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1962 - July 2

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #2 (Black ink, envelope, white clip)

Envelope

217 N. St. S.W.
Quincey, Washington

Mrs. E.H. Robinson
Rt. 1 Box 48
Sidney, Montana

Letter

note at top upside down:

note new address – we have mail delivery now

July 2, 1962

Dear Carol + Ernest:

Will sit + write + rest after a day on my feet. Not too busy but another day coming tomorrow so don't care about getting out + working in yard tonite. Will conserve my strength!

Its been five weeks about since your good letter came + how I enjoyed reading it with all the little side lights on the Sidney events.

Nothing like getting someone else's views on delicate situations. Mary has been very cautions (for Mary) on her reports from there but has said enouf so I know it hasn't been all milk + honey. I sent Aunt Grace a card recently + will try to continue to do it occasionally as long as she can enjoy them. I'm sure her hospitalization will be offensive to her but doubt that she will complain much – but being ill was also offensive to her + her belief, tho I'm sure she doesn't feel so quietly when A isn't there to remind her of her lack of faith. C.S. may be wonderful but an awful lot of us are of such little faith that we even allow ourselves to train + work professionally in the care + treatment of the ill – and even think we are doing something worth while for humans! Isn't it disgusting?

No word, that I've heard of, has come from Margaret + Paul tho I imagine some of their closer friends have heard. I'm sure they did enjoy their time here. They had the prestige of having one of the finest homes in this new land yet never did have a nice lawn or plantings since I've been visiting them. Had to put in a bigger septic tank + Paul wanted to put in underground sprinkler while he had yard torn up + it stayed a mess for at least three years + wasn't fixed when place sold. Margaret joked about their landscaping but it was a sore spot. Also the fact that their house was never entirely finished. She envied our finished house she said + I told her she had so much more than most people she should not complain + she agreed. She did have many friends + acquaintances + is missed. Paul has gone thru a pretty rough time physically + a cause if much worry + concern to Margaret. Their bookkeeper – being a younger person, had much to say in criticism of Paul + his business dealings + undependability. I tried to tell her that was part of his illness but she figured he was money mad. Oh well, I do hope they can enjoy a few years doing what they think they want to do. They do seem to enjoy each other. One woman referred to Margaret as “a very well pressured older woman” I really choked when I heard it – we never consider ourselves “older women.” Margaret is well pressured – I wish I could say the same but this woman who was talking of M. said she tho Margaret ten years my senior. Well her recovery was marvelous when it came out Margaret + I had gone to hi school + graduated the same year!

As I reread your letter I can't help but think of the turmoil that must have existed at Hardy's. I had assumed that A. came home to help + be with her mother but can't imagine many of us going "home; to help + staying in the bedroom day after day + having meals brot in to us. What an unhappy situation for everyone! I can just see Ed's big grin that he would try to keep going - + know how hurt he must have felt over the turmoil in his home. Too bad - + Aunt Grace must have known how tense it was. Don't families do terrible things to each other sometimes.? I feel so fortunate that our family have been helpful + kind to each other in regards to our parents + if there was criticism it was surely kindly revealed + helpfully carried out. I know how lucky we are. I had much to do with the last days of both Dad + Mother + the settling of their affairs after they were gone. + have felt that the others did a great deal to lighten my load + be helpful _____ as did Dodge + our boys. I know how lucky I am.

You are right, home cannot be the same with someone other than your own family sharing it with you. Yes I can appreciate what you have had all these years – with little ever said to show that it isn't always easy. And how little others seem to realize that it is a trial + a hardship - + that you aren't getting extra farm help without added expenses _____ as they say usually. And what if it could be help without expense if you never have a meal to yourself or have always considered the extra "guest" in your home. Past isn't everything! Nor should Ernest need to feel he is responsible for his brother all of these years, nor either of you be told or made to feel it is your fault that Vernon gad the health + marital trouble he's had – nor Aunt Grace be made to feel that her attitude is responsible for Dorothy's condition. How cruel! It was Adelaide who told Aunt Grace that she had that Dorothy should have been at Warm Springs for many years ___ why? If there is no illness except in our own minds I don't get where they draw the lines... but I am a non-believe! Maybe I'd do that with the work I do + the things I see – my skull would be immense to teaching or learning. Guess I'll skip the whole thing – but there surely does seem to be a tendency for A. to let the other fellow do the most of the worry or work - + she makes the visit to make things look right – but when her Mother could not project herself to "get up from her bed + walk", her attitude was failing to respond – so A could go home for her!

I feel a little bitter. How must Ed feel? And Mary I'm sure will continue to bolster Ed + do much of the work of seeing to Aunt Graces needs + giving her attention --- in person. The do her own + Ed's share - - Ed's by keeping him attentive to Aunt Grace - + seeing her when Ed might neglect doing it. Ed does adore Mary as he should - + I think or feel she is good for him. She builds his ego – which did much to help him along. And Mary has the ability to get things done that Ed had been inclined to let slide – and Mark is the bonus that has made their lives together so very worth while. How Aunt Grace adored Mark!

Well its after ten + Dodge has gone to bed. I hate to quit until I finished this. My letters are suffering these days + I like to get each one on its way – else it might not get finished for days. I'll have a bedtime here as I finish this - + try to get to bed soon.

Have been having some warm days but much variable weather. Highest so far I guess has been about 93 – but that followed by wind, rain, thunder + lightening. Last night cool - + 60 this A.M. at 7:30. We use air conditioner at clinic one day + perhaps need heat the next day. Today had conditioner off until noon but no heat on - + used the conditioner all P.M. Tonite doors closed here at home as it is coolish outside. Good sleeping weather. First cutting of hay baled + much has been moved out. We counted nine truck + trailer rige at a restaurant on U.S. #10 the other day – all loaded with baled hay. Most hay got some rain but apparently in good shape the way its moving. Green per harvest nearing the end more. Spuds

look beautiful may they so continue! Should have a picking of raspberries in back yard when I get out to pick them. I've been hoping Jack + Sharon would be here by the 4th + that they'd pick the bushes – I'm lazy – Jack loves them.

Cherry harvest is in full swing but still 49¢ per lb – for Bings in stores in Yakima last week. 29¢ for #2 Bings here Sat. but I wouldn't dare bring them home. We hope to get to Wenatchee this week to get Bings + Royal Anns. Can get cherries for pies from neighbors here any day now.

Shelley just had an overnight visit with her great grandparents at Ellensburg + didn't even want to leave when time to come home. She + her grandfather went out to “watch the cows poop” she said. She sings so much + its so nice to have her happy. Baby Steven gaining well now tho very sick + almost lost him the first of June form virus infection of bronchial tubes. Has some breather difficulty yet + very spoiled since he's fine lay hospitalization + following attention + care.

What about John Birch Society?? I'm curious –
Thank you for letter. No one else read it + now its gone. Love Carolyn