? I guess so) — and one I'm glad is not for me to handle.

I am finding my delayed reaction one that seems to take some doing to overcome & control. Doctor not too concerned & has told me what to do & not to do & I can keep control most of the time. I have my low days & can usually recognize them for what they are. I am not involved in club doings much at present & have requested replacement in my fair job in canning division & will be thru with the job on our Ladies Lounge board in another month. So if I can manage not to take on new responsibilities for awhile I think I'll be OK. I am not dropping out of club but trying not to get too concerned about going to club either. Go when I can & feel like it. My trips with Dodge help him a lot & I've always had a run around on my heel anyway – I'm going to live tho.

Well – this isn't much of a letter but will send it to get the pattern to you. Hope you like it. Washer just finished. I'll hang up my dab of clothes & go in for a load of feed.

Love Carolyn

