

Gene McCormick



Carefree

Without caution she still smokes white cigarettes
daily and marijuana slightly less frequently.
Driving her car on good weather days,
especially in sluggish city traffic,
she uses one hand high on the steering wheel
with her left arm draped out the window
vertical against the door, a Camel between fingers.
If traffic moves quickly the wind rush
blows hot ashes onto the back of her hand
causing a prickly, burning sensation.
But so what.
Living the dream.
Wind in her hair.
Sun on her forehead.



Middle America: The Matron

Sue married well, to an IBM executive with a June wedding and Niagara Falls honeymoon, and had two children and two affairs; the owner of the local Mercedes dealership and with an IBM corporate lawyer.

The family moved three upwardly mobile times, not including a vacation home on the west coast of Florida.

They bought a new car every other year for him, usually a Lexus, and every three years for her, usually a Cadillac.

She died of natural causes at eighty-two, in a hospital bed, a grandmother five times, mourned by a Methodist congregation

and a number of other acquaintances. The pallbearers included a Mercedes dealer and an IBM executive, genuinely grieved although the car dealer suffers dementia. She is buried in the generations-old family plot next to her husband whose death was sudden and of his own choosing.

Gene McCormick has had twenty books published, most recently a novelized prose poetry collection, *Obsessions* (Middle Island Press, 2016). He has a similar concept book scheduled for the summer of 2019, *Maskara: Life Unfiltered*. In addition to his literary efforts, McCormick shows his art in one-person exhibitions in the Chicago area twice yearly with proceeds benefitting area no-kill animal shelters. To see more of his art, Google Gene McCormick Art. His books are available through Amazon and Abebooks.