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1959 - Apr. 5

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #3 (Black ink, yellow clip, envelope)

Envelope

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

Letter

Dear Carol:

Sunday April 5 - 59

Well I've been going to do this for a month or two but letter writing has been confined to essentials + I've procrastinated (procrastinated) on the rest. Its taken our first weekend at Winchester + a long windy afternoon to settle me down to letters. A truck load of seed arrived this A.M. + I went with Dodge to the cellar where they unloaded it then we went land looking. Back to the apartment for an easy dinner + a rest. Were going out for a drive again + a visit some but the wind got to howling and we have just stayed in. Dust is blowing + many cars towing boats are heading away from the lakes now. But it was something on the lakes today. Nice this A.M. tho.

Looks like we are getting into the rush on seed cutting. Heard Dodge say he have to put on a night crew this week. SO far have had 5 or 6 cutters + they have had only six or seven days work so far but form now on it will be different. I kind of like to do it but I mostly just work in for a few hours or a day when pressure is on. Its best that way for me + Dodge wants me free to help when + where needed + to not get too tired to do other things. Of course I'm glad he feels that way about it tho I imagine I could do my share along with the rest if needed. I know our meals etc. would be pretty sketchy tho before long + that is impacted too – especially for Dodge + his touchy digestion.

We surely enjoyed having the Darnells here + wish they might have spent more time. Do have the feeling they'll come back tho, especially with those grandchildren in Portland - + may they live there long. Didn't get to show them around nearly enuf – partly due to my poor planning at Kittitas but next time may do better by them. For the length of the visit I think we did pretty well. Boynton said he felt sure he'd met Vera, she looked familiar. When I mentioned how much she looked like Aunt Nelle now he knew that was it. Surely had never been so conscious of the similarity in features + build. Mervin was a good visitor too + Bob enjoyed having him along for bowling + to see the college grounds. Allen seemed to enjoy seeing the country + he + Boynton talked crops + production. Maybe next time they'll have time to see Coulee Dam.

I haven't seen or talked to Margaret for a month or two now. We catch up when we do get together tho. Last time she was talking about the Albers feed mill that has been put on their place. Paul is in charge of it + the theory is for farmers to bring grains there for grinding + concentrates etc. It was kind of an experiment but its working out well. Margaret very apologetically said they were clearing around \$1000.00 per month on it. Paul's son was moving up to help out on the deal since the farm help could not be depended on to do a good job of miling + needed much supervision.

Of course by now farm help needed for farm work + a certain amount of grinding goes on year around. Paul's son means another house on the place tho they have one they plan to fix up for him. He + his family in Ephrata until house fixed ---- + may be in their home by now. Paul is a

very shrewd business man + will take good care of his customers ----- if it kills him. Margaret is as usual, of course this feed business keeps them tied down + Margaret + Paul have had to make their trips mostly one at a time + has made for some apparent restlessness in Margaret I thot. Last time we talked to her, she was telling of her mistakes in furnishing the house etc. Well its furnished for sure but in this windy, dusty farm land, surely the wool + upholstered furnishings she has are not practical. She invites all in + tho the men have heavy work shoes, often with mud on them, they are welcomed in to visit as indicated. Its wonderful of Margaret to be so hospitable + Paul does appreciate it – but I could see that she wasn't so happy about it all. One of these days we may find it all newly equipped – but come to think of it – I doubt it. Margaret's pretty careful of her stuff + tho she complained once, I can't imagine her getting anything too different for quite some time yet.

Well in the last month we've gotten our new apartment al newly painted and it surely makes a difference. Much of it had only the sealing coat of paint on it - once white + really not too bad – but it surely looks better now. Makes it a more attractive + interesting place to keep up + live in. I had asked the land lord about painting. He said decide on colors + they'd get paint. We used camellia (a nice rose beige) in living room on walls + on walls + ceiling of one bedroom. The living room ceiling linen white. Other bedroom turquoise. all of this in walltone-latex paint. The kitchen is surf green enamel + white cupboards + splash board but we did inside of cupboards green too. Bathroom is skyline blue – a nice soft blue enamel door casings are the linen white but enamel - Doors were + are the natural wood varnished. That new Marshall Wells Thixotropic enamel surely something to work with + I really recommend it. But why tell you – you'd better let someone else do your painting from here on. Not only did landlord furnish paint but sent over two men (inexperienced painters but willing) to help paint for a day + a half. They got both bedrooms + living room done + would have helped more but I wanted to do something on weekends so we could be away from the strange smells when it was the worst. So for three weekends I did Saturday A.M. painting + then we left. Gave the paint good drying time too. These jobs involve more than painting + I had to get new bedspreads to match things up better. Also a couple of new curtains but mostly use plastics here. Since Darnells were here, the landlord has brot us a davenport + chair that is no better nut surely looks better than the ones we had. We get some consideration because we've been here so long + they feel we will take care of what we have. The turnover in apartment rentals is terrific. This last month several mattresses + a davenport + a chair were burned because of the condition they'd gotten it in with one family. Surely glad we own a storage shed instead of an apartment house - - + our yearly returns from storage are greater than his from apartment + no upkeep (almost).

