



Associated Press

ANXIOUS MOTHER: Mrs. Rose Kennedy leaving St. Xavier Roman Catholic Church in Hyannis, Mass., after prayer.

Tragedy Stalks Kennedy Family In a Long Series of Misfortunes

By DAVID SHIPLER

The family of Joseph Patrick Kennedy, former Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, has long been afflicted by tragedy.

Death and near death have come in war, in disease, in the mishaps of a rushing technological age, in the height of power and now in the pursuit of the nation's highest office.

The attack on Senator Robert F. Kennedy yesterday in Los Angeles was the latest agony.

In September, 1919, Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy gave birth to her third child, a mentally retarded girl. The girl, Rosemary, was placed in St. Colleta's, an institution in Jefferson, Wis., in the early nineteen-forties and has been there ever since.

"It's hard to talk about Rosemary," Mrs. Kennedy once said. "I could not do it years ago. But I want people to know it should be talked about. Not hidden. That there is hope now."

Plane Explodes

Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., a Navy lieutenant and the eldest of the nine children, was killed on Aug. 12, 1944, when the plane he was piloting exploded over England.

He had been nurtured by his father for a political career, and it was hoped that he would ascend to the Presidency. His death thrust John F. Kennedy to the front.

"It was like being drafted," the President Kennedy once said. "My father wanted his

eldest son in politics. 'Wanted' isn't the right word. He demanded it. You know my father."

President Kennedy remarked on another occasion: "Just as I went into politics because Joe died, if anything happened to me tomorrow, my brother Bobby would run for my seat in the Senate. And if Bobby died, Teddy would take over for him."

John Kennedy had a narrow escape during World War II as a lieutenant (j.g.) in the Navy. The PT-boat he skippered was cut in two by a Japanese destroyer in Blackett Strait near

He and some of his crew were rescued after six days on an atoll. A fall on his back on the deck of PT-109 caused an

injury that brought him pain the rest of his life.

A sister Kathleen lost her husband, the Marquess of Hartington, four months after their marriage and less than a month after Joseph Jr. died. Lord Hartington was killed in combat in France on Sept. 10, 1944.

Kathleen died in the crash of a private plane in southern France on May 14, 1948.

Former Ambassador Kennedy, who is 80 years old, has been partly paralyzed since a stroke in December of 1961.

A premature baby boy was born to President and Mrs. Kennedy on Aug. 7, 1963, by Caesarean section and died 39 hours later of hyaline membrane disease, a lung ailment.

The boy, Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, and a stillborn sister are buried in Arlington National Cemetery alongside the late President, who was assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, the youngest brother, was on his way from Washington to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention on June 19, 1964 when his two-engine plane crashed in Southampton, Mass. The pilot was killed, and the Senator suffered a back injury that required a long convalescence.

At his brother's bedside, Robert was said to have quipped:

"I guess the only reason we've survived is that there are too many of us. There are more of us than there is trouble."

Robert Kennedy's wife, Ethel, has also endured the pain of sudden personal loss.

Parents Are Killed

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Skakel, were killed in a crash in 1955 of a private plane in Oklahoma.

Her brother, George Jr., died on Sept. 24, 1966, after a single-engine plane in which he was riding overshot a runway at Riggins, Idaho, and crashed into the wall of a canyon.

Eight months later—in May of 1967—George's wife, Joan Patricia, choked to death on a piece of meat that lodged in her windpipe as she ate dinner in her home in Greenwich, Conn.

With each new tragedy, Robert Kennedy and the other members of the family assembled to give support. Yesterday, Kennedys gathered in Los Angeles.