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1954 - Mar. 4

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #13 (blue ink, 1 and half pages, post 1953)

Note: Talks about getting a marker for her husband's grave, husband died in May, 1953, talks of a wedding that occurred Feb.20th, 1954

Letter

Big Creek California Mch 4, 1954

Dear Carol,

I wonder if spring has been putting in its appearance back there too. Everything is hurrying along so fast here – the hill sides are becoming colorful with wild flowers and some orchards are already in full bloom. And people are not too happy about the early blooming as frosts could so easily destroy the prospects for fruits.

Everyone is hoping for more rain too – very little snow fell in the mountains too. Compared to the usual fall and most people think much will still come later and then early growth on trees like leaf and bloom could be killed.

You've probably heard that we made a three week trip into Southern Calif. And really did a lot of visiting.

My very best friends from Ellensburg were visiting their daughters family and San Gabriel so came to see us in our apt. several times. Then I went to Ontario on outlying town – where an Iowa school mate of mine lives, stayed there two days and they brot me back. Then I visited at Rev. Welches three different times, they lived rather close by not more than 2 or 3 miles – I could get on bus right by our apt. and go within two blocks and I'd walk that distance. They were so eager for me to come often and we had such good times. Then on our first week end we drove to San Diego and you've probably heard of my visit there. Blanche gave her entire time to make my stay perfect and we were so glad to see how contented and comfortably your mother is situated there. Surely she is as contented there as any on could be and she seems so well and capable yet to enjoy the good things in life.

We visited Leonards mother-in-law in Pasadena and had lunch with them and a very nice afternoon visit! Also saw Miss Susan Shaeffer, who was supt at Sidney Hospital – you know – she also comes to see us at out apt.

Visited a nephews family (Harolds) in another suburb and his mother was there who was a pupil in a school near Central City IO. when I taught there. I had visited her at one time when they lived in Grand Forks M.D. her husband – Harolds bother died several years ago he was a dentist in Grand Forks.

We took trips around the city – shopped several times – went to Southern Calif. Symphony Concert one nite – to church on Sunday morn in L.A. and with Blanche one Sunday – on the other Sunday made our trip down.

It was a wonderful privilege for me and I would like to go again – we visited interesting places too, especially Huntington Library where there is the largest Cacti gardens in the world (prepared by man) – 15 acres and Chas Schermershorn took us there the second time on the last afternoon we were in L.A. He had invited us to lunch with him then offered to drive us to the Gardens - we had spent in afternoon there – but it was on the only day that it rained so we spent our time in doors seeing the rare display of arts, old furniture, famous original paintings, hundreds of lesser paintings, clocks, miniatures, carvings, porcelains produced in England and France collected by Mr. Huntington between 1910 and 1927. All this is displayed in the home of

Mr. Huntington which is immense in stature - a veritable castle and he presented it to the city to be used for all generations after his death – all for free!

Edna and Harold went to several homes for dinner dates too – people who had lived in Big Creek. I begged off a couple times. I just had to take it easy part time. Tho I was on my own invitations too at times when they were out.

We surely didn't waste any time.

The last week I went to Tulare (abt 75 or 80 mi distant) to visit Naida Kenopur-Waterman – a man from the office had to go to L.A. and took me far as Naidas – went Thurs. P.M. and back Sunday P.M. A wonderful time there too – reviewing many memories of the days we knew them so well in Sidney.

Have a lovely home, two nice boys – 5 years + 17 months, her husband teaches in Tulare. Hope to get to San Jose to see Mr. + Mrs. Peters but not before April. George and his wife and little 3-year-old girl are back from 3 years in Alaska and he has been assigned to Mt. Rainier where they will go after Apr.1 so I won't go before that. Then after that I expect I'll be moving on – want to go to Sidney again but not sure when that can be. Want to see about a marker for Dads grave, feel I must go back, but will be something I must work out.

I hope all is well there. Blanche said they hadn't heard from you in some time. I have appreciated so much you letters to me and want you to know I am very grateful. Had such a good letter form Mrs. Nevines last week.

You probably have heard that Dean was Married the 20th Feb. They will be out here after their school work for the semester. He may go the Stanford another year – if he continues in College work.

Well, must quit. - Lotta