

NOTABLE TO UNKNOWN

Kopeczne Case Has Varied Cast

EDGARTOWN, Mass. (AP) —The inquest which opens tomorrow into the death of Miss Mary Jo Kopeczne has thrust together a cross-section of the notable and the unknown.

Their lives all have been affected by the death of Miss Kopeczne, the young secretary who died when Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's car plunged off a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island the night of July 18.

Following are brief profiles of those involved in the case:

EDWARD MOORE KENNEDY—at 37, he is the last of the four Kennedy brothers. Nearly everyone calls the senator Ted now; the more boyish nickname of "Teddy" fell into disuse after brother Robert's assassination in 1968 in Los Angeles. It was Kennedy who was driving the car in which Miss Kopeczne died.

MARY JO KOPECHNE—Miss Kopeczne long has been an admirer of the Kennedys, particularly Robert, and for a time served as a member of his secretarial staff.



EDWARD M. KENNEDY

She was a member of Robert's so-called "boiler room gang" in his 1968 campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. This was the group of young women who handled the New York senator's key telephone calls in the weeks after he launched his campaign.

Miss Kopeczne, 28, was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kopeczne of Berkeley Heights, N.J. At the time of her death, she was employed by a Washington, D.C., political consulting firm.

EDMUND DINIS—A bachelor and successful businessman in private life, Dinis, 44, has been district attorney for southeastern Massachusetts since 1959. He ordered the inquest.

Dinis long has been active in the Bay State's Democratic party, controlled by Kennedy, but he has never been regarded as a particularly staunch political ally. Rather, observers view him as something of a maverick within the party.

JAMES A. BOYLE—As presiding justice of Edgartown District Court, Judge Boyle received Kennedy's plea of guilty to the charge of leaving the scene of the July 18 accident and gave the senator a suspended jail sentence. Boyle will preside at the inquest and decide whether the answers that emerge from it constitute sufficient reason for further legal proceedings.

Boyle is 62, an avid golfer with a quiet temperament, sports a moustache, and is a lover of bow ties and straw hats.

PAUL F. MARKHAM — A long-time friend of the Kennedys, Markham, former U.S. Atty. for Massachusetts, was one of those at the dinner party on Chappaquiddick which preceded the accident.

Kennedy said in his nationally televised speech a week after the mishap that Markham and Joseph F. Gargan, Kennedy's cousin, returned with him to the accident scene in a futile attempt to locate Miss Kopeczne.



EDMUND DINIS



JUDGE JAMES A. BOYLE

DR. DONALD R. MILLS—the soft-spoken general practitioner who is Dukes County's associate medical examiner. As such, he was the physician who pronounced Miss Kopeczne dead after her body was pulled from Sen. Kennedy's car.

He declared the death an accidental drowning and has maintained that the cause of death was obvious and that an autopsy wasn't necessary.

DOMINICK J. ARENA—A strapping former state trooper, Arena is the Edgartown police chief and was the chief investigative officer after the accident. Appointed chief two years ago, he previously had been assigned to the office of the state attorney general.

Arena, 39, commands a summer force of 10 men and a winter contingent of five. His biggest chore normally is handling traffic during Edgartown's tourist-clogged summer months.

DR. ROBERT W. NEVIN—The chief medical examiner for Dukes County, Nevin, like Mills, is more accustomed to delivering babies than investigating deaths. He was one of those who criticized Mills for not ordering an autopsy.

Yet, last Sunday, he withdrew his support from Dist. Atty. Dinis' effort to win exhumation of Miss Kopeczne's body for an autopsy in Pennsylvania, where she was buried.

JOHN FARRAR—An Edgartown businessman and Navy-trained skindiver, Farrar pulled Miss Kopeczne's body from the sunken and overturned auto. He has stated that he believes Miss Kopeczne might have lived for some time after the accident, breathing from a bubble of air that might have been trapped in the car.

ADVERTISEMENT