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1954 January 8 Dear Carol, Ernest & Vernan

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Box 1 Folder 5

1954

Letter 1 (black ink, black clip)

January 8, 1954

Dear Carol, Ernest & Vernan:

Its about the hour you get up to do your chores. I couldn't sleep for some reason — Maybe its something we "et." Dodge was up awhile in the night. We don't do much of this sort of thing but something happened.

I have decided that if I don't write to you this week its liable to be two more weeks before I write again.

I like the apron so much & am eager to take it to hobby club to show the gals there. You surely do nice work & I defy any one to tell it isn't embroidered from a 1 yard distance. Sure pretty & I like the color so much too. Thank you a lot. I'm glad you enjoy the colors — but I knew you would.

Christmas was good as always. We did miss Jack of course but I'll bet he missed us too. All he said was that this was his first Christmas away from home & not too bad. But the good news is that he will be back Monday or Tuesday for two weeks! They are splitting the basic 16 weeks and finding less trouble with AWOL. Of course we know we'll have to share him with Seattle — but I bet that gal would gladly quit her job for two weeks too. They say they have no definite plans until after he finds out where he's to be after the basic training is over. If he goes overseas, they will wait but if he's to be in the states they want to take the step so they can be together — — even if he has to go overseas later in his service period. So — either way it looks as if our days of being the important people in his life have to give in to being next in line. I'm

not complaining — but we are jolted into realizing our boys are adults. God bless them – we sure like them!

We were glad to have Christmas eve here again this year. Seems like we didn't do it for a couple of years on account of the folks but can't say for sure. Mother was sick at Christmas time a couple of years tho & it was she, not Dad, that the confusion bothered. Dodges always have Christmas eve together. We draw names & that is when the Dodge packages are opened.

My gift was a pretty pin with green settings & a set of 3 bottles of perfume. Exotic & frivolous & a good kind of gift. Boynton's from a brother in law who lives on a Wyoming dude ranch. It was a western tie – leather thong – braided but not much bigger around than a leather boat string. Has metal tips & a jeweled metal slide. It's the sort of a tie that he would probably need a "tipple" to make him enjoy wearing but he has already worn it to a dance & reaped enuf comment to justify its being. The boys got scarf & gloves and belt as their gifts. Boynton & I are to have an electric blanket, we think, for our Christmas for each other but haven't bot it yet. Have to wait & see about income tax — how. Anyway we hear so many comments — all good by people who use them but so many dealers sound questionable about them that so far we wonder. Anyway we are looking around yet. The boys gave us a mirror for our closet door so we can see how we look before we step out. How I needed that when my slips were so eternally hanging out. Now that I'm normal – I am getting new slips. Have been 135 since the last of November and people are beginning to accept the fact that its going to be OK. While still losing they kept saying I was overdoing it but when the flesh evens off & firms down the change is not so dreadful looking. Did you see us mentioned in the Country Gentleman? January issue – page 79. Heck we were disappointed. We thot there would be a whole article with all the garry details. Oh well – – its surely been a satisfaction to us and there has been a new class started and another

start in a month now. Those who have not accomplished their goal are to continue with the new group. Their loss will be slower but they need the regular weighing periods to keep up the schedule. One of my sister in laws has lost 32 of the 99 lbs. she had been scheduled to lose. So she may have a two year program ahead of her yet. Her 32 lbs. a great satisfaction to her tho — and not only she but her family for the most part need the change of eating habits. They have a 17 year old boy who weighs over 200 – but is over six foot tall too. We're making them of sturdy stuff these days!

Ten AM. now & I find I'm out of plain paper. I got some to use with this "named" variety. I always write so darned much. I have rice pudding & pumpkin custard in the oven doing at the same time to use up odds & ends & save on oven heat at same time. I'm pepping up some things with a dye bath in the washer. Am afraid I was short of color on first things but they look better. Tomorrow I'll do a cherry red bedspread – chenille – with my bath robe and a bath mat. The spread peps up all of these things & doesn't seem to lose color either tho the present color a softer more pleasant color than originally. These jobs take time & messing around but satisfying to get done. I have spent much of three days away from home this week so haven't gotten much done. Worked at warehouse Monday P.M. Went there Wed. P.M. but they didn't get lined up for me to work so went in with Dodge at 8 AM yesterday & not home until after 5 but we got things done. I have been sacking 10# bags of spuds. We've used mesh – like onion bags, and paper & plastic. Mesh rough on hands but easy to handle. Paper stiff & requires one more worker because of stapling & the plastic is slippery but works fast. And the potatoes do look nice in plastic. We have a machine that shuts off at or near 10 lbs. A man emptys spuds in the happer & one or two fill sacks. One can fill 50 in a half hour & with two the production is double — & one man can fill happer fast enuf for two — so that the more economical way to work. Boynton is so

interrupted all the time that his work there is spasmodic. I did 330 plastics plus around 50 or 60 paper bags yesterday – with help at times. The man at the happer picks out poor spuds — & large ones. These were re-runs so sorting was a matter of just picking over. The real sticker for me is that I must have help & can't put in an hour or three unless Dodge or someone can empty spuds for me. Consequently I often spend many hours in order to get an hours work done. I am telephone girl often but the operations now are in two different buildings & a phone has not be put in the second one yet. Potatoe business a sad business this year & takes a lot of work to keep people happy.

Well – its 7 P.M. Friday & I think I'd better bring this to an end. No wonder I have trouble getting letters done. I went in town near noon & had lunch with Boynton's youngest sister who works in town. Then did the business he wanted me to do, saw people & visited then picked up Bob at school so he got home a little earlier. He is milking tonite so supper is waiting. A good note from Jack with pictures. Was I glad for them. Scaled showed me 2 ½ lbs over weight today so I'll have to lower the boom on food. Of course that soon after lunch & there is some variation but anyway I'll have to watch me.

Hope your Christmas was good & the New Year will be fine – that your kids will get home & even that you get to Washington State.

Thanks again for apron.

Love Carolyn