June 1964

John F. Kennedy

THIRTY-FIFTH PRESIDENT 1961-1963

JOHN F. KENNEDY, the first President born in the 20th century, called on the American people in his Inaugural Address to enlist in "a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself." The struggle would not be finished in a hundred days or a thousand, he predicted: "But let us begin."

Kennedy did begin, urging the "New Frontier" program upon Congress and resisting the Communist threats even into the shadow of nuclear war. To the leadership of the Nation he brought realism, efficiency, verve—and the promise of increasing greatness.

Abruptly, in November, 1963, when he was scarcely past his first thousand days in office, he died by an assassin's bullet. Kennedy was the youngest man elected President; he was the youngest to die. Yet in his brief tenure he had firmly embarked the Nation on a forward course; his successor could pay no higher tribute than to proclaim, "Let us continue."

The second of nine children, Kennedy was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston, on May 29, 1917. He was proud that his forebears came from Ireland, rising swiftly in America to wealth and political prominence. His maternal grandfather was Mayor of Boston; his father, Ambassador to Great Britain.

### Young PT Skipper Saves His Crew

After graduation from Harvard, Kennedy entered the Navy in World War II. As a lieutenant (j.g.), he commanded a PT boat in the Solomon Islands (page 102). Shortly after midnight on August 2, 1943, a Japanese destroyer sliced through it. Kennedy's back, already weak from a football injury, was badly hurt, but after 15 hours in the water he led the survivors to a small island. He spent the rest of his naval service in hospitals and as an instructor.

Early in 1946 Kennedy fought his first political campaign, in a Democratic primary for a Congressional district in the Boston area.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ELLIOTT ERWITT, MAGNUM, COURTESY SATURDAY EVENING POST (OPPOSITE); MARK SHAW

**Dashing vigor** and handsome features of John F. Kennedy, youngest elected President, stirred the Nation and the world. With his strong sense of purpose, his tough yet supple mind, he projected an image of confidence that promised progress. But an assassin's bullet ended his life on November 22, 1963. This photograph was among Mrs. Kennedy's favorites; an official portrait had not been painted before his death.

**Elegant and eloquent,** Jacqueline Kennedy enriched the White House with art treasures and conducted a tour of the Executive Mansion on nationwide television. Traveling abroad with her husband, whom she called an "idealist without illusions," she charmed dignitaries with her command of languages. Here, in 1961, she holds Caroline, age 4, and John, Jr., 1.

National Geographic Jan. 1966

WIDE WORLD (BOTTOM) AND PICTORIAL PARADE

Awaiting action in the Pacific during World War II, Lieutenant Kennedy relaxes in his torpedo boat, PT 109. When a Japanese destroyer cut the craft in half, Kennedy saved his crew and won the Navy and Marine Corps Medal. Asked how he became a hero, he replied: "It was easy—they sank my boat."

The 28-year-old candidate stumped energetically among the working people and received nearly twice as many votes as his nearest opponent. He won easily in November.

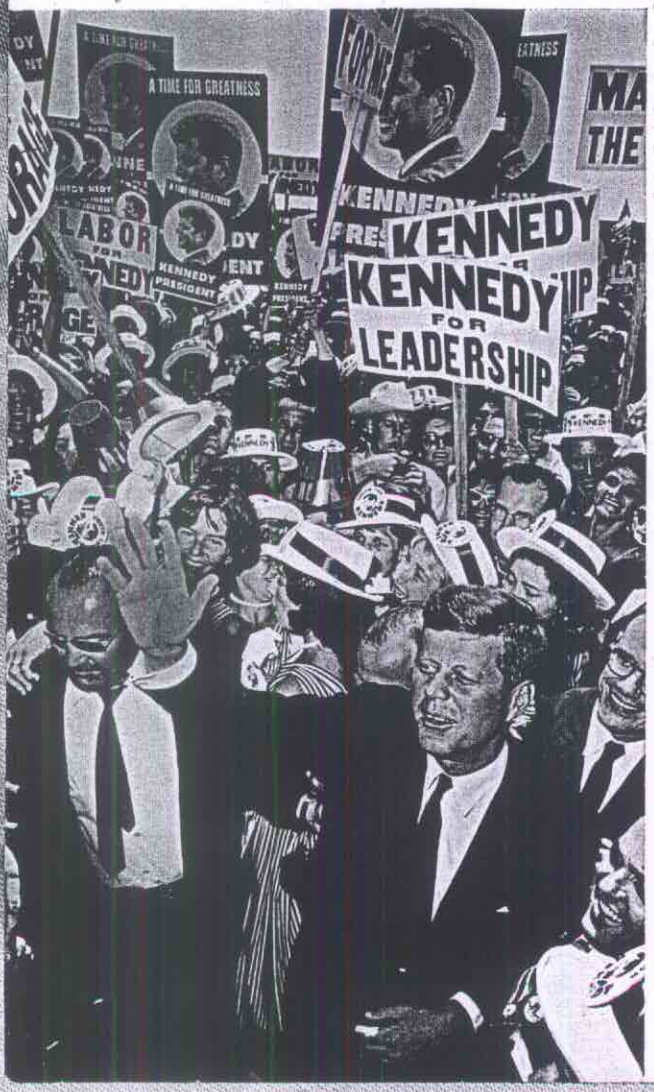
During his six years in the House, Congressman Kennedy labored for the betterment of his constituents, voting for slum clearance and low-cost housing bills, and opposing the Taft-Hartley bill to restrict labor unions. At a Washington dinner party, he met beautiful Jacqueline Lee Bouvier, whom he married on September 12, 1953.

By this time, Kennedy had advanced from House to Senate, defeating Republican Senator Henry Cabot Lodge in the 1952 elections. As Senator, Kennedy made good his campaign slogan to "do *more* for Massachusetts." But increasingly he took a national view; he voted for reciprocal trade legislation and the St. Lawrence Seaway, even though they were not popular in Massachusetts.

**From Pulitzer Prize to Presidency**

Kennedy's old back injuries had become

OCT. 5. 1966



Jack Ruby

ML

3/4/67

Dear Miss Roth,

Thanks for taking the time to write. I really appreciate getting nice and encouraging letters. They do help.

There is a remarkable resemblance between the man in the picture and Ruby vut I'm confident they are not both Ruby.

Whitewash III is delayed by continuing researches and other work that must be done first.

If you want us to send it to you when it is out, we enclose a form for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

VIVIAN ROTH
2140 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA
326-2199

February 28, 1967

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Sincere compliments on your fine books "Whitewash" 1 and 2. I'm looking forward to no. 3.

Enclosed is a picture from the Jan. 1966 issue of the National Geographic showing the July 1960 Dem. Convention. Also a clipping from a local paper of Jack Ruby.

I am very strongly impressed by the remarkable resemblance to Ruby in the man to Kennedy's right. Hairline, dark glasses which Ruby frequently used, scar tissue at left corner of upper lip, the usual tie and shirt-collar disarray, weight - heavy - (1960) a problem, according to Ruby.

The idea is wild, I know.

If I'm correct may I hear from you?

Yours truly,

Vivian Roth