

2021

1951 Sun. Sept. 30 Dear Carol

Carlyn Brown Dodge

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/dodge_letters

Recommended Citation

Dodge, Carlyn Brown, "1951 Sun. Sept. 30 Dear Carol" (2021). *Carolyn Brown Dodge Letters*. 85.
https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/dodge_letters/85

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Community Projects at ScholarWorks@CWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Carolyn Brown Dodge Letters by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@CWU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@cwu.edu.

Letter #1 (black ink)

Sun. Sept. 30 – 1951

Dear Carol:

I wrote the last letter to Aunt Grace. This I'll send to you for I have also some explanations to make. Perhaps you can get ahold of Aunt Grace & see that she hears some of the details of Uncle Fred's service.

First the explanation. Sybel Isham took care of the cards after Aunt Allies funeral and insisted there were no flowers from our families. I was sure there was some mistake but contacted the florist & they assured me flowers were sent. However upon personal contact finally they admitted they had not gotten the information concerning her service & refunded the money. You had sent the biggest share as I remember — therefore my explanation is to you. It was procrastination on my part that you did not receive the refund & partly the fact I couldn't remember who all sent money or how much but did know the amount of the flowers ordered. So without inquiring I took that same amount of money & ordered a spray of roses to be placed on Aunt Allies grave for Uncle Fred's service. They were on the casket at the funeral – deep red roses in a lovely round spray — then placed on Aunt Allies grave at the cemetery. That is all I could think of doing in recompense and hope it meets with your approval. It was listed as from the families of Allies brothers & sisters — & their names listed including your mothers. I'm a dope about how to do these things but that that should be OK.

We received word of Uncle Fred on Sunday. He was lying across his bed fully clothed as tho he had just laid down to rest. Was face down but no indication of suffocation or a struggle so they felt he slept away — heart probably. He didn't look too natural but not bad either. —

Well back to last Sunday. We called Jack where he had stayed & they assured us there was no reason to come over then. & they would let us know details or remind Edward Isham to let us know. So I hurried & got washing & ironing done & still no word about plans. We called Ebright's again but they still had no details except Edward said he'd let us know. Wednesday A.M. the hour I got word that Services would be Friday pending word from Fred's brother. So Thursday P.M. we drove over. Boynton said I should go anyway & he'd go if he could. He could Thursday & I was so glad he could go along. However – before I got the telegram Wednesday I decided that Edward hadn't seen fit to let us know & I'd convinced myself I wasn't going to have to go to Seattle. I was in quit a stew but I survived.

Well — we got to Seattle about 7 or 7:30 Thurs. evening. Tried to call Ed's son but no answer so I called Marie Talmadge – an old friend of Allie's and a very positive person with a lot of push. She knew all I needed to know. Time, place, arrangements & all. In fact she had been the one to line up pall bearers, get word to friends etc. She's that kind.

We went to the funeral home early – services 3 P.M. daylight time and talked to several & had time to quiet our selves. There was a mere handful of people. Two pallbearers short – they were only one short in arrangements but someone didn't show up. What few couples came — each man was a pallbearer leaving only a group of women together. Boynton, Edward & I were the mourner's in family pews. I doubt that there were eighteen present in all. The minister was Rev. Howell – assistant pastor of the Methodist church Aunt Allie & Uncle Fred belonged to, was in charge of the service. There wasn't much to say it seems but he said that Uncle Fred had the ability to make those around him feel important. Guess that was right OK. I will say this – Uncle Fred took the things that happened with a minimum of criticism. He was not happy with his lot but was not critical of others because he was in that spot. He could have had some pretty

bitter feelings if it had struck him that way. No I don't think anything better could have been done but he could have felt that we had no right to interfere. I wish we could have kept hands off but that didn't seem possible either.

Well – we all went to the cemetery – all three cars of us — plus the hearse. Seemed a pretty small group – but we commanded as much chaperonage & attention as if we'd been ten times that. Two police escorts & were taken three red lights and all. I know we do here but wasn't sure a city would be able to do as much.

We visited at the cemetery a little. The three graves are at the edge of the cemetery. There is one stone — a small one but it looks like all three names can be on the one stone which will be nice under the circumstances. The cemetery has many trees & is pretty tho much of the grass showed lack of rain right now. It was raining a little all Friday P.M. but seeing how dry things were made us grateful for the rain rather than to regret the dreariness of the day. We rode with Edward to & from cemetery. I offered to answer cards for him but he said he'd take care of them. Anyway our spray & the one of roses all from our families. Uncle Freds two brothers – William & Hurtzell had sent flowers but that was all from Ishams. So you see – family flowers were half of the flowers there. I believe there were eight or nine cards in box. I will write several people on my own. There were many who wrote before. I'll write them as I can as I've kept a list.

Edward, as Uncle Fred's guardian, was administrator for Aunt Allie's estate & that had not been terminated yet because of lack of finances but he thot it in good shape. Now he will either be appointed or a lawyer appointed by the court to take over. Edward seems to think that in the course of time all obligations could be taken care of. Uncle Fred had this real estate — five contracts I believe — perhaps six. Anyway one has paid out, another is about out & the rest paying. I still can't see that the money is there & Dodge doubts it but Edward says its there. This

brings things to the beginning of the clearing point tho & now time will tell. A lot of work for Edward but he assured us there is nothing we can do to help.

Boynton has a faculty for saying the right thing & I was so glad that he was along. A man can talk to a man more easily anyway & I tried to let Dodge take the lead in the comments. Edward felt his family had left him pretty much alone on this deal — especially the nephew Dr. Charles Isham —that Edward thot Aunt Allie & Uncle Fred had done so much for during his younger life. Of course Ed's father William is physically unfit to do a thing & Hartzel lives in California — as does Dr. Charles. Well – its one of those things & I do think Ed appreciated our good will at least.

The Jacks seemed much the same. Dad seems quieter & better at present. Mother is awfully edgy right now it seems & due to this thing I haven't been able to be in town as much as usual. I did take her out last Sunday for a couple of hours & it always helps her a lot. In twice after that during the week but only in & out - & thats too much of a hurry to please them. Moved Dad into front bedroom & it seems much brighter for him but more work for Mother because of location.

I must close. This has been interrupted many times & seems very disjointed. Wish you had a bouquet of dahlias from our garden. Have had a frost but not heavy & tho flowers show it buds come out & new flowers are beautiful. Also have a bouquet of Slade the last of the year I think.

Bye now & Love – Carolyn