

VALLEY EDITION

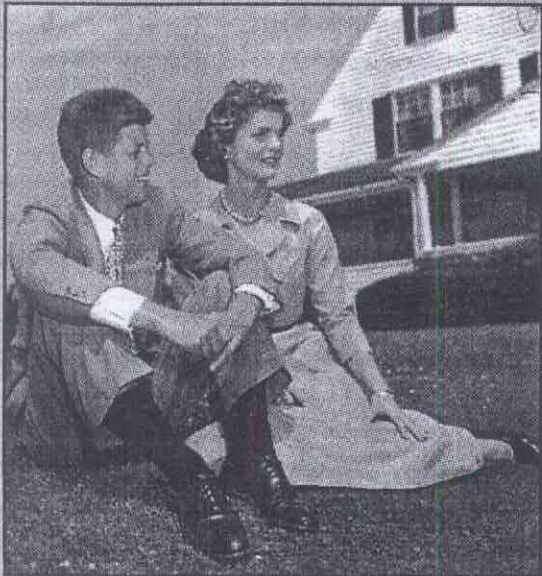
Los Angeles

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1929-1994



Associated Press



CECIL STOUGHTON / Associated Press



Associated Press

Jacqueline Bouvier, upper left, with then-Sen. John F. Kennedy at the Kennedy family residence in Hyannis Port, Mass., in 1953. Above, she watches Lyndon B. Johnson take the oath of office after Kennedy's assassination in 1963. Left, with brother-in-law Edward M. Kennedy and her children, John Jr. and Caroline, in 1992.

Jacqueline Onassis Dies; First Lady of 'Camelot' Was 64

■ **Legacy:** President Kennedy's widow captivated the nation by defining elegance, and braving tragedy. She loses her months-long struggle with lymph cancer.

By GERALDINE BAUM, TIMES STAFF WRITER

NEW YORK—Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, the most elegant, cultured yet tragic First Lady of the modern era, died Thursday night of cancer. She was 64.

At her side in her spacious 5th Avenue apartment were her daughter, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, 36; her son, John F. Kennedy Jr., 33, and her longtime companion Maurice Tempelsman, a New York financier and diamond dealer.

"Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was a model of courage and dignity for all Americans and all the world," President Clinton said in a statement. "More than any other woman of her time, she captivated our nation and the world with her intelligence, elegance and grace."

Mrs. Onassis had entered New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center on Monday for further treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. But she asked to return to her apartment that faces Central Park on Wednesday after doctors decided that the disease could not be stopped.

"There was nothing more to do for her," her close friend Nancy Tuckerman told reporters. As word of the gravity of her illness spread Thursday afternoon, crowds flocked to an exhibit in her honor at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston to view, among other memorabilia, a film of her tour of the White House as First Lady and to gaze admiringly at the maroon-and-cream-colored gown she wore more than 30 years ago at a White House dinner.

And it is, in fact, that vision of the First Lady—in a satin ball gown or perhaps trim in a tailored suit and pillbox hat—that most Americans will recall when they remember Mrs. Onassis.

As the 31-year-old wife of John
Please see ONASSIS, A5

She Captured Hearts—and Shaped Dreams

By SHAWN HUBLER
and STANLEY MEISLER
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

NEW YORK—She was, in life, the most private of citizens, the most public of American icons. And so it was in death that Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was doubly mourned on Thursday—both as the complex woman beloved by family and friends and as the womanly ideal revered by a generation of Americans.

"In times of hope, she captured our hearts," said Lady Bird Johnson, the former First Lady, from her home in Stonewall, Tex. "In

■ **HER LIFE IN PICTURES:** A4
■ **RELATED STORIES:** A5, A18

tragedy, her courage helped salve a nation's grief. She was an image of beauty and romance and leaves an empty place in the world as I have known it."

Dean Rusk, secretary of state during the administrations of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, recalled her as "an extraordinary woman, beautiful, gracious. She carried with her all the pomp that was necessary and

Please see TRIBUTES, A5

Jacqueline Onassis Retrospective



1939



1947



1953



1963



1975



1992

She was an enduring symbol of the heady 'Camelot' period. Her life was filled with privilege, politics and tragedy

LIFE AFTER THE WHITE HOUSE



United Press International
With Caroline, 7, in 1965.



Associated Press
Photographer Mel Finkelstein slips while trying to capture photo of Onassis in 1968.

MILEPOSTS

Oct. 20, 1968
Stuns many admirers when she marries Aristotle Onassis, a 62-year-old Greek tycoon.

1975: She is in New York when Onassis dies in a Paris hospital after a long illness; he leaves her only \$120,000, but she wins a \$26-million settlement from stepdaughter, Christina.

1975: She goes to work as an editor for Viking Press.



Associated Press

With Aristotle Onassis on their wedding day, at Skorpios Island, Greece.

1978: Joins Doubleday & Co.; among her bestsellers is Michael Jackson's "Moonwalk."

February, 1994: She discloses that she has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Monday: She is admitted to New York Hospital as a result of serious complications of her malignant lymphoma.

