



EDWARD M. KENNEDY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer's Briefing Materials **Joseph Gargan Interviews, 08/11/2005, 10/31/2005**

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Miller Center Documents¹

- Joseph Gargan Timeline.

Secondary Source Materials

- Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, *Times to Remember* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1974) pp. 127-132, 138-141, 339-340, 349-350.
- *The Fruitful Bough: A Tribute to Joseph P. Kennedy*, collected by Edward M. Kennedy (Halliday Lithograph Corporation, 1965) pp. 173-176.
- *Her Grace Above Gold: In Loving Remembrance of Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy*, collected by Edward M. Kennedy (Deschamps Printing Company, Inc., 1997) pp. 219-222.
- Alan L. Otten, "Ted Kennedy Builds Massachusetts Senate Bid Around Brothers," *The Wall Street Journal*, 06/01/1962.
- James MacGregor Burns, *Edward Kennedy and the Camelot Legacy* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1976) pp. 73-96.
- Adam Clymer, *Edward Kennedy: A Biography* (New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1999) pp. 34-42.
- Cal Brumley, "Injured Ted Kennedy Proves a Rugged Foe for a Bay State GOP," *The Wall Street Journal*, 10/20/1964.

Oral History Interviews

- Edward M. Kennedy interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 01/21/2005.

Other

- William Shannon interview with Edward M. Kennedy, 01/05/1988, 01/08/1988, 01/11/1988.

¹ These are original documents created by Miller Center researchers for the Edward M. Kennedy Oral History Project. Please acknowledge credit for any use of these materials.

JOSEPH GARGAN TIMELINE

Prepared by Ethan Sribnick

Miller Center, University of Virginia, 03/31/05

1930 Joseph F. Gargan, Jr. is born. His father, Joseph F. Gargan, is a lawyer originally from Lowell, Massachusetts. Gargan's mother, Mary Agnes Gargan is the daughter of the former mayor of Boston John F. "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald and the sister of Rose Kennedy. (Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, *Times to Remember*, Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1974, p. 128)

1932

February EMK is born in Brookline, Massachusetts on the 22nd. Rose Kennedy had returned to Boston, as she had done with Jean Kennedy, to have EMK delivered by a familiar doctor at St. Margaret's Hospital. (James MacGregor Burns, *Edward Kennedy and the Camelot Legacy*, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1976, p. 33; Adam Clymer, *Edward Kennedy: A Biography*, New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1999, p. 9; *The Fruitful Bough: A Tribute to Joseph P. Kennedy*, collected by Edward M. Kennedy, Halliday Lithograph Corporation, 1965, p. 145)

1936

September Gargan's mother Mary Agnes Gargan dies at the age of 43 from an embolism. After her death, Gargan and his two sisters go to live with his father's brother in Lowell. (Doris Kearns Goodwin, *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*, New York: Touchstone, 2001, pp. 575-576; Kennedy, p. 128-129)

1942

Summer Gargan is invited to Hyannis Port to spend time with EMK. Gargan goes on to spend much of the next ten summers with the Kennedys in Hyannis Port. Over these summers, Gargan becomes the playmate, guardian, and close friend of his younger cousin EMK. (*Her Grace Above Gold: In Loving Remembrance of Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy*, collected by Edward M. Kennedy, Deschamps Printing Company, Inc., 1997, p. 220; Laurence Leamer, *The Kennedy Men: 1901-1963*, New York: William Morrow, 2001, p. 166)

1943

Fall When Gargan develops bronchitis Rose Kennedy invites him to spend Christmas in Palm Beach to help him recover. After this Gargan spends many of his Christmas and Easter vacations with the Kennedys in Palm Beach. (*Her Grace Above Gold*, p. 221)

1944

August Gargan is at the Kennedy home in Hyannis Port when the family learns of the death of Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. (Leamer, *The Kennedy Men*, p. 219)

1946

May Gargan's father, Joseph F. Gargan, a lawyer and vice president of Pan American Airlines, dies at the age of 54. The senior Gargan had served in the Marines in the first World War and was a legal advisor to the Secretary of War in World War II. (Kennedy, p. 128; *The New York Times*, 05/23/1946)

Summer For the first two summers after World War II, Gargan and EMK work on the Kennedy farmland on Cape Cod. They clear paths and cut hay earning 35 dollars a week from Joseph P. Kennedy (JPK). (Leamer, *The Kennedy Men*, p. 255)

Fall Gargan attends Georgetown Prep where he plays football. (Leo Damore, *Senatorial Privilege*, Washington, D.C.: Regnery Gateway, 1988, p. 65; *The Washington Post*, 10/05/1946)

1950

June EMK and Joey Gargan travel throughout Europe. (*Hostage to Fortune*, p. 643)

1952 Gargan works on the Senate campaign of John F. Kennedy (JFK). For most of the campaign, Gargan and his sister Mary Jo share rooms in a Boston boarding house with Robert F. Kennedy (RFK), JFK's campaign manager. (Kennedy, pp. 322-323; C. David Heymann, *RFK: A Candid Biography of Robert F. Kennedy*, New York: Dutton, 1998, p. 66)

1953

September Gargan serves as an usher at the wedding of JFK and Jacqueline Lee Bouvier. (*The New York Times*, 09/13/1953)

1955

January Gargan announces the engagement of his sister, Mary Jo, to Richard John "Dick" Clasby, a Harvard football star and teammate of EMK. (*The New York Times*, 01/06/1955)

1956 Gargan graduates from the University of Notre Dame Law School. He also attended college at Notre Dame, his father's alma mater. (<http://alumni.nd.edu/~class56/bycolleg.htm>)

1958

November Gargan is an usher at the wedding of EMK and Joan Bennett. (*The New York Times*, 11/30/1958)

