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1962 - Aug. 2

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #3 (black ink, green clip, envelope)

Envelope

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

Mr. + Mrs. E.H. Robinson
Route 1 Box 48
Sidney, Montana

Letter

Aug. 2, 1962

Dear Carol + Ernest:

Well here we go again. I'm waiting for spuds to finish baking for supper. Fresh from the field this AM. Many nice 8 to 12 oz. spuds as well as some nice size for new spuds + peas. Mostly nice shape. They have been mealy so that I'd try baking some. These are Russets. Two local outfits started sorting yesterday – one place Russets which were skinning badly. The other place running whites which didn't look so good too.

Dodge plans now to start about the 20th but will delay longer if spuds not mature enouf. I see that six carloads were to roll out of here yesterday or today so those two warehouses must be getting a good start. Wonder what the spuds will look like in Chicago tho. We've had three weeks of 90 to 103 degree temperature and so today s 85 with some overcast seems a welcome relieve. And I've been too lazy today to take advantage of cooler weather + get something done!

Well it's the 13th now – I found a fair attendance report in tonites papers o will add a little to this started letter + send along so you maybe can put the card in the circular...which I mailed this A.M. Surely enjoy those letters.

What a day of work today, You know maybe C.S. has something at that – if they can close their minds to pain + distress – But what of the little boy who fell out of a jeep (at noon) + brot in for a little cleaning up, a shave + a haircut – "six bits" – and what a haircut - - a few stitches after gravel was removed, xrays all ok, reassurance, a sucker + very relieved parents. And the boy who yesterday was taken to the hospital + today appeared at the clinic with both arms in slings, for the doctor to adjust splints + re-wrap those two green stick fractures – 12 years old + his mother feeding him again! I told her either she would lose weight or her would she'd be too busy to feed both.

Oh we had a day. One doctor gone for a much needed vacation another has an office some 40 miles from here where he cares for patients two half days a week – so he wasn't in until P.M. Our one doctor took care of the patients never reeshing them, doing what was needed, reassuring married families, answering telephone etc. etc. etc. - + then, like myself, being kept there for 2/3 of the noon hour - + necessarily being back on the job at 2. But we did have two doctors this P.M. + both busy. In some ways fewer doctors is easier for me except more is left for me to take care of. I always remove dressings but doctor is busy I put the dressings back on again after doctor sees them it ain't always easy. I'm improving with age + practice thos patients like to have doctors do these things. They are better educated + having them do it gives prestige + shows theseriousness of the patients condition!

We've had a run of appendicitis's again. Funny thing, last fall a Mexican girl had appendicitis + had operation + since it has been "the" thing to have among Mexicans. I know of three who have had dreams because of rupturing, and a number of others who have had emergency operations. The Mexicans suffer so terribly. They have such bad pain here, it hurts so bad, its no better, + whether its appendix or pregnancy, its always severe. We have lots of them – some very ok – the majority free loaders + on welfare __ the latter come + come with each ailment and the country pays some + the doctors hold the sack for a lot. Yet they all must be taken care of the same One M.D. groans when some of these people keep coming then reminds himself to

"SMILE" – shows his teeth + goes + cares for who needs care.

The negro for some reason are much more stable with their illnesses + injuries. We have fewer negroes here of course but we have them. They will come in with injury from jobs + be sutured with out scarcely flinching. And in the hospital most of them are excellent patients as far as being considerate of others is concerned. And a few of them to see a doctor without very due cause. Perhaps it's the effect of years of servitude - - but surely they are the vicious ones when it comes to fighting + slashing's. The resultant patients from these forays tho are mostly good patents when it comes down to it. These fighters surely help make the doctors life miserable + their nights sleep short. I swear I don't know how the MD's keep going, I came home bushed after 8 or 9 hours + they have been to the hospital, made house calls, perhaps been up in night to care for someone + surely got telephone calls, and after six hours at clinic have to have another round at hospital + perhaps be on call – anyway their 1/3 of the time. It's a killer. Enouf of that.

I've got to get to bed for tomorrow is another day of work + then I'll be off for awhile again. May trade days some for Bob's visit here but will have to wait for more definite word from him. Dodges' sister to be moved into basement + on the job the 28th. She one who is to teach here. That will mean extra work. Putting our stuff out of her way. She will have two rooms in basement.

Glad you had your gall bladder taken care of ---- - - + survived! Surgery is so different these days + the bad heart can take more than it could under earlier anesthetics. And do hope this will help you feel better. Surely – the amount you do would make it seem you are in fine health. Guess doing what you can + enjoying just being alive + able to do as much as you do – is well worth while. Anyway it's a good thing to take care of our physical needs + nice to enjoy life even if we "ain't as young as we used to be." What was it the man said? "You never were-"

Hey I've run out of paper + need to go to bed – Oh is John Birch Society what Ed is so busy with now? I got a card from Mary + wrote her a note + sent in circular to them. Maybe I pulled a baner – I'm sure I addressed circular to Ed + Mary – but figured they'd probably be the ones to read it to Aunt Grace. Do miss her letters – xcuse this letter!

Maybe I'll write again - Carolyn