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# University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 10, No. 39

June 14, 1977

"In grateful and joyous memory of this gallant son of Massachusetts who, in a thousand days, found a lasting place in the hearts of the people of this nation and the world."

Joseph P. Healey  
Chairman, Board of Trustees, University of Massachusetts  
Groundbreaking Ceremonies, John F. Kennedy Library

It was Camelot again on Sunday morning as the skies broke clear and the waters glistened under the pale blue sky.

It was a gathering of friends and colleagues of John F. Kennedy; it was a family reunion with his wife and mother there; his son and daughter; his nephews and nieces; his brother and his sisters; and, not the least, those who had lasting memories of the late president, people who admired and loved him, people who had worked with and for him, as far back as 1946.

His colleagues in government were there: Former Senator Leverett Saltonstall; Senator Brooke, Ex. Governor Sargent; Senate President Kevin Harrington; House Ways and Means Chairman John Finnegan; Senator William Bulger, Senator Al Sisitski, on through a State House roll call, and Congressmen Moakley and Drinan.

At the Mass of Corpus Christi, which fittingly started the groundbreaking ceremonies, the concelebrants were tied to decades of Kennedy and Fitzgerald history. Fr. Thomas Mooney from St. Mark's, Dorchester, where the Fitzgeralds once worshipped as parishioners; Fr. John Fitzgerald a member of the Fitzgerald clan; Fr. James Rafferty, active in the urban ministry and our UMass-Boston chaplain; and Fr. Raymond Callahan, our good Jesuit neighbor from Boston College High School.

When Mass was over, the silver plated shovels were wielded in the sandy plot with pleasure by Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, the spry matriarch of this gallant family; Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, with her children John and Caroline, and Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Stephen Smith, president of the Kennedy Library Corporation, introduced the speakers. First, came Robert Griffin, a native of Cambridge, Deputy Administrator of the General Services Administration, which administers the Presidential libraries around the country. Then came Governor Michael Dukakis, who recalled the Kennedy years as years of hope, which first  
(Continued to page 2)



came to his everlasting attention when he was a Harvard Law School student, and was inspired by a Kennedy speech back in 1959.

President of the University of Massachusetts Robert C. Wood, welcomed the guests "first, to a new home and a return to home." The return to home, in Dorchester, he said, is "more significant" because the "personal and public lives of the Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys have been intertwined here for almost a century. For generations the family has found support and understanding from the community and in turn has given support and understanding."

He added that the events on Sunday were "not only to recall the life and public achievements of President Kennedy, but to pay tribute to Dorchester, its proud past, its present vitality and generosity; its future made brighter by the presence of the Library and the progress of this Peninsula."

Senator Kennedy, in a stirring talk, said: "The Library and what this site becomes will be more than a memorial. It will look beyond the passions that divide us. It will be a sign of trust and hope for the future of our city. It will be an inspiration for rebuilding in this area. It will nourish a wider form of education and a greater understanding among all the members of our metropolitan community.

"Jack would have wanted all of this as well---a library that speaks and listens to the people, a library that takes up the causes of its neighbors, a library that understands and joins the search for better ways to meet them---so that, as he did, we may leave a better future for our children."

He added the Library will tell the public much about President Kennedy. "It will tell the kind of man he was. It will be more than just a collection of documents under glass. It will also be a very personal memorial, a link between the future and the past.

"For the scholars who will come here, the Library will be a vast resource of knowledge and understanding about the Presidency and the other institutions of our Government in this creative recent period of our history.

"For those too young to remember Jack themselves, it will describe his life and works in ways that will make him come alive for future generations.

"For those who do remember, it will recreate a time, a few bright days and years, a few fleeting moments of extraordinary grace and trust and confidence in America and in our ability to meet the public challenges facing us at home and overseas."

It was a Day of Camelot again with Jack's secretary Evelyn Lincoln there, and associates like Ken O'Donnell, whose eyes welled up during the Senator's speech; Mary Boylan, and Frank Morrissey, who go back to the early political days.

And there were those whom Senator Kennedy had special thanks: Helen Keyes and Dan Fenn; Al Pierce and Dave Powers; I. M. Pei, and "the communities of Dorchester and Columbia Point, who welcomed us with so much friendship and affection."

(Continued to page 3)



It was a day of thanks by President Wood to Rev. James Allen for his luncheon invocation, and for the work done in planning the occasion by Nan Robinson, David Gilmore, Al Pierce, Shiela Ruyle, and all the others.

