

KENNEDY IN-LAW CHOKES TO DEATH

Mrs. Skakel Was 39—Air
Crash Killed Husband

Special to The New York Times

GREENWICH, Conn., May 18—Mrs. Joan Patricia Skakel, widow of George Skakel Jr., a brother of Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy, died Thursday night at her home on Vineyard Lane. She was 39 years old.

A spokesman for her family said she apparently had choked on a piece of meat that lodged in her windpipe as she ate dinner.

Mr. Skakel was killed in a plane crash on Sept. 23.

Greenwich town police said they received an emergency call from the Skakel home shortly before 8 P.M. A police ambulance rushed Mrs. Skakel to the Greenwich Hospital, where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

The death was listed as accidental pending an autopsy tomorrow.

Mrs. Skakel, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Francis Corroon of Garden City, L. I., was married to Mr. Skakel in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church there on June 12, 1948. One of her attendants was the bridegroom's sister Ethel, who later married the

present junior Senator from New York.

Mr. Skakel, owner of the Great Lakes Carbon Company of New York, lost both his parents in an airplane crash near Tulsa in 1955. He and three friends and a pilot were killed in Crooked Creek Canyon in Idaho when their plane crashed while attempting to land on a hunting expedition.

The Skakels' four children, Kathleen, George 3d, Susan and Mark, are all living at home.

Mark, 13, is still in Greenwich Hospital recovering from cuts and burns he suffered while experimenting with explosives. His sister Kathleen, 17, has been cleared of responsibility in the accidental death on Dec. 2 of a child riding in the back seat of an open car she was driving. The child fell out of the car.

In addition to the children, Mrs. Skakel is survived by five brothers, Lawrence F. Corroon of Larchmont, N. Y.; Richard F.

Corroon and Hugh L. Corroon, both of Wilmington, Del.; Robert F. Corroon of Cedarhurst, L. I., and Thomas F. Corroon of Locust Valley, L. I., and two sisters, Mrs. James C. O'Shea of Rome, N. Y., and Mrs. Douglas B. Stearns of Montclair, N. J.

A requiem mass will be said in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church here at 11:30 A.M. Saturday.