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1956 - Mar. 9

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #3 (black ink, green paper and envelope, purple clip)

Envelope

Dodge
Kittitas
Washington

Mrs. E. H. Robinson
Rt. 1 Box 22
Sidney, Montana

Letter

Saturday Mar. 9, 1956

Dear Carol: I'm not ready to start reading the last story in the last American magazine which I brot along so will start a letter to you on one of the last three sheets of this ishy green paper I have along. Nothing like clearing the decks. Probably, when Dodge comes back to the car I'll know where we head from here. Just one more jaunt. Left Kittitas about 10:AM yesterday + now are probably 100 miles from there + its twelve noon. We have stopped at Quincy, Moses Lake, Othello + are now at Kennewick. Always on "Railroad" Avenue it seems + never any assurance whether its to be ten minutes, more or less, or two hours, more or less. Mostly I read - but even tho there is someone I might look up the reason for the trip- the spud - comes first so usually I just ride along + try not to worry myself into wanting to see someone. I'm glad to get to come on the trips. Still got the old "reen around" on my heel.

It seems like we never drive around in the Columbia Basin but what I think of you + wish that you could spend a few days with us looking over that vast area. Most of the little towns are building up rapidly with all the problems of the fast growing area. We saw two new modern schools at the edge of Moses Lake before we got into the city proper and as we left two more. A town that ten years ago had probably less than 100 inhabitants now with 10,000 if they even stay still long enof to be counted. I'd say 95% of the shopping district + 99% of the homes are less than ten years old! And most around five years. Dodge asked for a city directory + they said they'd tried to put one out but before it could be printed it was extinct! Larson Air Force Base is a city in itself + it is within 5 miles of Moses Lake. A woman who has a "young modern" stare there said she needed to enlarge before even got settled in her business for Larson. AFB had enof potential trade alone to tax the space she had. I think Moses Lake is evening off now in its growth but Warden, Othello, Quincy etc are making tremendous studies now tho they'll never be as large as Moses Lake - Thank goodness.

New roads are as prevalent that there seems to be a change every time I come near this way. Our drive to Kennewick + Pasco used to take us threw Yakima, Prosser etc. the easy way now - with only perhaps ten more miles is to go to Vantage (on the Columbia) and then south on a new road to Othello + from there to Mesa. Some of the road from Othello is still under construction + not open for traffic + the old road narrower + more curves but they keep working on it. The new road to mostly bypasses the present towns by a half mile or more so that makes far better travel. The difference in traffic goes far too in making travel easier + yet there is enof traffic so some car trouble can usually be taken care of with help rather than wondering if no one will even come.

We stayed at Othello last night and this AM saw an occasional field of grain showing a little tuss of green but I'm sure it was fall planting wheat. In only a few places were tractors in fields but being Saturday we saw several places where stocking capped hays were piling thistles for burning. Yes they have them here – big old fashioned tumble-weed thistles. In fact, one time I saw a cut in the hills with a main highway going there it completely closed by thistles which had rolled in + then just piled up. A crew had to come + clean them out to open the road!

It seemed to add to see no snow after having it at home since Nov.2. But the wind was so cold that it seemed like a typical spring day in Kittitas Valley. However, the weather report we had indicated it had been chilly and Ellensburg had an 18° again last night with 23° at Ephrata, 26° at Moses Lake – so it was legal for the wind to be cold. I believe it was Thursday that Cle Elum + Roslyn - 35 to 40 miles towards Snoqualmie Pass + Seattle from us had a snow fall varying from 20 to 26 inches – with a wind. The pass reports 227 inches on the ground there yesterday, but has been open + clear much of the winter because of constant snow clearing and roadway. Now the worst time for the pass roads wit slides prevalent and there surely is lots of snow to slide. If we get by without serious flood conditions this spring I will be surprised but the snow in our yard is receding rapidly + so far going into the ground. In the country, fields are a glare of snow, thawed + frozen repeatedly + untrampled because sow has been too deep for stock to be in the fields much. The north slope of the hills are still covered with the white stuff but the south slopes are showing brown some.

Its Friday A.M. now + we have been to Baker, Oregon to see spuds and back to Yakima for a Tuesday noon meeting, home that night and since, Boynton has had an overnight trip to Quincey area. I have caught up on washing and on the grocery supplies, baked cookies + cake and have had my check up with my doctor. He says to come in anytime I feel the need but if he doesn't see me before, he'll write me a letter in about a year for me to come for an examination again. Now doesn't that sound encouraging?

This is some letter – but I'm not going to discard it. When would I write this much over again? I owe Dorothy + now have mother to write to too. I don't write to any service boys now except Bill. He hopes to get out in time to start school in the fall! Jack and Bob finishing winter quarter exams today. Jack has a part time job starting tomorrow which he'll keep during spring quarter he thinks. Bob hopes to line up something since it looks like spring work on farms will be too late to give him spring vacation work.

Some letter – but I'll call it quits + try again some day. Did you go on the F.U. trip? Wish you could out here for awhile.

That's it now. Love – Carolyn.