

The 1949

YOUGH-A-MON



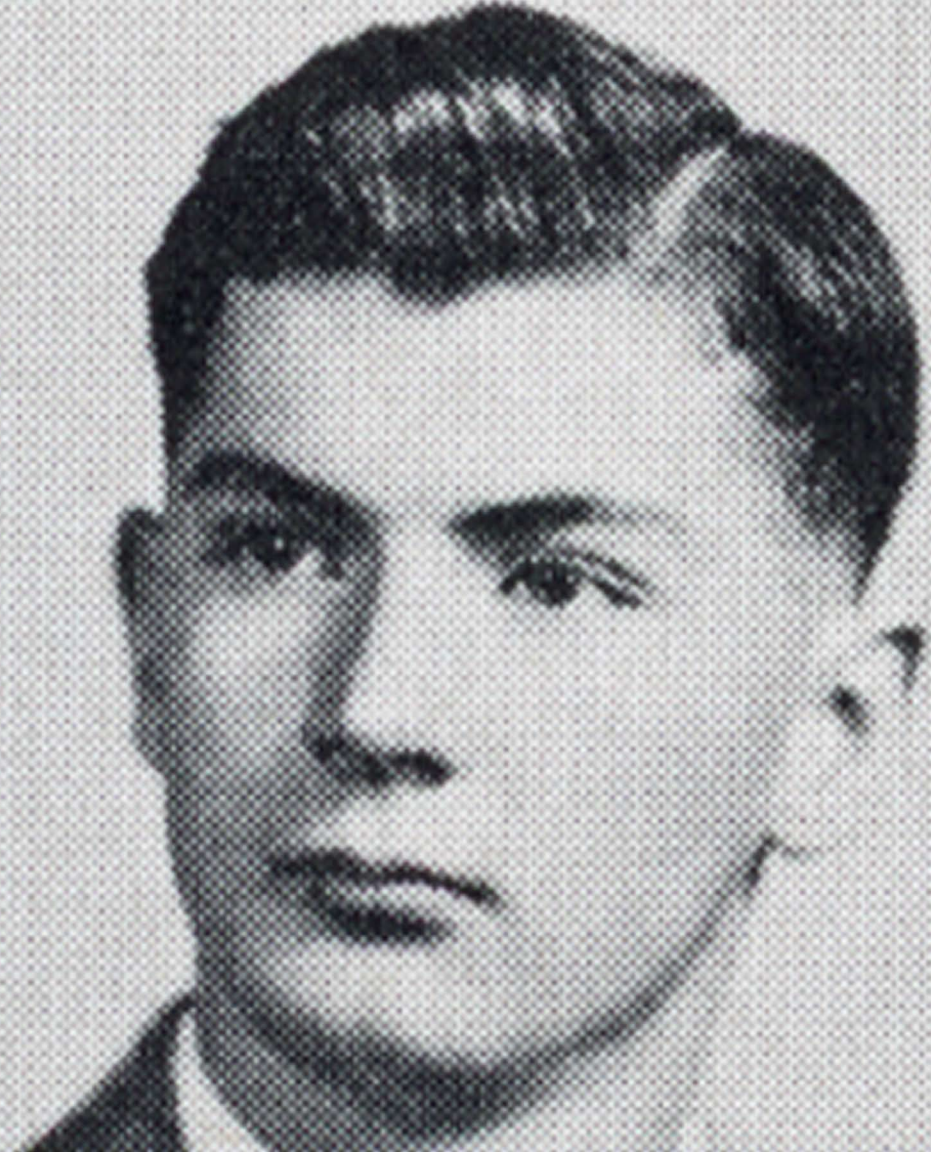
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McKEESPORT HIGH SCHOOL
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MY HIGH SCHOOL HEARTTHROB

A Memoir



Mr. Donoghue

We love romantic love.

The ancient Greeks considered infatuation a temporary derangement of the mind, a condition not to be sought after.

“Just leave Demetrius alone, this spell will pass, and he will be well again.”

I consider infatuation the adolescence of love.

Once, a long time ago when I was a grown up boy and not yet a young man, I fell in love, if you will, or a sort of swoon for another grown up boy who was not yet a man.

I would describe it as a shared harmony, a flickering of affection, I could not put into words. I longed to be in his presence, and he longed to be in mine.

JACK



When I first met his mother she said,
*“Oh, so you’re the Duane Jack
talks about all the time.”*

I was elated and still remember
that elation today. His name was
Jack Donoghue. Who knew WHAT
was WHAT at seventeen? We needed
to be together for no other reason
than to be together. This nascent
attraction had no precedent.

My hick innocence was too sensible
to abandon common sense, after
all we were both Catholics.