It was a good Camelot day, with present UMass Trustees and former trustee George Pumphret on hand for a most significant day in the life of the university. It was a day as Chairman Joseph Healey said that for all those who come here, they can "enter and relive the hopes and dreams of another and brighter time."

Following the luncheon, a symposium on the Kennedy years was sponsored by the Kennedy Library, which included commentary by Walter Rostow, Dan Fenn, Theodore Sorenson, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Richard Goodwin, Doris Kearns, Adam Yarmolinsky, Robert Healy, Francis Sargent, who heads the consortium of colleges and universities working with the Library, Chancellor Carlo Golino, and others.

#### The John F. Kennedy Library: At Present

The John F. Kennedy Library, at 380 Trapelo Rd., located in temporary quarters in the Federal Records Center in Waltham, has been in operation since 1969. Part of the National Archives and Records Service of the U.S. General Services Administration, it is one of the country's seven presidential libraries (the Ford Library will be formally activated this summer).

In the past seven and one-half years, the Library has conducted a wide variety of educational programs and has served over 1,000 researchers. Its paid staff of 40 (including part-time and temporary personnel) is aided by a group of more than 35 volunteers who have been donating their time for a number of years. It is headed by Dan H. Fenn, Jr., Director, and is divided into three branches: the museum, led by David F. Powers, Museum Curator; educational activities, headed by John F. Stewart, Assistant Director for Educational Programs; and the archives with William W. Moss as Chief Archivist.

The resources of the Kennedy Library are extensive. The heart of its collection of 28 million pages of documents are the papers of President Kennedy from his Harvard days through the presidential years and of Senator Robert Kennedy. In addition some 250 other public figures who have been active as participants or commentators during this period of American history have donated their files to the Library. These associated papers are by no means limited to Kennedy-related materials, but include in many cases all the professional files of the donors' careers. The Library is continuing to solicit and receive papers. Since October of last year, for example, it has acquired about 3.5 million additional pages.

In addition to documents, the Library has 4.5 million feet of movie film and video tape; 35,000 volumes and a large quantity of other printed material; 1,200 interviews with leading figures of the times; 84,000 still pictures; 5,200

(Continued to page 4)



The John F. Kennedy Library:  
At Present  
(Continued from page 3)

audio tapes; and more than 13,000 three-dimensional objects including the President's rocking chair, other items from the White House and thousands of gifts sent in by people from all over the world.

The Library has begun to utilize its rich resources in a broad range of activities from exhibits and film festivals to conferences and teacher workshops designed to help community groups and students better understand the American system of government and politics. Its new quarters at Columbia Point, which will include exhibits, theatres, conference spaces and facilities for study, will enable the Library to expand its programs and reach its full potential as a lively educational center in American politics, past and present, and in the life and career of John F. Kennedy.

Victorious Struggle

Bette Davis, Foreign Student Adviser, takes great concerns for the problems that come up for students at UMass-Boston who come here from other countries. One situation she has been following came up with a happy ending last week.

Mrs. Roseline Kenya, from Kenya, has not been attending classes this past semester. She had to undergo open heart surgery at Tufts New England Medical Center when she was five months pregnant. Her baby was born healthy at Cambridge Hospital three months after the open heart surgery. Mother and son, Russell, are doing fine.

Mrs. Kenya said, "I don't think this type of surgery could have been done in Kenya. I couldn't have survived if my illness happened there."

She is most grateful to the doctors and nurses who helped her during her ordeal, especially Dr. Russell Kelley, her obstetrician.

Alumni: Meeting

The Annual Alumni Association meeting for graduates of the University of Massachusetts at Boston will be held on Tuesday, June 28th, at 7:00 p.m., at the Harbor Campus.

Now numbering more than 5,000 graduates, the young alumni group is gearing up activities for the benefit of the university and for a wider diversity of activities for the membership.

President Robert C. Wood of the University of Massachusetts system will address the members as well as Chancellor Carlo L. Golino of UMass-Boston.

By request, the Alumni Association Board has invited two of the most popular faculty members to address them at the meeting. They are Prof. Duncan Nelson, who taught thousands of UMass-Boston students in English Literature courses, and Prof. George Goodwin of the Political Science Department. Both have taught at UMass-Boston at Park Square and the Harbor Campus since the school started in 1965.

Also addressing fellow alumni will be Rep. James Smith of Lynn, described as one of the bright, young legislators on Beacon Hill. He was graduated with the Class of 1969.