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1966 - Oct. 19

Carolyn Brown Dodge

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Letter #4 (Blue ink, envelope, white clip)

Envelope

217 M S. W.
Quincy, Wash
98848

Mr. + Mrs. George Sweley
402 – 9th Ave. SW
Sidney, Montana

Letter

October 19, 1966

Dear Joyce and all:

Have tried to call you two or three times and either no answer or could not get there. I'm sure you realized that if I had any news for you I would have gotten ahold of you some way. We thought we could go Tonasket way the weekend following your call but it wasn't possible. When I talked to Kittitas County Sheriff from Ellensburg who was very enlightening and very discouraging about anything being accomplished. However he did say he'd put a "look for" bulletin out for Okanogan and Chelan counties. They would watch for the car in their rounds and investigate if any reason to but except in case of trouble little could be done. However – he would be notified if car seen and he'd let us know here. Anyway he knows about it – the idea being that Shirley will be told of us if she needs help and does not want to call Sidney.

Of course we have been conscious of car colors and of licenses from Montana since you called. We are sorry we could not get around Tonasket some – have never been there as our trips have always taken us in other directions. Often go to Brewster area or to Bridgeport and Coulee Dam area. Tonasket quite a ways north but is east of where we go to Twisp.

I'm sure in your anxiety and frustrations of about Shirley you've heard many weird tales – as I did from our sheriff friend in our visit. Seems too bad that troubles that appear to be sure to develop cannot be avoided but according to Bob, they have hundreds of such reports yearly and they are so routine and so fruitless the law officers really hate them. Bob said that even if there really is nothing they do except suggest they go home or contact home and unless of course the individuals have done something wrong. Even then it is usually some minor offense to start with so hands are tied. He was very nice about talking this over with me but not reassuring at all.

I hope by now you may have gotten some news on your own. Its so hard not to know where someone is – but probably if you really needed to find Shirley – she might be found. Just human anxiety doesn't seem to be enuf (enough) but after listening to Sheriff Bob – I could see the law side of the situation as well as the family side and individual side.

We have kept busy this fall – Fall is always a busy tome but this fall a different busy. I had asked for a couple of months off from clinic job for June and July and then took August too since my relief anxious to work and this amount about right for her. The I talked to the doctor and have gone on an "on call" basis. Can go for a day or a half day or an hour quite easily and that is just ok with me. I missed it and do like the contacts but waiting on three doctors and keeping them supplied and busy got to quite a chore and even the younger nurses say it's a job too. Anyway, I'm satisfied as job is now but think I need the exercise I got on the job! Mostly I miss the friendly contacts with patients etc.

Boynton and his partner had rented the warehouse to others for this fall and after two months the fellows agreed they wanted to buy it. Anyway papers were signed and recorded at Court House within that last ten days. So another faze of like has been started. Dodge Produce, as such, still own two storages and about 36 acres of land that one storage is built on. Boynton has spent much time getting storages ready for spuds but also spent endless hours getting papers lined up for sale of warehouse, agreement papers for payments on several lots of machinery that were sold to various people etc. Lots of red tape but such a relief to have it taken care of too.

In the midst of al that red tape we got word from real estate agent in Ellensburg of a probable sale of our house in Kittitas. Now it too has sold after several false starts. It took several trips to Ellensburg to get it taken care of but well worth while and everything seems well under control now. The house had gotten to be more and more of a care as renters came and went. I felt certain we would never want to live in that house again. If we should move back to that area – which I doubt – we would not crave a three bedroom house again I'm sure – and surely not at that location.

Boynton had said that when they got rid of the warehouse he was going to sleep for three weeks. At least he can sleep when we wants to now but theres been lots bugging him and so his three weeks sleep hasn't transpired. We'll be getting away for awhile after the first week of Nov. I'm quite sure – but until the spuds are out of the ground and the storage is filled we aren't liable to leave.

We did go to Lewiston and Orofino Idaho for Garth Wilson's wedding Sept. 10. We didn't see much of Garth except at the wedding and reception of course but had a motel in Lewiston for two nights so Betty and Lou and the girls could use it at their convenience too and it proved quite a help to them the morning after the wedding (Sun.) we went to Orofino and spent the day with Wilsons, stayed all night and then home on Monday after everyone gone to school.

Betty looked the best she's looked in a long time. Had surgery on both feet right after school was out last May and spent the summer in enforced resting. Her feet were 90% corrected and healed, the other 10% to come in next few months of corrective shoes – which she will always have to wear – homely but comfortable at least.

Yes the wedding was nice – aren't they all? We were so glad we made the trip.

Well Joyce, I'm sorry we did not do more to help on this situation but something may come of it yet. Do let us know any developments as to location Shirley – and should she get our message and contact us – we will help her as we can - and let you know.

At least this brot a bit of visiting for us. My letter writing slipping.

Bye now – and let us hear.

Love Carolyn