

12-21-2021

## 1955 - Jan. 18

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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### Recommended Citation

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**Letter #3 (blue ink, little green clip)**

**Envelope**

Mrs. E. H. Robinson

Rt 1 Box 22

Sidney, Montana

**Letter**

January 18 –

Dear Carol: Thank you for the good letter. Gee whiz – it was written just four days ago! Had gotten reports of your progress in a letter from Aunt Grace & thru Mother and was so pleased & surprised that you were getting up & around some. I've seen so many cases of months in bed – often in hospital and then many weeks of doing what you are doing now — So you did catch it in time to do some real good by resting & taking it easy. If you can read the signs and then pay attention to them you can “learn to live with your heart” and not have to be a complete “recluse” either. My doctor always has said that they have less concern for the heart case that knows he has the trouble & is prepared to care for it than for the person who plows on until he drops. One of our country school teachers had an attack in school one day, spent six weeks in hospital, two months at home & then attempted to finish her school term – taking it as easy as possible. I visited her one day and she said except for the recent return of the neuritis (or something) in her arm & shoulder blade she'd feel good. I suggested that perhaps her so called neuritis was heart rather than that & wouldn't she call her doctor? Did he think she should be teaching? Well – no – he knew she was but that she shouldn't. She called him next AM. & he said the arm & shoulder pain were probably heart so she went to see him and tho she thought she rested more. Has been teaching ever since too – tho she's careful and her first session was probably fine years ago. She

is Christian Scientist tho & that keeps a person going that might give up otherwise & is probably just as well off going! This woman drives twenty miles to her school each morning — & back at nite. It was further by 5 miles when she first got sick & so she found place near school to finish her year. Just another case.

My young blind friend is diabetic & has been since early childhood. Blindness often comes in those cases. Ellensburg has an association of the blind so she will probably get into that eventually. So far has not been ready to accept that this is to be her life. Her husband told me she can still see shadows so isn't total yet. I did so wish I could in some little way help her. She must be only about 30 – maybe less.

I saw “Magnificent Obsession” and thot it was wonderful. I'd see it again too given the chance. It had a fine theory of living and the acting was surely wonderful. Did you see the “Glen Miller Story?” I saw it by myself one P.M. in Seattle – the first show the first afternoon of its several weeks showing over there. Then Boynton & I saw it here and then this fall it was here at the Drive In & Bill took me to see it ... he & one of his college boy friends. And after all the stories I'd heard about the kids & the cars at the drive in theaters, so disgraceful the things that go on — & not a drop in the car load that nite. Was I disappointed — after all the rumors! (We were in a De Soto — not a Nash!!!) But I still enjoyed the Glen Miller Story.

Bob came home from school tonite with the big news that he & two girls from the hi school chorus are to go to the Northwest Division of the National Music Educators meeting at Eugene Oregon in April. They are chosen from schools of the northwestern states, Montana, Idaho, Washington & Oregon, to sing in a chorus for demonstration purposes for the educators. Teachers are allowed to submit a certain number of students, indications being noted of sections to be filled and the choice is made then — not necessarily by trial but by the need in the group

for the voices & by the experience listed on the students entrance blank. Its been a real advantage to Bob to be a first tenor & he says that probably helped him a lot to get to this conference. He was in the group at Yakima for the chorus for the state meeting of the music educators group. He says too that the local FFA is submitting his name for the national FFA chorus which would mean a trip to Kansas City for the national meeting if accepted. That is just a dream yet tho. With the music festivals coming up tho too – both for the large groups division – a day for each – it looks like busy & musical days ahead. Hope he has what it takes physically to get it in if he is that interested. We not only will be proud of him – we are proud of him. And oh so grateful to have him home yet. Our boys seemed to leave so fast. But Jack is on the last year of service now! We are lucky to have had three. Nothing can take the joy of having had them with us so happily from us — even if they aren't here much any more for the hours of having had them can always be with us. They aren't angels – In fact they are at times disgustingly normal boys – and yet I think I can proudly say they are men who know how to work. I may be partial – Excuse it.

The leather work progresses slowly. I missed last hobby meeting & the work doesn't fascinate me enuf yet to go ahead on my own. Besides it is a noisy hobby & my nerves don't run to noisy hobbies right now. Am taking some adjustments now & surely tensing myself up with leatherwork won't help that neck bone. Couldn't get appointment at oculists until Friday so haven't had eye test either. No – I don't think it is work you should try to do now. You need to avoid arm work I'm sure. By the way I'm told sweeping bad – also bleating and mixing – yes & ironing. I would think that a washer and dryer — (automatic) would be a wonderful work saver for you too ... especially if you could have it on main floor. You have to wash differently yes — but you learn & wash day need never be hard. Of course your water supply might create a problem for you. Hanging clothes should be against the rules too for you. Now – lay down and

figure out a way to get washer & drier & ironer in your house ... even if you don't want them – that will give you something to think about & figure on.

No – I've only gotten a start on the upstairs. Boynton left Sunday nite – 6 P.M. by Milwaukee for Deer Lodge. Got in there AM. Monday. A college classmate deals in seed spuds there & he & Dodge to make the rounds Monday & then drive to Idaho Falls, Idaho for a potatoe handlers machinery & methods meeting Tuesday (today) – Wednesday a tow from Idaho Falls to Twin Falls for another session there Thursday. If Thursday was repeat of Tuesday he might not stay for it but I reckon I'll hear about tomorrow. He'll undoubtedly talk to the fellows at the warehouse in the AM. — & I imagine will call us too.

Yesterday was busy with my limit of three batches of clothes washed – limited to that because of hot water. I don't have suds saver — & should because then the hot water doesn't run out so fast. I had date for my neck & back work in P.M. & several little deals to take care of in town. Then last nite was the annual meeting of the representatives of contributing clubs to our Ladies Community Lounge. A gratifying project & since I retired from the governing board only last year – I feel extra interested yet. Four of us went in to the meeting together & afterwards “did” the town. I was the chaperone — so designated because of my age rather than actions – and we had fun on our nite out. Sure did hear some stories too. It was really snowing when we came home. And blowing & drifting but temperature now low – & all well this A.M. Just made for cautious driving. Of course – being chaperone – I wasn't driving! One of the group was my youngest sister in law — the mother of the red headed Bobby in Life. I shouldn't have mentioned our farm in that picture. Its going to be a let down when you “see” it. But it gave Jack a real lift.

I've been lazy today. Spent the AM. working over the plants, folding & sprinkling clothes & little else. Then rested & read “When New York was Invaded” – a continued story in

Past – Pretty clever. Then finally got the ironing done — finishing about 6 P.M. Our supper not until 7 – or after. So upstairs not painted.

Well – its Wed. AM. Don't look like I'll paint. I find someone needs to go get best pulp & salt etc – so since grain needs to go in too for rolling I'll take care of it, get our licenses, cleaning etc etc. A sale in town I'd like to look over too. Stare with better dresses always has a two for one sale & it's a good deal. Pay for the more expensive dress but can maybe get two of same price. Anyway a good deal.

A little colder this A.M. 13° but a reported high of 34. Labor house is empty so I went down to check water. No one has crawled under house to shut it off yet. Bob said he would tonite. Was sure glad to see water run OK. Reports of zero by week end.

I help serve for club tomorrow so have to bake pies & get going in AM. We're glad to hear the hall to be used tonite & the fellow said he'd throw in a bucket of coal when they left so the place won't be so frigid. We'll just go down & stay I think. Easier that way.

Take it easy. Your theory should be to put off until tomorrow everything you don't have to do today.

Carolyn.

