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Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #1 (green ink, single sided, white clip)

Dear Carol and Ernest: Nov. 11, 1963

I find a letter stuck back and unanswered, I'm sure, and postmarked April 19. After all the time that you've been so good about writing and keeping us posted I'm sorry to have neglected you so long. In the letter, you tell of a big snow just drying up in time for a big rain. Now we have snow low on the hills beyond Columbia River with rains one day last week equaling ½ of an inch in one 24 hour period – with showers frequently since then in our area. We have had two sunny days in a row tho but its rainy again this morning.

Boynton is at the warehouse. A truck was coming in for a load of potatoes, and a few farmers are still digging spuds so there will be some to be weighed – to go into storage at other storage places or be sorted at other warehouses, our own storage all filled to the brim. I think Boynton said approximately 16,000 ton in our storages – not all of our interest but in company storage these spuds dug now bruise easily and we are glad that we have had these out for a couple of weeks now.

A few are still digging beets and the report out that the local beet dump will be closed after tomorrow. The U + I factory at Moses Lake had a big explosion the day before the place was to open for operation, work was delayed a couple of weeks but storage for sugar short now so some late beets may not be processed. Thus the rush to finish as many as possible by tomorrow night. The explosion killed a few men – 5 I believe, and seven have been hospitalized since – two with severe burns.

Last wed. A.M. a train collision here in Quincey caused considerable excitement - two freights so a crew of six on each train. Engineer and firemen on one train killed, three hospitalized – but only one seriously injured. What a mess – and there is considerable discussion what went wrong that the train did not slow up more to take a siding. Other train standing still – waiting to proceed. And it was the two on the Traveling train who were killed. Will probably never be really solved.

Last Sunday + Monday – a week ago I was on a specialling job at the Ephrata hospital with a 2 year old girl who had fallen from a wagon, while on a church hay ride, and been run over by front and back wheels of the wagon. Had a broken pelvis and ruptured spleen and terrific bruising. Surgery was done to find the extent of injury and spleen removed. Much internal bleeding but all functions seemed to be normal so they were encouraged that only spleenectomy (splenectomy) needed. Her recovery may be slow but she was responding well. Because of my regular job I told them I could not return Monday. And Monday I was so bushed after eight hours I almost felt it was a shame to be driving the 20 miles home. I made it tho but was mighty glad the job was over. Doctor had said she could be without speceals after Monday P.M. but then decided they better continue for a day or two – but I kept out of the involvement

Tuesday I did almost nothing in large amounts so by Wednesday could catch up again and then had my days at the clinic and a day of babysitting for Sandy so suddenly another week is gone. Summer seems to have been of such weeks.

Boynton is doing much better this year. He has been able to put in long hours at the warehouse daily and we are relieved that the fall harvest is over without under physical troubles. Much better than year ago/

We're having very severe colds, flu etc., around here. The children have colds now and both are quite a care. I've had sliebburn but not severe head colds but nothing like most have. These things give doctors hours of concern and the clinic dail has many cases of that and measles etc. we have give lots of gamma globulin to modify cases of measles and it does seem to help. This clinic work is very interesting and varied and often fluctuating – but for most part – I like it.

Well I'd best close. Much of the family news you have gotten thru circular. Isn't it a fine institution? Sent it to Betty last round and since have been concerned about whether she got it on its way again. I urged her to do that whether she wrote or not. She is such a procrastinator about writing. Know she's busy, but writes such good letters when she does break down and do it. Know she'd enjoy circular and that she might even write.

Am finishing this as I play Radio Bingo - well laced with commercials. I like to play Bingo - any kind – but seldom play and seldom win. This is "black out" daily over local station – and only second time I've played. And today now it is finished. I have three numbers uncovered – but it was pleasant way to pass a half hour.

May go to warehouse to weigh trucks this P.M. for awhile. Have bread rising slowly (frozen dough – 6 loaves for 99¢) Do you get it there? Its good and very popular around here. Ours comes from Milton – Freewater, Oregon or Portland – have white, whole wheat, cinnamon raison and cheese for selection but they say white most popular. Make one pound of loaf and surely better than I make from scratch. Bakery bread 23¢ for pound loaf so this may be cheaper if you use oven for other things when baking it. I usually do – but not always. The end product seems the most important.

Do hope that sometime you folks can travel west again. Its been a long long time since you paid us a visit and we'd surely love to have you come and stay awhile and see our country, home, business, our family and us – think on it

Bye for now, Hello to all Love Carolyn.