Bill finished college with winter quarter + is with us here for now. He is running the seed cutting crew + handling sacks for them. The company has financed some spud growers, some on shares, so will not grow any spuds this year. So to have work they plan to buy or 100 year lease some ground for potato storage on or very near the main highway for eventual winter storage, sorting + trucking. That is why were land looking this A.M. this looks like the possible beginning of permanency here for us. Hope no in a year or so we can sell the house in Kittitas + love just here. I prefer Kittitas – not the house but the valley (+friends) – but mainly am anxious to live in one place. May even build a house. Wouldn't it be fun to plan + move into a brand new one? I'm having fun deciding what we'd want if we build.

Bob didn't go back to school this quarter much to our disappointment. So still driving school bus + then works six hours a day - between bus runs – at a men's clothing store in

Ellensburg. Had his job lined up before telling us. Also wants to get in his service stint before he goes back to school. I can see his reasoning but was anxious too for him to really finish college.

Jacks + Sharon's marriage plans for July 18 go on with continued progress. Sharon is a dear – and keeps at us for wedding lists etc. Already has her wedding gown + veil + her bridesmaids dresses + has had a shower. Our Ellensburg friends are planning a Sunday afternoon shower for her on April 25 now. Sharon is a working girl + Sunday P.M. - seemed better for everyone than Saturday nite. Sharon's folks plan a trip over on Saturday so Sharon's mother can go to the shower too. And Jack plans to come to the shower at the beginning or the end of shower to see the ladies too. Sounds like fun. I am to try to go to one shower in Tacoma so that I can meet Sharon's friends and also so that we mothers can pick out our clothes for the wedding. Sounds like big doings + a new experience for us both. (both families I mean). Bill is to be best man – Bob to either usher or sing as works out best for them. I hope they have him sing, tho would also be proud to have him escort me down the isle (aisle). Bob + Sharon are the exact same age – Both 22 on March 31. I made Sharon a leather bag for her birthday + told Bob I'll do a leather bag for his bowling ball – but he would probably get it about Christmas. It will be some job.

Bob's love life had reverses last fall + he got his ring back so I again have a diamond ring in our safe deposit box. She repented + wanted it back but by then he'd changed his mind too – a pretty bitter pill for her. Its too bad but I admire both of them for having what it took to speak up when they had change of feelings. It hurt both at the time but really think her folks were hardest hit of all – Her mother so sure Dolly was wrong that she almost drove Dolly from home. Well so be it. Guess you've had quite a blow in your family too + surely this way is better than it was for them.

Bill has case after case + eventually, so far, each girl married some other guy. He always finds another + each is an equally serious affair for awhile. Present one a very nice girl + quite a bit of inheritance too, but it's a pretty young romance so far. Some day he'll be taking the step + we hope for all he wants from marriage when time comes. Doubt that they all marry in 1959 tho.

Well, the way this looks, it's a good thing I didn't have a glass of wine or something to loosen my tongue before I started to write or I would really have rattled on. Its 9 P.M. now – Dodge + I have played four games of Scrabble this P.M. in two sessions + he beat me every time. I bragged last week that we were about even so now I pay. Its been an easy Sunday + good for what ails Dodge + haven't hurt me much either.

It was good to get recent word of you even if the news wasn't the best. Hope you will be able to take care of you so that by summer you can be up + around again. But hope you will remember that you don't have to do all those jobs all the time. Neither you nor your men will starve + the necessary work will get done even if you don't do it. ----- + I bet you do some jobs that aren't even necessary – A fellow was fussing one fall day because his wife hadn't done any canning – I told him he probably wouldn't starve + maybe she had a point in not canning for one year - + he even agreed. How about skipping the garden one year too. We did plant one at Kittitas last year but won't this year unless its corn – Bob lives that enuf to take care of it + eat it. We plan to treat better than half the garden this year for weeds since we won't be there much. Something they work into the soil I think should help us sell the place – if we progress that far here this year.

Hope this hasn't wore you out. After all you can take it in small doses if necessary + may make up a little for the month of no letters. Our best to you + yours

Love Carolyn