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PEOPLE

THE FEATURES PAGE

PERSONALS Leah Garchik

A JFK Biographer Remembers Jackie

Among a collection of reminiscences in the latest New Yorker, William Manchester, who was authorized by Jacqueline Kennedy to write "Death of a President" (she later withdrew support, fearing it would intrude on her privacy), recalls flying to Cape Code to visit the widow:

"She met me at the airport and handed me the car keys. She was the kind of woman who would never drive if there was a man in the car. Her values were not even of the '50s but of a generation before.

"I live in Middletown, Conn. and we would talk about her coming for a visit. She'd say, 'How do you get there? Do you have to fly to Boston first?' She didn't have any idea of the geography of Connecticut.

Manchester ends by noting that Jackie's November 1963 trip to Texas was "the first time she had been west of the Adirondacks."

Melissa Pranger of the



Jackie in 1963: East-bound

New Yorker told Personals that this story had been fact-checked — "We called Manchester and he said it was true" — but Herb Caen recalls having had dinner with Jackie in San Francisco in 1959 or '60. And JFK's close friend Red Fay was with the Kennedys when they came up to San Francisco after honeymooning at the San Ysidro Ranch in Santa Barbara.

Manchester's claim, said Fay, is "horse-hockey."