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1954 - Dec. 30

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #10 (light green ink, white clip)

December 30, 1954

Dear Carol: Its nearly 7P.M. – supper time – but the crew still milking so I'll start this as I calm my jumbled nerves. I feel like Ernest & Vernon had been here to egg me on into trying one more – & I've done it all on my own feeling a bit rough tonite. (Gee, I hope you can read your own letters & don't need to have a relative or friend read to you)) What am I saying!

We've got rain today! Its mild & nice & some fog but the mild temperature appeals to me most of all. I'd as soon have all of January like this — but 'spoze ***suppose*** “if God sorts out the weather & brings snow – why snow's my choice.”

Somehow I've thot about you a lot today along with those lingering thots of a young woman acquaintance of mine who I just heard has gone blind. I have a dear friend – not a close friend – but dear to me – in Olympia who is about my age & went blind when 21. Her son a good friend of Jacks and Jack has visited in her home. I've called on her. While her son in high school she went back to school & graduated from hi with the son, then went to a small near by college & graduated from college with a degree to teach history. Somehow I'm wondering if my young friend in town might be helped by myself or my Olympia friend. I hope to see her husband next time I go to town. What do you suppose brot all this on — ? Not just the “egging” of E. & V. – I've felt it all day. Oh well.

And how are you? Hope you can rest well and soon be on your feet to rule the roast again very soon. And a ruler, you know, may have the worry but to hold prestige, shouldn't do the work! Now mind —

With Christmas over I've been quite content to sit easy and stay out of town. Haven't been to town for a week but suppose I'll have to go in tomorrow. We are invited out for New

Years eve & tho common sense says no – we let mind sit back & desire rule the roast. I called out hosters this AM & told her to count us out but Boynton said he'd changed his mind before I finished talking — & who was I to argue? Boynton had told Bob he'd milk for him New Years AM. & that is the sticker. But with Sunday following New Years, perhaps we can safely indulge.

I've started my leather work & really surprised the guys here with my first attempt. It was a little coing purse which I didn't care much for but which was cut & stamped & ready to start work on. Have to put leather coats on yet & lace it but got tooling done. Its fun but I can see will not be an inexpensive hobby. I sure had a kink in my neck after my evening of tooling. Oh well.

Our hired man asked for time off to go to Wyoming & left the morning of 28th. That leaves chores for Bob & his helper to do but Dodge expects nothing extra of them so they do OK. The helper had from Friday thru Mon. off — Christmas week end — so he'll have to milk New Years. Hired man back Sunday – we hope. School starts Monday. Bob sure seems to catch it but is a good scout and a faithful worker. Here comes the crew.

Well, supper over & dishes doing. Boys are playing carom but hope we can get in a game of pinochle before evening is over. They'll probably want to go to bed tho. Pinochle a good relaxer.

We expect Dean & Cardie Sat. or Sunday. Really don't expect Mother back but there is no telling. I think Joan was to be on the way again by first of the week so Mother is more liable to stay there in a quiet home. Hope someway we'll get to see Joan before she leaves for the far country again. What a different life she leads.

Jack writes that they had Thursday thru Sunday free of all duty except guard. He did guard duty for one of the married men one day and since he had no where to go didn't mind. Said food was being good & only 18 or 20 men there for meals. I suppose that was their group.

Hope he can be home for two or three weeks in a couple of months. He's on the second year now so perhaps someday it will end for him. I think he likes it OK tho. The visit from Edna & Harold really did him a lot of good.

Bill called Christmas day from San Francisco and it was good talking to him. His eight week basic will be over in February & he should have 10 or 12 days off then.

We got a good picture from Lennards Andy which has prompted some hearty wolf whistles here. Bob wondered how come he had so many good looking female cousins. Two different boys, friends of Jacks & Bills came for supper before Christmas & both wondered who & where from when they saw Andy's picture. Cute. Sure takes the sting off to have kids come out yet - - even tho the boys are gone. Another called today & we set a date for him & his wife & babe to come for a meal. He is in airforce stationed now at Tacoma and about to be going to California for his fourth year in the service ... or is it the 5th I guess. Anyway he reinlisted. He's been my or our prodigy for several years - his mother died & his father & brothers & sisters each went their own way - so we have been his standby pretty much.

Well, I surely have nothing constructive to write now. Flu seems to have a pretty good start here with quite uncomfortable conditions resulting. We've gotten by so far but many quite ill. A neighbor showed us a little bottle of some new 'mycin preparation that cost them \$16.50 — and then she couldn't hold the pill down. Said it tasted too much like money. She looked like she'd been on quite a binge & had a honey of a hangover.

A card from Lawrence saying Uncle Loren seemed much worse. By little bits I hear whats doing. For the sake of Uncle Loren and Aunt Grace I hope he can sleep away some nights. Do you suppose Aunt Grace will try to get Dorothy home then? What a struggle shes had — most of her life I guess & looks like Edwin & Mary are heading the same way. Too bad.

Well I'll quit. We think of you often. We'll understand if we don't hear from you. Know you must conserve your strength & I'm sure Joyce will write anytime she has news to tell or message from you. I'll try to write once in awhile.

Bye now. Be ye careful!

Love — Carolyn