Merry-Go-Round

Jackie's Relationship With the Kennedys



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NE OF THE FEW persons to penetrate the wall that the Kennedys have thrown up around Senator Edward Kennedy since his accident is his former sister-in-law, Jackie Onasis.

Soon after the tragedy, the former First Lady reached Senator Kennedy by overseas telephone and expressed her deep sorrow. She couldn't have been more gracious. say intimates. She also telephoned his brother-in-law. Steve Smith, who serves as business manager for the clan, to ask whether there was anything she could do.

That's the way it has been with Jackie since she married Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis. She has carefully maintained her ties with the Kennedy family. Rose Kennedy, for example, spent the Easter holiday as Jackie's guest aboard the Onassis yacht Christina.

BUT IF THE relationship between Jackie and her former family seems warm, intimates say it is and it isn't. Jackie always resisted the suffocating embrace of the clan even while she was its most illustrious in-law. She didn't like the one-for-all - and-all-for-one spirit that encroached on her independence.

Now a tinge of aloofness is manifest in her independence. For despite the surface sweetness and seeming closeness, say intimates. Jackie takes a quiet satisfaction in having escaped the Kennedy hold. Sometimes she gives the Kennedys the impression that she feels above and beyond them.

Since her marriage last October, she has been on a glorious spending spree. She walks into any store of her choosing, helps herself to whatever she wants and strolls off, trailed by servants burdened down with bundles. She pays no cash, signs no bills. Her face is her credit card. Store owners, recognizing the famous lady, realize that Aristotle will make good.

When Jackie jets across the oceans, she always buys four tickets because she doesn't like to have people sitting near her. Even though her husband owns Olympic Airways, she prefers Pan American.

SINCE JACKIE is no longer eligible for -Secret Service protection, Onassis has hired Pinkerton guards at a cost of \$1200 a week to follow her wherever she goes.

How much has it cost Onassis to be married to the widow of the late President Kennedy and number one catch in the world? News sleuth Fred Sparks, a Pulitzer Prize winner, has carefully traced their spending since the marriage. He calculates that the marriage, thus far, has cost Ari an astounding \$20 million.

Note: Incidentally, intimates insist that
Jackie is not pregnant, despite recent pictures of her in a dress that had a maternity look,