

Merry-Go-Round

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To Many, Jackie Is Still the Queen



Drew Pearson

IN GEORGETOWN, people still walk along "N" street and pick ivy from the slope in front of the house where Jackie Kennedy used to live.

And, for most of them, Queen Jacqueline still sits on her throne, the nearest to American royalty this country has ever seen, and perhaps ever will see.

When they read the book "The Death of a President," they ask a lot of questions. One question is, why did Jackie let herself pour her heart out for ten hours to William Manchester and his tape record — to a man she did not really know well? Why didn't she get advice from a friend?

One answer is that Jackie has had almost no women friends. Her closest friend, her sister, Princess Lee Radziwill, doesn't understand politics and was in no position to advise her. Her mother, who does understand, hasn't had much influence with Jackie in recent years.

Jackie's closest friend and adviser is her brother-in-law, Bobby Kennedy, with whom she has taken many skiing and yachting trips. But they both figured they had signed a contract with a man they could control. As Jackie wrote to Jim Bishop when he wanted to write a book on the assassination, "I hired Manchester." And having "hired" him, she expected to control him.

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THIS REVEALS another interesting answer: Namely, that the Kennedys have always played from a position of power.

Their father was able to buy a New York Supreme Court appointment through

Tammy Hall for Ferd Pecora when the latter was in line to become head of the new Securities and Exchange Commission. Thus Joe Kennedy, instead of Pecora, got the SEC chairmanship.

Later, old Joe was able to buy the ambassadorship to England by contributing heavily to the Democratic party. And, having determined to put his son in the White House, old Joe spent the money, corralled the politicians, inspired his sons and got the job done.

It's no secret that today the family is determined to put another Kennedy in the White House: and one reason for the tough censorship of the Manchester book was so nothing would be recorded for history which might mar that ambition. Having been in the habit of playing from a position of power, Jackie and Bobby cracked the censor's whip.

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NOR IS THE wide-eyed, beautiful lady whom so many have placed on an American throne, as demure as the people who pluck ivy from her onetime lawn think she is. She has a temper as explosive as the first Queen Elizabeth of England and a vituperative vocabulary inherited from the days when she was a photographer for the Washington Times Herald and held her own with any cameraman.

In the last week, however, Jackie has been advised to improve her image. This was the real reason why she belatedly canceled the \$30,000 which President Johnson had allotted her for public relations.

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