

# Juicy tidbits from the White

By Helen Thomas  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The former top dog keeper at the White House has told all, or nearly all, in his new book, "Dog Days at the White House."

The memoirs of Traphes Bryant, an ex-kennel keeper at the White House, will be on the stands officially Tuesday but orders for the book already are piling up because of Bryant's revelations that President Kennedy went skinny-dipping in the White House swimming pool with nude women friends.

"Kennedy was a mystery man to me," Bryant wrote. "I never could figure him out — was he fun-loving or

ultra-serious."

He said that Kennedy was "more earthy than people realized."

"President Kennedy certainly seemed to enjoy his women." But he said he liked Kennedy "but didn't set myself up as his judge."

"I figured he had his reasons for whatever he did. Also, I liked Jacqueline Kennedy. I liked her a lot. I don't want to give the impression she was some kind of angel."

He said he remembered one White House party where "Mrs. K" was tipsy on champagne and "flung her shoes off" while dancing in the grand hall.

"Jacqueline seemed to

flirt with every guy she danced with — making eyes, throwing her head back lovely dovey. All the men danced with her. I could see that some of the female guests were jealous. I bet their husbands had some explaining to do that night."

Bryant who was around the White House from the Truman years to those of Nixon, had a favorite president, Lyndon Johnson. Johnson loved his dogs, especially Yuki.

Bryant tells of one "unbelievable scene" when Johnson was having lunch in the west rose garden. Bryant said he walked Yuki to Johnson and let him go. He jumped into LBJ's lap. Then he quoted John-

son as calling to his Press Secretary George Christian, saying "come here and wipe these damn hairs off my coat."

He said he and Christian picked dog hairs off Johnson's coat hair by hair.

"It reminded me of a bunch of monkeys grooming themselves," he writes.

Bryant said Luci Nugent knew how to cuss and that Lynda Bird Robb "spit ice at photographers."

Bryant said Richard Nixon was called "King Richard." And because of his demands on the White House police, military aides, electricians, telephone operators, secretaries and

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drivers, Secretary of State Kissinger was called "King Kissinger."

Much of the book is devoted to Bryant's diary entries.

In one entry, Bryant told how White House usher Ray Hare got an order for pillows and cushions for garden chairs from Tricia Nixon Cox. He said Hare told him how he carried the cushions to the garden and "Cox didn't offer to help him."

"Hare told me that he lifted up Ed Cox's feet as he put a cushion under them for a hassock."

"I told him I would be damned before I'd do that."

He said the White House "had become a castle."



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Flirting with men while she was First Lady is something Jacqueline Kennedy often did, according to former White House dog keeper Traphes Bryant. Here she is in 1965 with then Defense Secretary Robert McNamara.