Wednesday: She is discharged "in accordance with the patient's clearly expressed wishes," the hospital says in a prepared statement.

Thursday: Her children rush to her side as condition worsens; she dies late Thursday night.



Onassis with Edward M. Kennedy at the wedding of her daughter, Caroline, in 1986.

Reuters

THE KENNEDY YEARS



Photo by Jacques Lowe

Jacqueline looks on as Caroline gives her father a kiss, in Hyannis Port, Mass.

MILEPOSTS

1951: Jacqueline Bouvier meets John F. Kennedy, then a member of the House, at a dinner party.

1953: She and Kennedy announce their engagement.

Sept. 12, 1953: Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston marries them.

November, 1957: She gives birth to Caroline.

1960: She accompanies Kennedy on the campaign trail in his bid for the presidential nomination; in the fall, she makes brief speeches in Spanish and Italian at campaign rallies in New York.

November, 1960: Their son, John Jr., is born.

January, 1961: At the age of 31, she becomes the nation's 31st First Lady.

August, 1963: She gives birth to Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, but the infant dies after three days.

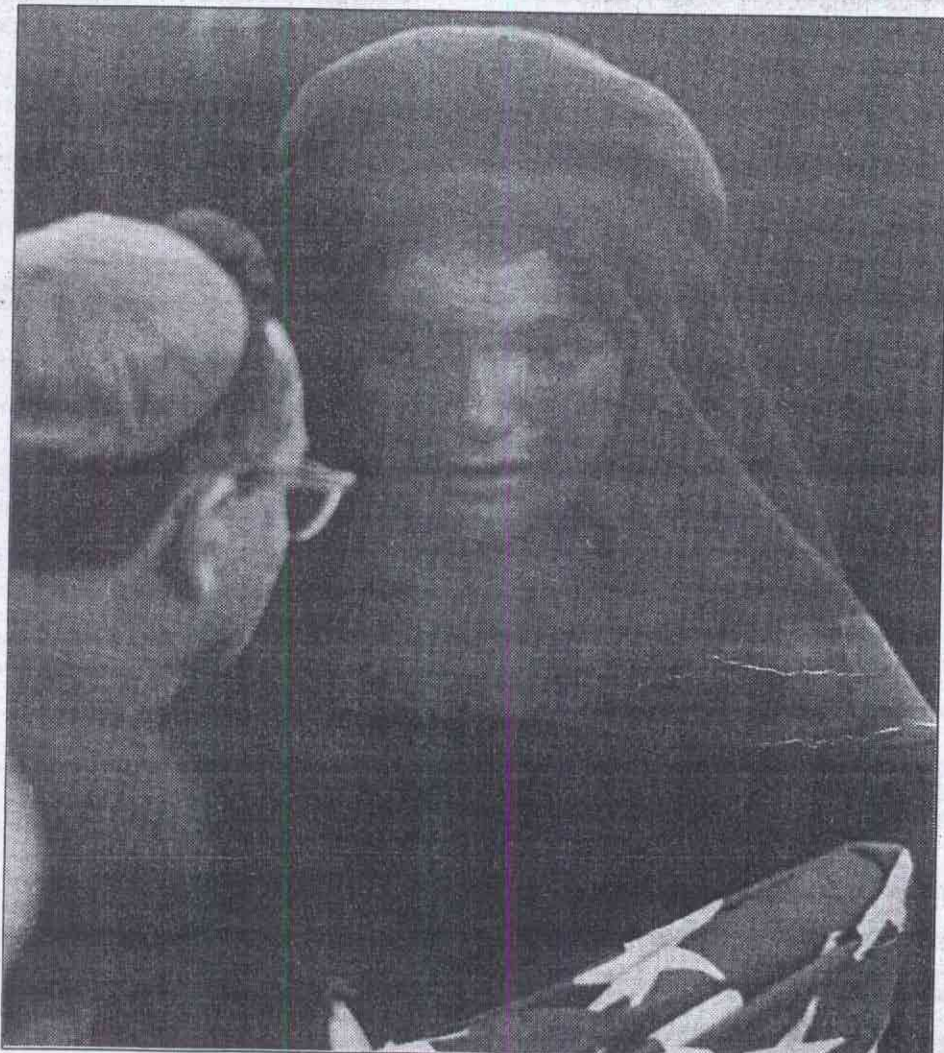
Nov. 22, 1963: She cradles her husband in her arms after he is shot while his motorcade rolls through Dallas.



The Kennedys on their wedding day.



Her official White House portrait.



Associated Press

She receives the flag that draped her husband's coffin, on Nov. 25, 1963.

Response to Treatment Is Key to Battling Lymphoma

By THOMASH. MAUGH II
TIMES MEDICAL WRITER

Although non-Hodgkin's lymphoma like that contracted by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis is normally considered one of the more curable cancers, nearly half of those who develop it die within five years.

"Even in the best of [treatment] programs, one-third of patients don't respond well, and two-thirds ultimately die of the disease," said Dr. Rex Greene, chief of the cancer teaching program at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena.

