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San Francisco Chronicle 3

# The Unusual Tests On Kennedy's Car

## Boston

The Massachusetts State Police confirmed yesterday that a private research firm had made a series of tests — reportedly ordered by lawyers for Senator Edward M. Kennedy—on the car in which Mary Jo Kopechne died.

According to the Boston Globe, Kennedy's lawyers ordered the tests in an effort to determine, among other things, how long Miss Kopechne lived after the car plunged into a tidal pond.

Miss Kopechne, a 28-year-old Washington secretary, died the night of July 18 when the Senator drove the car off a narrow wooden bridge into the tidal pond on Chappaquiddick Island.

George Baker, director of public relations for the Arthur D. Little Company of Cambridge, which was reported to have done the testing, said yesterday that the company would have "no comment at this time."

The Globe article said that Dr. Richard Stone and Dr. John Teitzel, physicists, had been among the persons who carried out the experiment at the State Police barracks in

## A Tuesday Holiday Of Sorts

California will celebrate its 119th birthday on Tuesday, but most adults will observe Admission Day by going to work as usual.

Stores and almost all other business establishments will be open. Banks will be closed for the day, however, and so will most savings and loan associations.

Public and parochial schools will have a one-day holiday. State and municipal offices will close for the day.

All traffic and tow-away regulations will remain in full force.

Mail deliveries will be made on a normal weekday schedule, and Federal offices will be open as usual.

Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard.

According to the Globe article, the tests took two days and involved filling the car, a 1967 Oldsmobile four-door se-

dan, with water from a garden hose and also raising the car with a wrecker to simulate its position in the pond when Miss Kopechne's body was found the morning after the accident. The car overturned when it went off the bridge.

Many photographs were taken of the automobile.

It was also reported that the floor mat of the automobile had been removed in a test of "water penetration" and that other tests had been made to learn how quickly water would replace air in the car, whether an air bubble had formed in the rear of the vehicle and how fast the car had been going when it went off the bridge.

The Globe article did not indicate what the tests had shown, but said they apparently were designed to counteract possible testimony by witnesses who might be called by District Attorney Edmund S. Dinis of New Bedford if an inquest is held.

Meanwhile, nine persons who attended the Chappaquiddick cookout asserted in suits filed yesterday that their constitutional right to privacy would be invaded by an inquest open to the press.

The suits were filed by lawyers for Joseph F. Gagan, of Milton; John B. Crimmins, of Boston; Raymond LaRosa, of Andover; Charles Tretter, of Dedham; Maryellen Lyons, of Milton; her sister, Nance Lyons, and Esther Newberg, Rosemary Keough and Susan Tannenbaum, all of Washington.

New York Times

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