

# Kennedy Clan in Jackie's Marriage

"John F. Kennedy would be appalled at Jackie's choice of Aristotle Onassis for her new husband," Mrs. Mary Ryan, head of the Kennedy clan in Ireland, exclaimed.

"We are all shocked — although we had been praying that Jackie would remarry," Mrs. Ryan told The ENQUIRER in an exclusive interview.

Mrs. Ryan, a cousin of family head Joseph P. Kennedy, was twice visited by the late President Kennedy at her farmhouse in Dunganstown, County Wexford, Ireland.

She said: "I know Jack would have wanted his widow to remarry. He was a family man, and knew the value of a father in the home.

"But Onassis . . . no, no, not him.

"Jack would not have been pleased at her choice of Onassis.

"It will be a terrible handicap for Caroline and young John. I don't see how Onassis can possibly fit into their way of life. Jack would have wanted someone who would be a real father to them.

"And I feel sure, having met Jack and talked confidentially with him, that he would have been terribly shocked at the thought of Jackie marrying a man who has divorced his first wife."

Mrs. Ryan warned: "There are terrible dangers ahead for this marriage — not just because of their age difference, which is bad enough.

"I am sure Jackie is convinced she is right in her choice. And we all hope they will be very happy.

"But somehow I just can't see it working out.

"We prayed that Jackie would remarry because we saw too much bitterness, pride and conceit in her. A husband would have taken this away.

"We had hoped the man would be Lord Harlech. He seemed to have a proper sense of values."

A portrait of JFK still hangs in the Dunganstown farmhouse — the same farmhouse where his great-grandfather, Patrick, lived in Ireland before setting off to America and founding the Kennedy dynasty.

A plaque inscribed "The Kennedy Homestead" once hung on the exterior gray stone walls, in the shadow of the flags of Ireland and the U.S.

But Mrs. Ryan took down the plaque and the flags because they attracted too many U.S. tourists.

"We are so proud of the Kennedy family, and we always thought of

## 'Jack Would Not Have Been Pleased At Her Choice of Onassis'



**MEMORIES:** Mrs. Ryan with some of her many treasured photos of JFK.

Jackie as one of us," Mrs. Ryan said. "But I no longer can.

"I would be embarrassed if she came to sit here in the same room

where Jack had tea with me."

Mrs. Ryan's daughter, Mary Ann, 27, represented the Irish Kennedys at JFK's funeral at the official invitation of the White House and the personal invitation of Jackie Kennedy.

"I got to know Jackie quite well," Mary said. "I remember thinking at the time of the funeral that her grief was terrible. I thought she would probably never marry again.

"It worried me that she might become some sort of recluse, and I know Bobby Kennedy also thought this might happen.

"Later, when Jackie started to move out into the world again, I felt that she might marry a quiet, dignified, fairly young man. I thought that a diplomat would have made her a good husband.

"Jack, after all, was her ideal, and we were all sure that whoever else she married would have to match him as nearly as possible. Privately, we hoped

# Ireland Shocked by



**KENNEDY REUNION:** Mrs. Mary Ryan (right) holds arm of her cousin, the late President Kennedy, as he chats with her daughters, Mary Ann (left) and Josie, during his visit to Ireland in 1963.

it would be Lord Harlech. Mr. Onassis is not like Jack Kennedy in any way as far as I can gather, and I'm shocked at the marriage."

Mary Ann's married sister, Mrs. Josie Grennan, 29, told me: "I'm sure Mr. Onassis is a marvelous man, a very clever man.

"But from what I read of him, and know of Jackie, I don't think the temperaments will go well together.

"Jackie can be very obstinate if she doesn't get her own way.

"That's how Maria Callas was, too.

"And you know what happened there."

The Irish Kennedy family's concern at the marriage is also felt by their neighbors, who are proud that the roots of the Kennedy family tree reach back to their area.

Mrs. Ann Burrell, a close friend of Mrs. Ryan's, said:

"I have read Onassis was mean with his money.

"John F. Kennedy was the most generous, warmhearted man, as we all know here. And the folks in America know it, too.

"Surely Jackie will not be happy in a house — or on a yacht — where accumulating a mountain of money is more important than love and happiness."

— WILLIAM DICK