And if the initial treatment is not successful, the disease can progress rapidly. "That's the nature of lymphoma. It's especially aggressive," Greene said. Because chemotherapy targets rapidly dividing cells, it is often successful against lymphomas, which are fast-growing cancers.

"But if they don't respond to treatment, they can come roaring back," Greene said. "Some lymphomas can double in size in the space of a couple of weeks."

Mrs. Onassis' cancer was diagnosed in January and she was hospitalized most recently at the beginning of the week for what was described as complications of the therapy. A hospital spokesman announced Thursday that all treatment had been halted and she had returned home.

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is a cancer of the immune system—specifically the lymph nodes and the lymphocytes, cells that protect the body against invading bacteria.

The incidence has been rising, reaching about 43,000 a year, because the disease is relatively common in AIDS patients, organ transplant recipients and other people whose immune systems have been suppressed. An estimated 21,200 people will die of it this year, according to the American Cancer Society.

The disease most commonly strikes people over 50 and, for unknown reasons, is becoming increasingly common among those over 65. It is somewhat more common in men than in women.

The characteristic symptoms of lymphoma are enlarged lymph nodes, anemia, weight

loss and fever. There is generally little pain. Among AIDS victims and transplant patients, the most common cause is the Epstein-Barr virus, which also causes mononucleosis. It is also believed to be caused by exposure to industrial chemicals and pesticides, which may be why it is more common among farmers.

"But for any individual case, we generally don't know the exact cause," said Dr. Cary Present, an oncologist who is president of the California section of the American Cancer Society.

The complications of lymphoma treatment include low white cell counts, bleeding, infections, nausea, diarrhea and general gastrointestinal discomfort.

"These are very toxic medications we use to treat it," Greene said. "When they don't work, we have the side effects of chemotherapy on top of the direct effects of the tumor—a potent combination. With a fast-growing cancer, it is hard to distinguish which is causing which problem."

JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS: 1929-1994



AP Wirephoto
President Clinton with Mrs. Onassis and her children, John Jr. and Caroline, at re-dedication ceremony at J.F.K. Library in Boston last October.

Reuters

TRIBUTES: Mighty, Mundane Mourn a Woman of Courage

Continued from A1

she was a great hostess at the White House."

But others chose to emphasize the less sweeping qualities of the slender brunette who—in what seemed a more innocent time—charmed America as a graceful First Lady and then eased its anguish as a stoic young widow.

"About 48 hours after the assassination [of President Kennedy], she went around to many of Jack's closest staff and presented them with mementos of his—things she thought they would appreciate," recalled Pierre Salinger, Kennedy's press secretary.

"But all the time, you know she was thinking: 'How am I going to get these two little kids through the rest of their lives?' The fact that she came and put her arms around me at that moment was stunning. There were lots of times when Jackie was not very public but, in private, she was extremely strong."

Her admirers, who rushed to extol her legacy and flocked to gather in silence around the luxurious Manhattan apartment where she died, were a cross section of America at its most mighty and mundane.

Millionaires and heads of state praised her courage and charm.

"Few women throughout history have touched the hearts and shaped the dreams of Americans more profoundly than Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis," former President Ronald Reagan said in a statement that was echoed by former President George Bush and President Clinton.

"Nancy and I have always admired this remarkable woman, not only for her grace and dignity, but

also for her tremendous courage."

Meanwhile, in the chilly nighttime drizzle that cloaked her 5th Avenue apartment, well-dressed women and sanitation workers, grandmothers and schoolchildren, native New Yorkers and tourists from around the world gazed up in mournful respect.

"It isn't just a famous person dying," said Kitty Kelley, author of the biography, "Jackie Oh!" "It is our very last connection to the magic of the Kennedy era. . . . She didn't leave behind a great body of work but she did leave something quite intangible and magic—a sense of style."

Throughout her public life, Onassis has been known as a shy woman who tried to shun reporters and cameras but never could escape the glare of the media as it tried to satisfy the curiosity of millions of Americans.

In her final hours as she fought her illness in the seclusion of her apartment, scores of journalists crowded outside the exclusive building. Television trucks and special antennas stretched to the edge of the Metropolitan Museum of Art a couple of blocks away.

In Washington, Clinton said that he and his wife, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, had received updates on her condition up until the time of her death.

Meanwhile, relatives and close friends entered the apartment to stand at her bedside and then take solace in each other. Her son, 33-year-old John F. Kennedy Jr., ran across 5th Avenue from Central Park in the morning so he could rush into the building without replying to questions from reporters. Daughter Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, 36, and her husband, Edwin, came to the bedside as well.

President Kennedy's last surviving brother, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and his wife, Victoria, had arrived in the early evening after a flight from Wash-

ington.

Others who joined the vigil included Onassis' sister, Lee Radziwill Ross, and two of President Kennedy's sisters—Eunice Shriver and Patricia Kennedy Lawford. Her brother-in-law, Sargent Shriver, arrived with Eunice. Their daughter, television reporter Maria Shriver, also stopped by.