ME



We had a secret
no one else shared.

I wanted to call him something
affectionate, private. This
unfamiliar intimacy would have
been a rude transgression.

I still have no clarity even now.
It never occurred to me that these
feelings were illicit or wrong,
they were just real.



JACK

How strange I still glimpse these tattered memories. I worked at Islay's weekends making ice cream cones and sodas. Jack would stop in just to say hello and see how I was doing. He would then return to his car for Saturday carousing with his friends. He invited me to join his gang to go to the prom. The dress code was tuxedos. I could not afford a tux so Jack said "Let's all wear our blue suits," And we did. That was nice.

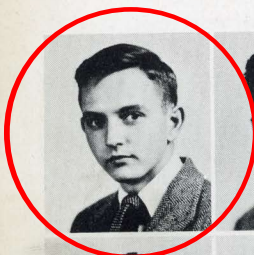
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ME

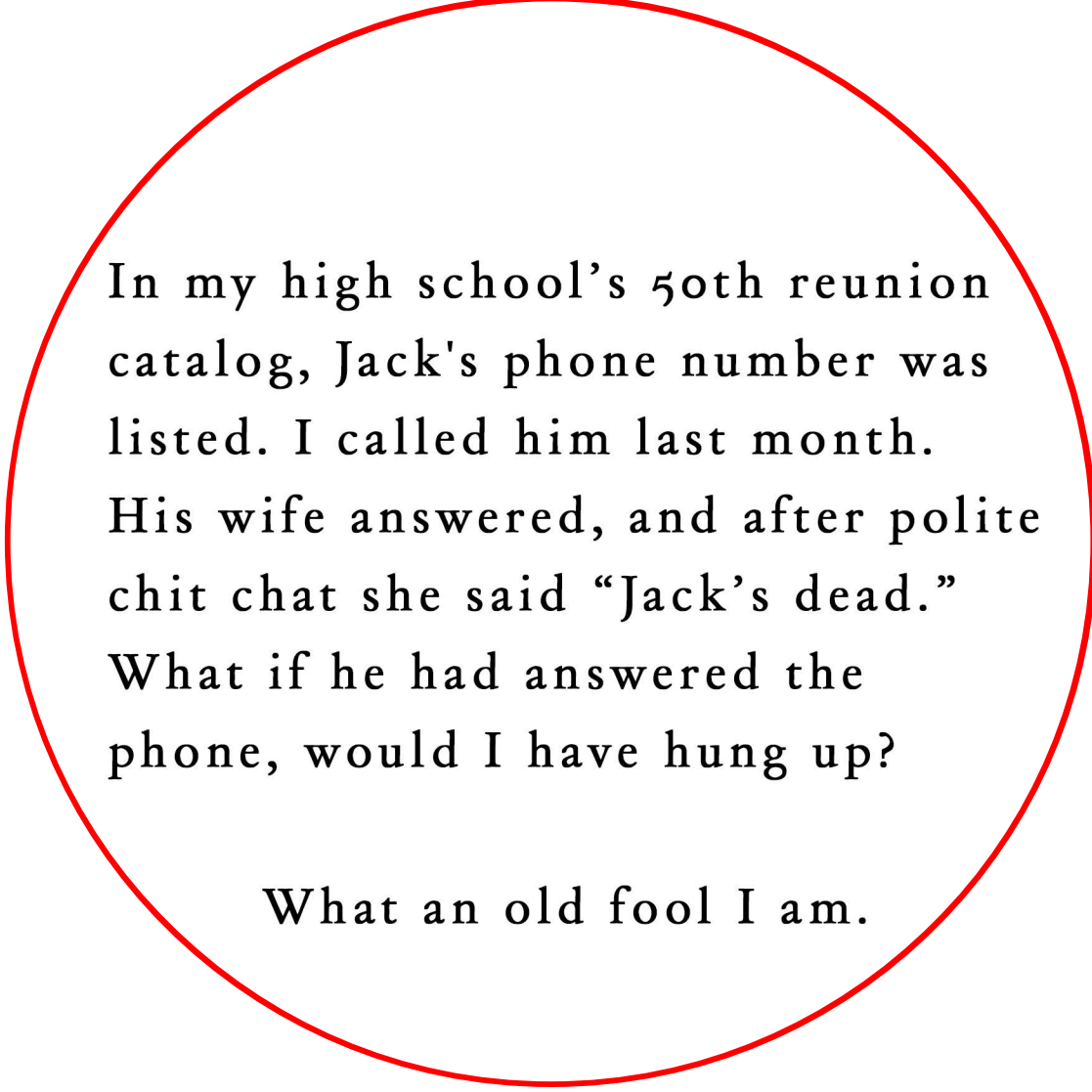
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In my high school's 50th reunion catalog, Jack's phone number was listed. I called him last month. His wife answered, and after polite chit chat she said "Jack's dead." What if he had answered the phone, would I have hung up?

