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954 - Dec. 23 - 2

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #9 (blue ink, yellow clip)

Envelope

B. Dodge

Route 2

Ellensburg

Washington

Mrs E. H. Robinson

Route 1 Box 22

Sidney, Montana

Actual Letter

Dec 23, 1954. 4:30 AM

Dear Carol: Its against my principles to get up at this ungodly hour but woke up & was restless & itchy & achy so finally got up rather than disturb Boynton. Don't like to work around this time of day for every noise is so noisy so that this a worth while project. Wanted to write on Monday when your card came along with 26 others besides 16 to be forwarded to Mother. That was out big day. They surely accumulate & I imagine we have nearly 100 now & I'm wishing I had some new way to display at least part of them. There are some beautiful ones.

I keep thinking of you reclining — and don't envy you a bit. Suddenly the important things are not important and the jobs we "have to do" are left undone or someone else does them, and very surprisingly the world still goes around. You will learn to move "easy," to rest often, and to live with your trouble — and I don't mean Ernest. That was supposed to be funny ha ha – Flat, huh? It was a good time of year for you to take to your bed if need be and maybe by spring you will be able to be up some and learn to do a few things without overdoing. Boy are you going to change

your way of living. The work you have done! But then I know, we just do what needs doing as long as we can. How nice Joyce & Woody are at home by that I mean Sidney. I'm sure they are glad to be near too.

This is being a wonderful week. The boys friends are coming home from the service & from college and are calling & coming out for a meal and its sure nice to have them. Out "Polio" Pete – the boy who got polio here at our place – called yesterday & will be out tonite. He is in the navy airforce and has been as Penscola. Got here yesterday and has to leave Tuesday so is budgeting his time. His mother has had a new baby since Thanksgiving so her time very divided. She does have another pre school child as well as one in high school — and two or three married & Pete by former marriage.

We sorted spuds here yesterday – the first we have moved. Sorters had to work outside of the cellar but next time can be inside. I invited the women to the house to eat their lunched & eight came up & were so grateful for warmth & extra coffee. The men move around more but the women just stand. Dodge had a carload of dry pack to get out & was anxious to get enuf spuds out here so they wouldn't be so near the door and so when they wished to sort again they could work in the cellar. Last nite he wished they were going to get out another car — just to have a few more out. Our market here has been higher than any place else but I just don't know what they are paying.

Dean & Cardie & passenger to Sacramento arrived last Friday evening & took off again Saturday about 8:30 — in our car. Dean had tried to sell his pickup but no takers & Boynton told him if he didn't sell he could use out Ford for the trip home. With Mother involved too — Dean was glad to take us up on the proposition. Mother wouldn't have gone to Edna's now except for that ride & she did want to go down. She was afraid altitude would bother her more (& I do see

she has slowed down some) but we told her if it was bad to come back with Dean & Cardie after New Year. If she comes back she wants to get an apartment in town and we think she should try it if she'd like. Has a possible one located and right lately – apartment adds have been plentiful. Mother surely does well tho and I'm so glad to see her get about so well. If she was in town she would soon have a few jobs babysitting and she could visit a little with friends as she wished rather than to have to do too much of it in one day. Anyway, we'll see. (I really expect she will stay with Bookers)

We will also see about our own doings. Its hard to know what is best. Boynton wants to keep the place for the boys to feel free to come home to. I tell him that home is where we are and that the boys will feel as free any place we live. Not that I want to leave here — moving gives me nightmares — but if its too much to handle we'd better get out from under. I have felt considerable concern about Boynton finding himself in your condition the rate he's been going and anything I can do to ward off the possibility should be done. Yet I can't say much. If we could get the place in pasture & hay and swing to a feeding program rather than dairy we'd like to try it. But even then, the problem of getting someone to care for stock properly is a big one & the only way Boynton would be free of the responsibility would be to rent or sell I think. So – in the long run we'd be better off out of it. Its still just guess work — and I'd rather have you keep any of my ideas to yourselves until something more definite develops. Boynton has said we won't farm it another year — but if we have those cows we always run the chance of being “stuck” with them. And Bob goes to college next year!

I'm going to quit. Don't want to tire you out reading. Take it easy. Drop us a note once in awhile & I'll try to write again in 1955. You have what it takes to live with your condition & make the best of it. We'll think of you often.

Oh yes – I was 137 in Oct. weigh in & 136 last week so not too far off. Christmas may be tough tho.

Carolyn