

'Life With Jacqueline'

Keeping Up With Moods of A First Lady

In this tenth article of a series, Jacqueline Kennedy's former personal secretary tells about her one time employer's interest in clothes and a trip on Onassis' yacht in 1963 with sister Lee and Prince Stanislas Radziwill and Mr. and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr.

By Mary Barelli Gallagher

I could never tell which of Jackie's moods to expect next.

One day, she would be exasperated because an unopened box of gifts from an Ivory Coast dignitary "hung around for three days until someone finally gave it to George (the President's valet)."

The next, she was ordering "dust for eyelashes," which she had read about in a newspaper article.

And the next, she was going full speed ahead with language records as part of a cram session in Spanish, preparatory to a trip to Mexico, and practicing on Provi, her personal maid.

Then it would be back to clothes, clothes, clothes. They would be so photographed and inspected around the world that Jackie felt she could not wear them again. So she made an arrangement with Oleg Cassini, to select her clothes for her Mexican trip, but he could keep them in his collection, and she would return some of them to him.

All spring and summer of 1962, Cassini would be making sure that the right clothes got on the right plane at the right time — bound for Washington — to be met by a White House car.

Odds and Ends

For Brazil, Jackie wanted pink brocade; for Mexi-



Jackie planned to wear each ensemble only once



In 1961 poll, Jackie was voted "best dressed"



Special arrangement with Cassini for Latin tour

to be swooped up by Provi and put on its hanger again. JBK dictated her likes, dislikes, particular preferences."

Trip to Greece

It took pages and pages of corresponding notes on each particular design by number and description, with added innovations showing her individual taste in textures, colors, and styles.

September, 1963, was a particularly busy month for me, helping Jackie prepare for her Mediterranean cruise with Lee and "Stash" Radziwill aboard the Christina, Aristotle Onassis' yacht. Also aboard would be Mr. and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr.

It was, from all I could gather, a fantastic experience for Jackie, who not only loved the sea with a passion, but loved ancient artifacts. This trip combined both. I was not surprised to read that even though she seemed as carefree as a beachcomber, there were not one but two hairdressers on board ship.

I recall that when she got back, she asked me to record Aristotle Onassis's winter address in my address book — on Avenue Foch in Paris — and also his address in Athens on Vasileous Georgious-Glyfada. I mailed a letter to his Athens address.

Among my bits and pieces of notes to myself from White House days, I see one dated "10-18-63" that says, "Big cigarette box — Mr. Onassis," and under it is the name, "Nomikos." (But what the latter name means, I do not know.)

Model Ships

The following month, I gave Provi a message to send to Atoka, the President's county home, one Greek rug for JFK's room as well as two other large rugs that had also come from Greece.

But even before the trip to Greece, Jackie wanted Evelyn Lincoln to tell the President to bring up with him the model whaling ships given to him by On-

co, the green Gazar dress and coat with a hat in matching flat, shiny straw.

There were countless odds and ends of things that season; concerning clothes and the logistics of deliveries. A check went to Lee for \$175 for something she had picked up for Jackie; Cassini clothes had been put on an American Airlines plane at 1:30 by the flight manager at LaGuardia; Bergdorf was sending a collection to Glen Ora so they could be tried on there one Saturday. The heavens seemed to have opened up — it simply rained clothes!

One of my diary entries:

"June 2, 1962: (Saturday) — Huge collection of clothing arrived from Oleg Cassini — JBK called me to W.H. As she tried on each and every model, she would ask both JFK and me for opinions and or suggestions. Stepping from each as it dropped to the floor

assis. We were up at the Cape at the time, and the President was coming for the weekend. I was also to tell Evelyn to remind the President to write Onassis and thank him for the models.

As fate would have it, I did see Onassis once at the White House. He was among the many Kennedy friends who stopped by to comfort Jackie during the weekend of John F. Kennedy's funeral. I was in the sitting room of the family quarters, talking with Provi, when I looked up and saw Mrs. Kennedy walking down the Center Hall on the arm of a gentleman whom I did not recognize at the time.

I asked Provi, "Who is that?"

Provi seemed rather surprised that I didn't already know. "Oh, Mees Gallaga, that's Onassee, the millionaire," she said softly. "You mean you don't know Meester Onassee?"

To me, he was just a name. With two addresses.

Copyright (C) 1969 by Mary Borelli Gallagher and Frances Spatz Leighton from "My Life with Jacqueline Kennedy," published by David McKay Co., Inc. Distributed by Bell-McClure Syndicate.

Next: Jackie's children — and Dallas.