Sen. Kennedy, after visiting his sister-in-law for 90 minutes, told reporters just before her death that Mrs. Onassis is "enormously grateful to all the people who have been kind enough to send her notes wishing her well."

Meanwhile, her nephew, Rep. Joseph Kennedy (D-Mass.), the son of the late Robert F. Kennedy, stressed another side of the sad vigil. "There's a lot of love in her room and in her apartment," he told reporters.

The media outside chronicled all the comings and goings, not surprising since she was widely viewed as the most glamorous of American first ladies, a shy yet sophisticated woman who spoke French and immersed herself in the history of the White House.

'Few women throughout history have touched the hearts and shaped the dreams of Americans more profoundly than Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.'

RONALD REAGAN

Through the assassination of Kennedy in 1963; through her subsequent marriage to the older Greek millionaire Aristotle Onassis; through Onassis's subsequent death in 1975; through the maturity of her two children and her entry into the book publishing business in New York—through all these phases of her adulthood, that aura of glamour survived.

"I think the Kennedy phenomena, as some of us refer to it who were not much younger than they were when they were in the White House, certainly had an influence on a generation—my whole generation—as well as myself," said Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg, a longtime Democrat and former activist during her college years at UC Berkeley.

"We saw the Kennedys as a family that was going to [address] the issues of quality of life, of preventing a war, of dealing with civil rights, of encouraging community service and encouraging looking out for fellow human beings."

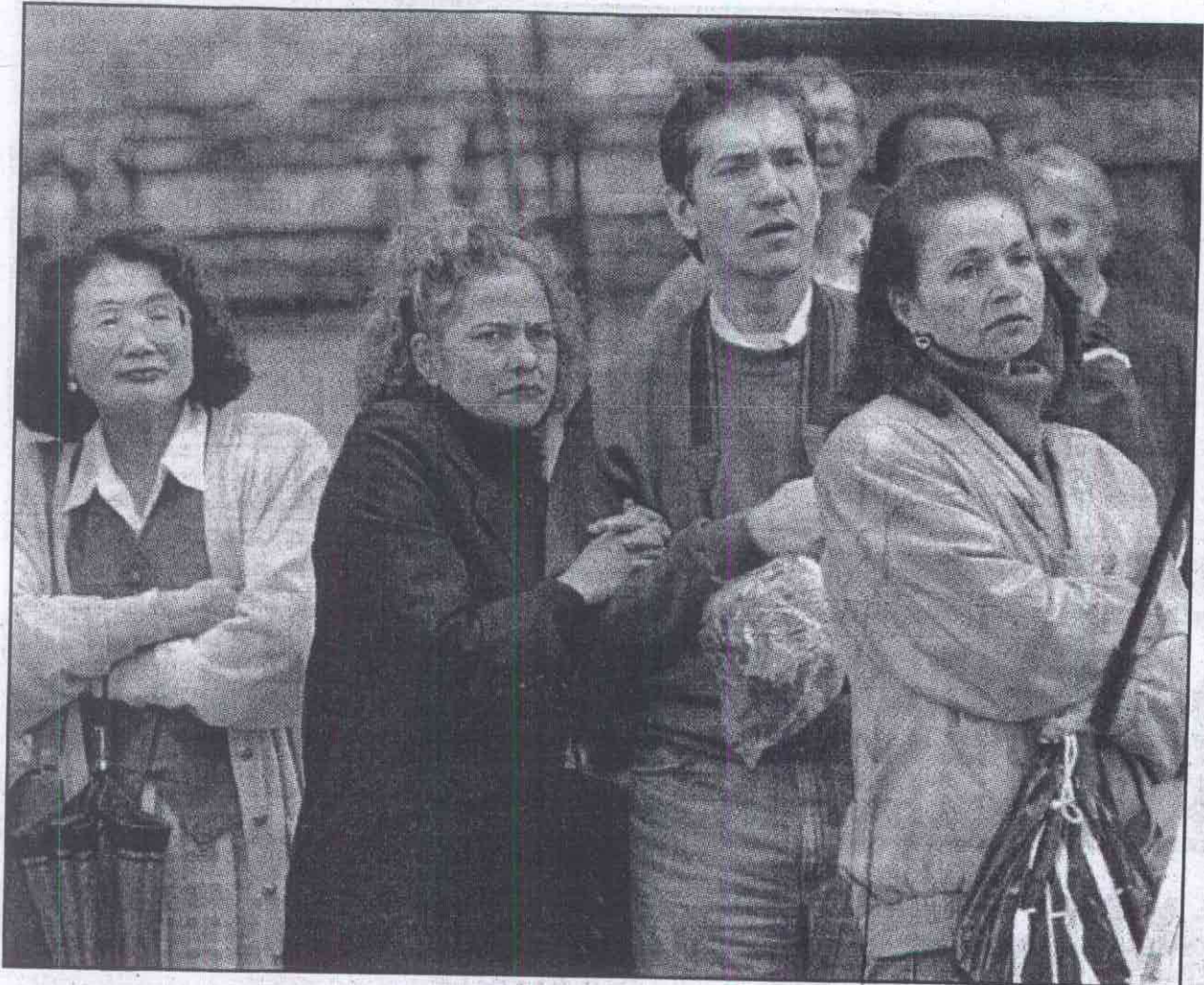
Goldberg's colleague, Zev Yaroslavsky, added that, as a parent himself, he "admired her in the way she has raised her two kids."