1960 Gargan works on JFK's presidential campaign. (*The Wall Street Journal*, 06/01/1962)

1961 Gargan becomes an assistant U.S. Attorney in Massachusetts. (*Time*, 09/05/1969)

1962

March EMK announces he will run for JFK's vacated Senate seat. EMK's main challenger for the Democratic nomination is Massachusetts Attorney General Edward McCormack, nephew of the U.S. Speaker of the House John W. McCormack. McCormack dubs himself, "The Qualified Candidate," pointedly calling into question EMK's experience. EMK adopts JFK's old campaign slogan, "I can do more for Massachusetts." (Burns, pp. 77-79; Clymer, pp. 37-39; Levin, p. 87)

Gargan resigns his position as an assistant U.S. Attorney to work on the campaign. Gargan provides advance work for campaign events. Steven Smith is placed in charge of the campaign with Gerard Doherty as day-to-day campaign manager. Also working on the campaign are John Culver, Eddie Martin, as press secretary, Milton Gwirtzman, as a speech-writer, and Jack Crimmins as EMK's driver. (Kennedy, p. 433; Burton Hersh, *The Education of Edward Kennedy: A Family Biography*, New York: William Morrow, 1972, p. 174; *The New York Times*, 03/15/1962, 06/17/1979; *The Wall Street Journal*, 06/01/1962)

EMK admits that he arranged for a friend to take an exam for him during his freshman year at Harvard, and that he withdrew from the university afterwards at Harvard's request. (*The New York Times*, 03/31/1962)

June EMK defeats McCormack to gain endorsement of the Massachusetts Democratic Convention for the United States Senate. McCormack pledges to challenge EMK in the binding Democratic primary in September. (*The New York Times*, 06/12/1962; *The Boston Globe*, 06/10/1962)

August JFK, RFK, Sorensen, Gwirtzman and Gargan work with EMK at different times in Hyannis Port to help prepare EMK for his debates with McCormack. (Milton Gwirtzman oral history interview, John F. Kennedy Library, 01/19/1966, pp. 28-32; Lester David, *Good Ted, Bad Ted: The Two Faces of Edward M. Kennedy*, Secaucus, NJ: Carol Publishing Group, 1993, pp. 77-78)

EMK engages in a televised debate with McCormack at South Boston High School. McCormack accuses EMK of inexperience and of running on family

connections, stating “if your name were Edward Moore, your candidacy would be a joke.” EMK scored his most successful attack by questioning McCormack’s statement that he favors halting production of nuclear weapons. Some commentators feel that McCormack’s biting attacks may actually increase sympathy for EMK. (*The Boston Globe*, 08/28/1962; *The New York Times*, 08/28/1962)

September EMK meets with JPK, JFK, RFK, Culver, Gwirtzman and Gargan over Labor Day weekend to discuss his second upcoming debate with McCormack. (Gwirtzman interview, 12/23/1971, p. 6)

EMK and McCormack meet in a second, more cordial, televised debate in Holyoke. McCormack again questions EMK’s lack of experience, but EMK replies that he had more relevant experience on national and international issues citing his foreign travel. (*The Boston Globe*, 09/06/1962)

EMK beats McCormack by a landslide in the Massachusetts Democratic Senatorial Primary, gaining 69 percent of the vote. (*The New York Times*, 09/20/1962)

November EMK defeats Republican George C. Lodge, a former assistant labor secretary, with 55 percent of the vote. (*Congressional Elections 1946-1996*, Congressional Quarterly Inc., p.88)

1963

November Gargan is in Boston on the 22nd when he hears of the assassination of JFK and he quickly travels to the Kennedy home in Hyannis Port. Along with his aunt, Rose Kennedy, and his sister Ann, Gargan helps keep the news of the assassination from JPK until the next morning when EMK informs him. (Kennedy, pp. 443-446, Peter Collier and David Horowitz, *The Kennedys: An American Drama*, New York: Summit Books, 1984, p. 312; Laurence Leamer, *The Kennedy Women: The Saga of the American Family*, New York: Villard Books, 1994, p. 592)

EMK, Gargan, Eunice Shriver, and Rose Kennedy travel to Washington on the 24th. Gargan, Milton Gwirtzman, and Ed Moss accompany EMK to pay respects to his brother in the Rotunda of the Capitol. (Clymer, p. 53)

JFK’s funeral is held at St. Matthew’s Cathedral before his burial at Arlington National Cemetery. (Burns, p. 104; Clymer, p. 54)

1964

- June* EMK breaks his back in a small-plane crash on the way to the Democratic State Convention in Springfield, Massachusetts. Recovery is estimated at six to ten months. (*The Washington Post*, 06/21/1964)
- Running unopposed, EMK is endorsed for nomination by acclamation at the Democratic State Convention. (*The New York Times*, 06/21/1964)
- Fall* Gargan leaves the U.S. Attorney's office to assist in EMK's re-election campaign. With EMK in the hospital, Gargan helps arrange events for Joan Kennedy to speak and campaign on behalf of EMK. Gargan later enters private legal practice in Boston. (Hersh, pp. 202-203, 388; *Time*, 09/05/1969)
- October* EMK holds his first press conference since the crash. He answers questions about his memories of the crash and expresses optimism for Democratic victories in races around the country and in Massachusetts. (*Wall Street Journal*, 10/20/1964)
- November* EMK is elected to his first full Senate term with 74 percent of the vote over Howard Whitmore. RFK is elected to the Senate in New York with 55 percent of the vote. (Burns, p. 347; Clymer, p. 63)
- December* EMK takes his first steps since his June 19th plane crash. EMK leaves the hospital in time to spend the holidays at home with his family. (Clymer, p. 64; *The New York Times*, 12/04/1964)