

“It had to come, when he re-met Jackie, right after war was declared, that our close association would change. For one thing, Jackie was a product of the Navy; She was a sprite in the water and a marvelous cook. She was of course very beautiful. But most importantly, in Jackie was an extra quality of love and appreciation for people and for life that complemented his personality perfectly. He was ‘gone’ on her immediately, and once he dedicated and committed himself to her, it was almost unthinkable that he would ever separate voluntarily. The class of 1940 knows, as I certainly do, that the Boyums were a storybook couple who never really got over their honeymoon, and never got over calling each other names like ‘baby’ and ‘doll’. He and Jackie were loved not only as persons but even more as an endeared pair. At parties he stayed together with her and had eyes only for themselves, usually leaving early, hand in hand. Jackie depended on his ability to master a situation. Yet he never hesitated to accede to her suggestion or expressed need. It was that same wonderful compatibility that I enjoyed with him and with Jackie it produced a mutual endearment that I do not expect to see ever again between two persons.

I regret that we never flew together. He loved mechanical things in general and carrier aircraft in particular. We talked of the men, the planes, and the ships of that navy but it was with others that he shared the great experience of a sharp formation breakup to land on his ship, or the intimacy of the pilot ready room. He was by reputation a great test pilot but this was not surprising, knowing his meticulous nature. He was always that way. Whatever he knew, he knew well. Whatever skills he had, whether it was body surfing or flying or an

operation, he did it with perfection. He had a curious nature and never stopped learning. I never knew anyone who knew so much about so many things.

He could hang onto a pair of shoes, a hat, or some swim trunks until they fell apart. He was modest to a passion, yet rightfully a proud man. To him, words like ‘honor’ and ‘respect’ and ‘duty’ were real, whether they applied to persons, the Navy, or to his country.”