"These are two—John Kennedy Jr. and Caroline Kennedy [Schlossberg—who] are very obviously, normal, productive citizens.

"They have not, as far as we know, had any of the problems that some of the kids of other prominent families have had. And what I admire most about her, and from what I know about her, [is that] she has invested more of her energy and time into raising those kids well than she has anything else. And it has shown."

Times staff writers Josh Getlin in New York, Pamela Warrick, Bettina Boxall, Michelle Williams and Karen Wada in Los Angeles contributed to this story. Hubler reported from Los Angeles and Meisler reported from New York.

ONASSIS: 'Model of Courage, Dignity' Dies



Reuters

Onlookers gather across the street from the 5th Avenue apartment building of Jacqueline Onassis.

Continued from A1

Jacqueline Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, she set a standard of elegance, and with her handsome husband enlivened the country with a sense of youth and beauty. She immediately made a mark by transforming the White House from the dowdy rec room of the Eisenhower years into a historic jewel that was important not only on state occasions but also on weekdays when it was open for public tours.

Yet so many indelible images remain of the lithe, dark-haired First Lady. There were the Life magazine pictures of her as a young mother at Hyannis Port, slender in Capri-style white pants

and a striped shirt, chasing after her two small children on a warm summer's day. There was the desperate wife climbing over the back seat of the limousine where her husband lay mortally wounded in Dallas in 1963. And finally, there was The First Widow, standing in low heels, tears barely visible behind a black veil as her 3-year-old son saluted the riderless horse at her husband's funeral.

For the sake of fairy tale, the images should have ended there, with the 34-year-old widow quietly moving into the countryside to ride horses, raise her children and preserve her husband's

legend.

Theodore H. White, in his memoir, "In Search of History," recalls the night in Hyannis Port when he talked with then-Mrs. Kennedy from 8:30 in the morning until midnight about her late husband's White House years. She purged herself of her husband's bloody assassination after the long day, he said. Then she found the thought she wanted.

"Her message was his message—that one man, by trying, may change it all," White wrote.

Thus, he said, she tried to frame her husband's legacy as the legend of Camelot.

But Jackie Kennedy's fable did not quite stick. The myth was so often sullied by revelations of her husband's mistresses and manipulative behavior that periodic remembrances of Camelot are often tempered.

And for the young widow, life also evolved.

She went on to live essentially two more lives. First, overseas with the wealthy and flamboyant Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis, who many said she married to escape a recklessly voyeuristic world. And later in a quiet, elite corner of Manhattan where she doted on her three grandchildren, worked as a book editor and made the social rounds for worthy causes.

And on occasion, much the way she did as recently as Sunday, Mrs. Onassis simply blended in with the other strollers in Central Park, usually holding hands with Tempelsman or trailing her toddling grandchildren.

She survived being among the greatest female icons of the 20th Century by behaving almost perfectly. She maintained a rare grace and composure, refused to give in to America's obsession with personal revelation and she not only outlived two husbands but prevailed over their disloyalty, achieving fame and fortune on her own terms.

Known in later life for her trademark oversized sunglasses and by monikers such as "Jackie O," she has more entries in the Reader's Guide of Periodicals than almost anybody else (and that does

not include the 32 books about her). Yet she almost never talked to the media.

While she may have been the most public "private" person in the world, to her colleagues in the publishing world where she toiled for 16 years, she was nothing less than intimate.

Paul Golob, now a senior editor at Times Books who worked with Mrs. Onassis at Doubleday, said she took a genuine interest in young people in publishing and was often willing to take them under her wing. After Golob left Doubleday four years ago, they exchanged notes and she even invited him for tea and finger sandwiches in her apartment.

On another occasion, during a discussion on a book he was working on about politics, Golob recalled how "she got a faraway look and told me how Jack would take her into the Senate Gallery and point out Senators Russell and Mansfield. It was as if it were my mom telling me about what she and dad had done when they were first married. It was very personal and intimate."

And it was not uncommon for the people who worked with her, Golob added, to see her in typical editor motion; "sprinting down the hall to get something into someone's hands on deadline."

This incarnation of her—happy, caught up in a workaday job—is quite jarring considering the beginnings of Jacqueline Bouvier. She was born to an aristocratic family in Southampton, N.Y.

Her father was John Vernon Bouvier III, an exotically handsome bon vivant known as "Black Jack" who dwindled a \$750,000 inheritance into a \$100,000 estate. He was a serial womanizer who could not even get through his honeymoon with Janet Lee—daughter of a self-made millionaire—without launching an affair.