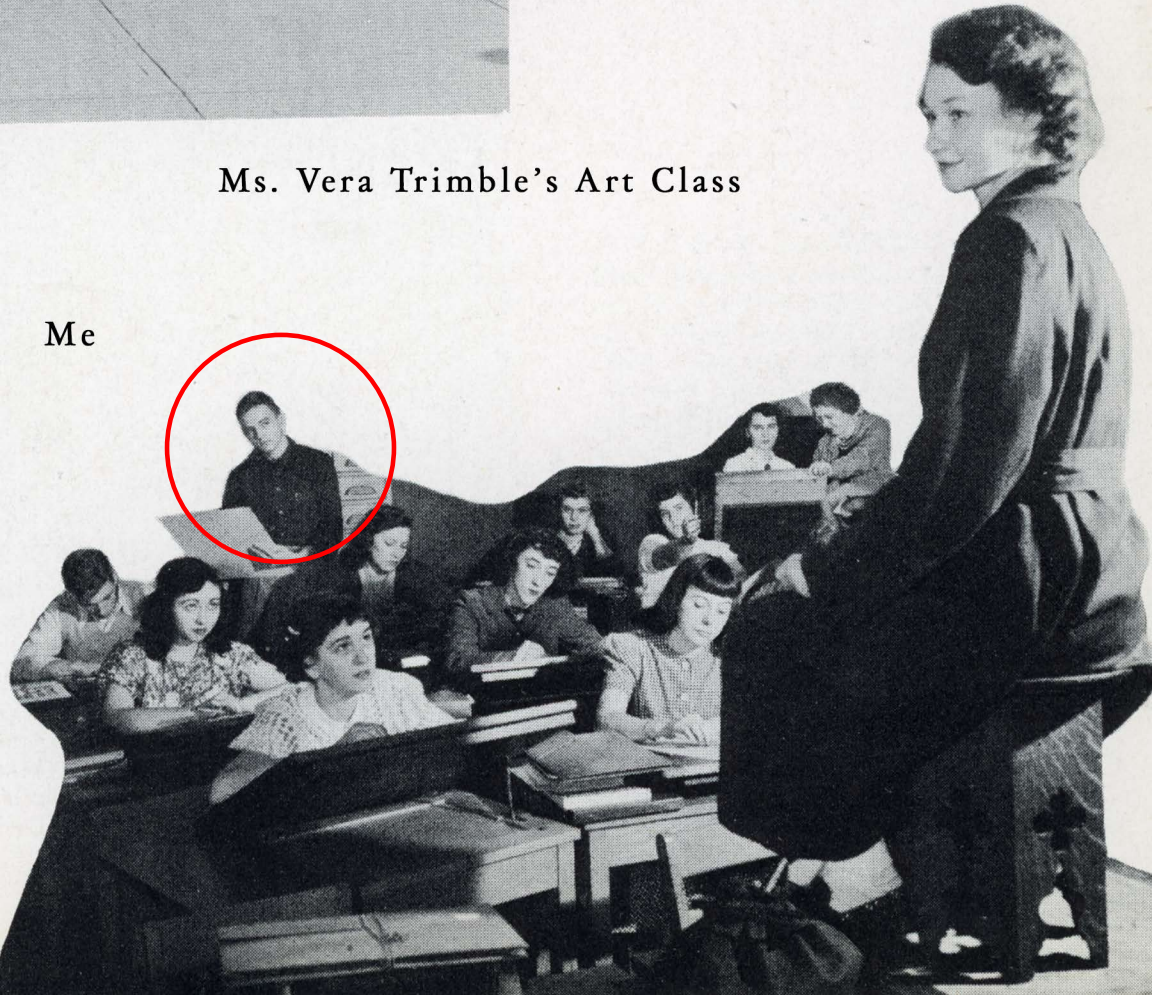
What an old fool I am.



samples all fields of art from fashion illustration and work with plastics to modeling in clay and oil painting.

Ms. Vera Trimble's Art Class

Me



We drifted apart, pulled by the
tides of life, to other destinations.
He went to Notre Dame, and married
the girl next door. I went to
New York, and met my Fred.

Why now this folly?

What are these sentimental refrains?

I am young again.

What shades are these in the
shadows of my memory.

Away.

I am becoming drowsy,
I think I must take a nap,
and perchance dream of Jack.

Who was your first love?



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