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1954 June 24

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Envelope:

B Dodge

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Ellensburg

Washington

Mrs. E. H. Robinson

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Sidney, Montana

Letter #4 (blue ink, pink clip)

June 24, 1954 –

Dear Carol: Happy Birthday yesterday! I sure had good intentions but its been too thick here to do any writing. I sent Jack a couple of cards so now will have to write him a letter too. I did send him a letter & cookies just before the deluge.

Betty & family — the kids I mean — arrived the 15th & stayed a full week. A good visit but never a quiet moment & not much chance to do anything extra besides cook, eat & do dishes. The confusion was terrific. Boynton caught one of his colds which usually lays him low & there was little chance to relax. Lucy & Les Putnam came Friday evening for the night then to Seattle until Monday. The same Friday they came some friends of ours came from Shelton. They always stay with us but this time spent the nights with his Dad but spent both evenings with us — Sat. nite for supper. Betty knew them too so they renewed acquaintances. Tuesday – the 22nd Lucy & Les, Betty & broad Boynton & I — & a couple of other fellows went to see out set up in the Columbia Basin. Lucy & I went over in Betty's car & I drove to relieve her of that much. She stated on home from there. Mother had been over there & preferred to stay here & rest & pack &

sort & clean. We got back about six so could get supper & she said she'd had a good rest. She also passed on a trip to Yakima yesterday with Lucy & Les & we had a most satisfactory afternoon & evening here — just family & she could start her Montana trip today refreshed & eager to get going. Seems like our yesterdays visit tho was so good tho after the confusion of the past week. They were on their way to Spokane this AM by 8:15 & will be on their way home on Saturday — Mothers 80th birthday. Isn't it wonderful she can still do it?

Bettys visit may have been a change for her but not a vacation. Linda Lie is 2 + — & a stinker one minute, & angelic the next. Hard to handle tho & surely not an easy one to travel with. Betty Lou is six now & does very well but I remember when she was like Linda — but I believe even more difficult to handle than Linda. Garth is 10 — a getter upper early in the morning & a terror around all night. Sounds like Bill in his sleeping habits. Garth really stows the food away — really eats more than our boys but surely not a bit fat so must need the food. He worries me some because there seems to be some suppression that he shouldn't have but he's probably OK. Karin had a real vacation — never helping with dishes & doing pretty much as she chose. Is 12 & reminds me of Betty in her younger days. We did nothing special but were surely kept busy. Betty would like to have stayed longer but was eager to be back home when she'd been here a week. Lou didn't come since he felt he should keep at work as much as possible. They've had tough sledding & I hope better times will come soon for them.

We always enjoy Lucy & Les. He seems to especially enjoy seeing our ways of farming & asked for our tonnage, icerage etc. to tell when he got home. We were chopping green hay into silo while they were here. Got started near noon on Monday & finished filling silo this P.M. Holds 125 tons — & they added a 4 foot topping this P.M. by putting heavy gauge woven wire & sisal craft paper around the top of silo & filling it up. It will probably settle now about even

with top of silo. We'll start mowing, raking & baling rest of the hay probably about Monday. Have around 50 acres of hay – & half of it went in silo. We have corn too so will probably have some sort of self feeder pit for corn tho.

Yesterday after Lucy & Les went to Yakima I went out & spent two hours really working in the garden to catch up. Lucy & I picked the strawberries yesterday A.M. & we had enuf for two meals plus — for nine at noon, six for supper — & a pint left to be cleaned up with cereal this AM. We've had a couple of meals before this but they really are coming now. The rest of garden pretty poor yet. We've had frost in the last week & beans show the effects. Everything is slow growing.

I've really tied into things today too. Bill & Bob had moved to the basement to sleep during the “deluge” & I got their beds upstairs made up & four more stripped but will wash sheets & put them back on the beds as fast as I can. We did washings almost daily while Betty was here so I didn't get so behind that way but it will take a day or two to get beds done again. All clean when they came but I want them clean again as well as the ones all of us sleep in.

Had some extra barn work to do today too — inflations to change & boil & extra clean up on milkers, pails etc. as well as the finger prints to scrub off of walls. I usually do this once a week but missed a week & it surely needed doing. I was afraid the barn inspector would come before the company left but I was lucky.

I have to watch my food pretty closely I find. I climbed up to 139 so easily — dressed of course — & find going back down takes watching & weighing. Today several in Kittitas mentioned my weight loss – but I was wearing my most slimming dress — & was tired so suppose I showed it more. Scaled said 136 — so not down very far. I'm sure glad I lost tho. Think of all the new clothes I had to get. By the way – I mentioned once that I'd send you some

dresses but the gal who had said she that she would like them finally decided she'd keep them awhile to see if she couldn't lose enuf to wear them yet. She's awfully full in the hips & I'm afraid they won't be right for her even if she loses — but she's had them six months now & is still trying so my hands are tied really. I have one I still want to have made over but don't get it done.

You'll be getting the low down on things out here soon. We keep busy but that is as it should be. Boynton says we won't have to see to the farm next year — he'll have someone else doing the work here. Bill will be in the Army by then I imagine & surely its time to let go of the farm management if Boynton is to continue in potatoe business. May mean lots of changes for us — but that can be done. We don't expect to sell the place — but may need to sell cows to get things lined up right.

I have to quit. Sorry to be so late – but I hope you celebrated your birthday well — & happily.

Bye now & love Carolyn