After having two daughters—first Jacqueline and then Lee, 3½ years later—the Bouviers divorced. Jacqueline was only 10 years old. Though the girls lived

with their mother, it was their father whom they adored and who continued to shape their sensibilities and direct their education. Their mother, meanwhile, plied them with a passion for social climbing—and money.

Jacqueline, who was studying ballet and taking riding lessons by the time she was 5, attended the best schools: Miss Porter's and Miss Chapin's, where she listed in her yearbook that her goal was "not to be a housewife."

Unhappy at Vassar College, she rebelled by eating pastries and studying all night. After a junior year at the Sorbonne in Paris she returned to finish her degree in 1951 at George Washington University. Instead of taking the Prix de Paris essay prize that she won from Vogue magazine and spending a year in Paris, she accepted a \$42.50-a-week job as an "inquiring photographer" at the Washington

Times-Herald.

It was then that the 23-year-old Bouvier met Jack Kennedy, 12 years her senior, at a dinner party at the home of his friend, journalist Charles Bartlett. At the time Bouvier was engaged to a New York stockbroker, but she apparently couldn't resist a dashing young man so much like her father.

From accounts in several books—both learned and lurid—the young Jackie comes across as a strong-minded, tough, yet sensitive woman who was attracted to the junior congressman from Massachusetts both for love and for his considerable family wealth. He was worth \$10 million, so it was said, at the time of their meeting and her family's fortune was virtually dried up.

When they married in September, 1953, in front of 3,000 guests, there is sufficient evidence that

Please see ONASSIS, A18

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Jackie Kennedy had been appropriately warned about her husband's womanizing, his boisterous if not overbearing family and the Kennedy obsession with athletics. (She broke an ankle early on trying to join in a game of touch football.)

The Kennedy sisters did not much take to Jackie, ridiculing her little-girl voice and pronouncing her name "Jacklean" to rhyme with *queen*. She didn't much like them either, calling them "the rah-rah girls."

In the first six years of their marriage, John Kennedy spent most of the time campaigning, traversing his home state, traveling the country. Mostly, his wife disdained the role of campaigning spouse, apparently out of shyness and a dislike of crowds.

Once in the White House, though, she fulfilled seemingly well the role of the pre-feminist First Lady. She was the epitome of womanhood. Hers was not the job to advise on health care and foreign policy; rather, she dressed like a princess, hosted extraordinary parties and oversaw the upbringing of her children with the help of a British nanny.

But America seemed willing to forgive such upper-class indulgences. Following in the footsteps of the matronly Mamie Eisenhower, Jackie, as the country came to think of her, was a glamorous model for women to pattern themselves after. When she made it a mission to bring art and culture to the White House, it was as if she were the country's chief docent. Televised evenings with performers such as cellist Pablo Casals made Midwestern housewives feel that, for a moment, the same thing might happen in their own shag-carpeted living rooms.

As Mrs. Kennedy, she was nearly universally adored—even when she was impatient with questions about her clothes or when her eyes glazed over during her husband's speeches. She was so engaging that wherever her mind was drifting, the public was willing to slavishly follow.

When she undertook the \$2-million renovation of the White House, then-Chief Usher J. Bernard West was astounded at her grasp of detail and at her ability to get things done at such a young

age.

"She had a will of iron," West later wrote, "with more determination than anyone I have ever met. Yet she was so soft-spoken, so deft and subtle that she could impose that will upon people without their ever knowing it."

Yet while Jackie was said to have lived an oddly remote life in the White House, she got her husband's attention when he got the bills for her clothing expenditures. Yet he was unable to reform her and, though the President was only making \$100,000 a year, the family expenses rose from \$105,446 in 1961 to \$121,462 in 1962.

After the death of their infant son Patrick in the summer of 1963—following a miscarriage and the births of Caroline in 1957 and John in 1960—the First Lady took a long cruise with her sister on the yacht of Lee's then-boyfriend Aristotle Onassis. When the First Lady returned she was refreshed and relaxed. Former Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee wrote: "She greeted J.F.K. with the most affectionate embrace we'd ever seen them give one another."

In a month, the President was dead.

It is still amazing to recall her presence of mind, of history and of theater in the hours and days after his assassination.

As she was returning from Dallas, Lady Bird Johnson asked her if she wanted to change out of her blood-caked suit. Jackie declined, saying: "I want them to see what they have done to Jack." Once back in Washington she had the Library of Congress research the details of Lincoln's funeral and immediately ordered the White House upholsterers to drape the black cambric that was usually used to cover the bottoms of chairs over the windows, mantels and chandeliers because that was how it was done for Lincoln's wake.

Her dignity at that time perhaps did the most to seal her persona—she was frozen in that queenly pose, her face composed for the nation.

"When Jack was assassinated," said Michael Beschloss, presidential scholar and historian, "it was a time in which America's image in front of the world could have been badly damaged. That she carried off the next four days with such majesty not only retrieved American stature, but also increased it. Her place in history will probably pivot around those critical four days."

In the next phase of her life the widow found the kind of security that her first marriage did not provide. She wanted to be financially set and protected, so she

became a rich man's adornment.

