

HAD NO DRINKS AT PARTY — KENNEDY

# Guests at Cookout Testify

EDGARTOAN (Mass.) — (UPI) — Sen. Edward Kennedy has testified he drank no alcoholic beverages at a party the night Mary Jo Kopechne died in his car.

The senator's testimony, given as the secret inquest into Miss Kopechne's death opened yesterday, was almost a duplication of his nationally televised account July 25 as he described circumstances surrounding the death of the 28 year old secretary.

Rosemary Keough, whose nurse was found in Kennedy's car and at first was thought to have died as the car plunged off an unlighted ridge into a tidal pond, testified today along with Kennedy's cousin Joseph Gargan and Paul Markham, former J.S. attorney for Massachusetts.

### Cookout

Miss Keough, Gargan and Markham, along with four other girls and three men attended the cookout reunion July 18 in addition to Kennedy and Miss Kopechne. The girls were all ex-campaign workers during the late Sen. Robert Kennedy's presidential bid of 1968.

Kennedy has said he brought Gargan and Markham from the party to the crash site but they were unable to rescue Miss Kopechne.

### In Car

Among other witnesses on the second day were Charles Fretter, Kennedy friend who completed testimony he began yesterday, and Ross Richards of Providence, R.I., who owned the yacht with won the Edgartown Regatta

—Turn to Page 10, Col. 1

—From Page 1

several hours before the Chappaquiddick party.

Kennedy finished ninth in the race.

Miss Keough's pocketbook, containing a U.S. Senate pass and room key for the Katama Shores Motor Inn in Edgartown where the girls were registered, was in the senator's car as it was pulled from Poucha Pond. Theories she was in the car when it plunged off dike bridge are "completely false, a ridiculous untruth," she has said.

Kennedy, who testified for about two hours yesterday, told the judge he had two drinks at dinner the night of the accident but nothing to drink at the party following the meal at a rented cottage on Chappaquiddick, just across a channel from Edgartown. Widespread speculation centered on whether he had been drinking heavily.

Raymond Larosa of Ando-

ver, a sailing friend who also was at the gathering, testified yesterday there was little drinking and no drugs at the party. He said Kennedy had two rum and Cokes with dinner and no drinks at the cookout.

### 3 Others

Only three other persons testified at the inquest opening — two Kennedy friends and an accountant from the New England Telephone Co.

Under Judge James Boyle's questioning and that of District Attorney Edmund Dinis, Kennedy told how he and Miss Kopechne were driving on an unlighted road when his car plunged off a narrow plank bridge into a tidal pond. The senator failed to report the accident to police for nine hours.

When asked by Dinis yesterday why he waited so long to report the crash, Kennedy replied he had intended to but became bewildered and so confused he didn't know

what he was doing.

In a surprise development, it was learned Kennedy spoke out for the first time about the statement of Christopher Look Jr., an Edgartown deputy sheriff who said he saw Kennedy's car with at least two persons in it more than an hour after the senator claimed the accident had occurred.

Kennedy at the inquest denied every part of Look's statement given to state police investigators several months ago. Look, who probably will testify tomorrow, has said he is absolutely certain it was Kennedy's black Oldsmobile he saw and not a white rented car which was the only other vehicle at the cottage the night of the accident.

On leaving the courthouse, Kennedy said he would not discuss details of his testimony except to say it was "substantially" the same as his nationwide TV speech July 25.



**WITNESSES LEAVE COURTHOUSE, SCENE OF INQUEST**  
Nancy Lyons, Susan Tannenbaum, Esther Newberg in Edgartown today  
—AP Photo