Though she had more appropriate suitors—including Lord Harlech and Robert McNamara—by the spring of 1968 she was becoming increasingly involved with Onassis, who seemed always to be cruising the Mediterranean in his yacht "Christina."

With its El Grecos and bar stools covered in leather, it was a far cry from the French vermeil candela-brum and satin draperies of the White House.

But perhaps that was the point.

In 1968, Robert F. Kennedy, who was trying to follow his brother into the White House, urged her to wait to announce her engagement to Onassis. "For God's sake, Jackie," he reportedly said, "that could cost me five states." She agreed, for Bobby's sake, to wait, but he too was killed and his death changed everything.

As news of her engagement to Onassis reached the heartland, America wept that the woman they wanted to remember in a cloud of white chiffon and a tiara could end up with a Greek tycoon.

But on Oct. 10, 1968, on the island of Skorpios, Onassis and Mrs. Kennedy were married during a ceremony that was conducted mostly in Greek. She was 39; he was 62.

But a month later Onassis was photographed with his old flame, opera singer Maria Callas, and the new Mrs. Onassis again was embroiled with an unfaithful man—though this time she was at least well-kept in privacy.

Though their marriage was long over—Onassis had even hired Roy Cohn to begin divorce proceedings—the shipping magnate's death in 1975 made any official separation a moot issue. Widowed a second time, she ended up with \$26 million after reaching an agreement with her stepdaughter, Christina, who had little affection for his father's American wife.

Six months later, she was back in her 15-room New York apartment, working at Viking Press as a consulting editor for \$200 a week. She worked there two years when the publisher, without consulting her, bought a Jeffrey Archer novel

'She had a will of iron with more determination than anyone I have ever met. Yet she was so

soft-spoken, so deft and subtle that she could impose that will upon people without their ever knowing it.'

J. BERNARD WEST
Former White House chief usher

based on Edward M. Kennedy, who becomes President and then is the target of an assassination attempt. She immediately quit and later joined Doubleday, moving into a novice editor's windowless office.

During her tenure at Doubleday, Mrs. Onassis edited a wide variety of books reflecting her urbane mind and keen aesthetic and a devotion to the arts, particularly music, ballet and the visual arts.

In the end, her legacy was so enormous it is hard to characterize.

After years of research to "get past the myth," celebrity biographer Kitty Kelley offered one of the first non-fawning sketches of the world's favorite widow with her 1978 best-seller, "Jackie Oh!"

Kelley wrote that Onassis indulged herself with handmade bed linens and extravagant silk lingerie, including underpants costing hundreds of dollars per pair. She was portrayed by employees and even some friends as a cold, pretentious, plotting woman whose chief virtue was her devotion to her children.

Besides the books there were made-for-TV-movies and songs by groups like Human Sexual Response with lyrics like "I want to be Jackie Onassis, oh yeah, oh yeah."

But in all that is written and all that is said, the country will never penetrate the mystery. For she managed to keep the world at bay as she returned in the third phase of her life to the eternal verities—family, books, and a quiet life with a kind, slightly pudgy man.

She remained that Mona Lisa face that you could look at endlessly and see flashes of all her past faces—the sweet girl in riding jodhpurs, the First Lady in a tiara, the tear-smudged widow, the pampered wife. And finally the wide dark eyes, edged with fine wrinkles, watching a world that always was watching her.

Times staff writers Robin Wright in Washington, Elizabeth Mehren in Boston, Stanley Meisler in New York and Pamela Warrick in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS: 1929-1994



Associated Press

President John F. Kennedy with First Lady in Dallas, hours before the President was assassinated.

Voices and Reactions

Even in the face of impossible tragedy, she carried the grief of her family and our entire nation with a calm power that somehow reassured all of us who mourned. We hope that Mrs. Onassis' children, John and Caroline, and her grandchildren find solace in the extraordinary contributions she made to our country.'

—excerpt from President Clinton's comments

In times of hope, she captured our hearts. In tragedy, her courage helped salve a nation's grief. She was an image of beauty and romance and leaves an empty place in the world as I have known it.'

—former First Lady Lady Bird Johnson

Few women throughout history have touched the hearts and shaped the dreams of Americans more profoundly than Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Nancy and I have always admired this remarkable woman, not only for her grace and dignity, but also for her tremendous courage.'

—former President Ronald Reagan

Jackie was part of our family and part of our hearts for 40 wonderful and unforgettable years, and she will never really leave us. Our love and prayers are with John, and with Caroline and Ed and their three children.'

—Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, through a spokeswoman

Jackie Onassis brought great dignity and grace to the White House and was, indeed, a charming and wonderful First Lady. [Barbara and I] join her many friends and admirers around the world in mourning her loss.'

—former President George Bush

I think we all just wish her a great deal of love. There's a lot of love in her room and in her apartment.'

—Rep. Joseph Kennedy after visiting his aunt

The disease progressed to a point where there was no more they could do. They reached a point whereby she could either remain in the hospital or go home. She chose to go home.'

—Nancy Tuckerman, Mrs. Onassis' spokeswoman

Her grace and courage enriched our national life and our culture. It was a privilege to see her in action. Our sympathy goes out to the entire family.'

—Sen. Paul Simon

I just wanted to be here. It's not curiosity. It's almost like paying respects.'

—Lillian Feldel of Aventura, Fla., who stopped and asked about Mrs. Onassis

Bad luck seemed to trail her, but you have to admire her strength. I just wanted to be here. I will remember her as a strong woman, elegant and profound.'

—Marina Faini, a Chilean immigrant outside the former First Lady's apartment

I do not think it entirely inappropriate for me to introduce myself. I am the man who accompanied Jacqueline Kennedy to Paris—and I have enjoyed it.'

—President John F. Kennedy on a trip to France in 1961

Mrs. Onassis: To Define Her Is to Appreciate Her Sense of Style

By MARY ROURKE
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Start at the beginning. Jacqueline Bouvier's wedding day in September, 1953. The white lace veil, a long mantilla, belonged to her grandmother. The single strand of luminous pearls was perfect for a 24-year-old debutante of the year. But the dress was a zinger: yards of ivory silk faille made subtly daring by an off-the-shoulder neckline.

This was her first day as Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy and everything about her said that she could lead a nation with her sense of style.

The next image of her in a veil came on a dreadful day in November, 1963. This time it was black, banded in satin. It covered her shoulders, touched her narrow black suit, gave her the privacy a widow deserves. Yet the nation's women marveled at the drama of it—and the glamour. Years later, in quick succession, Coretta Scott King and Ethel Kennedy wore similar versions to bury their husbands.

In exquisite as well as excruciating times, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis never let her country down. Clothes do not make the woman—certainly not in this case. But an innate sense of style can have the unexpected power to make an event unforgettable. Mrs. Onassis did that countless times, without ever seeming to try.

The snapshot images of the former First Lady through the years click along to create a history of chic. There was a white column dress and opera-length gloves for the inaugural ball in 1960. Her pillbox hat was a trademark, from her first days in the White House until, literally, her last. Her bouffant pageboy was made immortal by Andy Warhol in "Red Jackie," a larger-than-life silkscreen.

"Her hair started a trend in the '60s," recalled Eleanor Lambert, a New York publicist who issues a "best dressed" list each year. Mrs. Onassis made the list in '60, '61 and '62. In those years Oleg Cassini was declared the official White House



Associated Press

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy attending Democratic Party dinner in New York in 1962, marking first anniversary of her husband's inauguration.

solids.

In the '70s, Mrs. Onassis was a jet-setting mother with two kids in boarding school and a house in Martha's Vineyard, Mass. She trekked to the Acropolis in a Pucci summer shift, trotted horses in her jodhpurs and boots, cruised Greek islands on husband Aristotle Onassis' yacht in Lili Pulitzer dresses.

She could still create a stir. One evening she dressed in palazzo pants and a long tunic for dinner at Le Pavillon, a top New York restaurant. It turned out the dress code barred women from wearing pants. "She simply excused herself, went into the ladies room and took the pants off," Lambert recalls. "She came back wearing just the long tunic. She could handle that sort of thing without making a

scene."

All the while, tortoise-shell sunglasses—vast orbs of darkness—spoke of a wish for privacy, yet called attention to her.

Mrs. Onassis' wardrobe settled down in the '80s. She had turned 50, gone to work as an editor and had seen her children, John and Caroline, graduate from college. Then Caroline married. Jackie's look softened and solidified: long, bouffant pageboy by Kenneth, suits and cocktail dresses by Carolina Herrera of New York.

Ask what Mrs. Onassis taught women about style and hear Diana Vreeland's voice bellowing in the background: "elegance is refusal." Mrs. Onassis edited Vreeland's book on the subject, "Allure." Obviously, she could have written it.

fashion designer. His earlier claim to fame was designing movie costumes for Grace Kelly.

The connection was clear and accurate—the two women the world considered "American royalty" wrapped in the same fashion label. His suits, with their short, boxy jackets and narrow skirts, were the First Lady's signature look in the '60s.

"As Mrs. Kennedy, her greatest influence was in daywear and sportswear," said Richard Martin, costume curator of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. "After Eleanor Roosevelt, Bess Truman and Mamie Eisenhower as first ladies, Jackie brought a young, elegant style to the White House. You never had the sense she was uncomfortable in her clothes."

After her White House years, the remarried Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis went a little wild, letting loose her Francophile passions. She had studied the language as a school girl and the early attraction was revived in a stream of Hubert de Givenchy gowns and Chanel suits. Does Italy's Valentino count as French, for his Paris address? She seemed to think so.

The American twist to her wardrobe was her loyalty to Halston, who created the pillbox hats she wore as First Lady. She could walk to his shop from her 5th Avenue apartment in New York. His design assistant, Akira, once commented on how she never wore prints, only



Associated Press

Mrs. Kennedy, with children, John Jr. and Caroline, before boarding flight to England in 1965 for dedication of memorial to her husband.