Who was Rose Kennedy?

Documents and Photographs

Life in England
List of Documents and Photographs

**Life in England**

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ROYAL HOSTESS AND HER GUEST

Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy (left), who, with her husband, was received today by Queen Elizabeth (right) at Buckingham Palace in London. Mrs. Kennedy, wife of the United States ambassador to Britain, wore a tailored suit of dark blue. Queen Elizabeth wore formal morning attire. (Photo of Mrs. Kennedy by AP, photo of Queen Elizabeth by Phyfe.)
London, April 12, 1938.

Madam:

My husband and I want to thank Your Majesties very much for the great honor you conferred upon us by inviting us to be your guests over the week-end.

The associations connected with the Castle and its wonderful site and the beautiful country around were almost entirely new to us, and of course were tremendously interesting. But our greatest joy came from the fact that we had the pleasure of meeting Your Majesty and His Majesty the King so often during our visit. Then, too, we appreciated seeing the children informally. As a mother, I can tell Your Majesty from my heart that your little daughters were most charming, most natural, and most solicitous. We both hope Your Majesties and all your family may have a most happy Easter.
I have the honor to remain, Madam, 

Your Majesty's most humble and 

obedient servant,

[Signature]

With most respect.
WITH THE Kennedy Family IN

BY WILHELA CUSHMAN
Fashion Editor of the Journal

At 14 PRINCES GATE, in London—the American embassy—a big American family is making itself at home. The eleven Kennedys—mother, father and nine children—have moved in, and since their arrival the six-story house facing Hyde Park has been something more than the official residence of the American ambassador. Outside, the red geraniums, white daisies and blue forget-me-nots in the window boxes make formal announcement of the fact in the colors of our flag. Inside are more lively witnesses. The house echoes with phonograph records, quick footsteps and young American voices. A family-group picture is in the study, along with the portrait of George Washington. The room is lighted with American lamps. There are schoolboys playing ball in the back yard, otherwise known as the gardens. A case of soft drinks is in the icebox. And Grandma and Grandpa—ex-mayor Fitzgerald, of Boston—have come to visit.

The Kennedys are a big family in the traditional early-American sense—a clan, bound together by the closest ties. They have their own dances, their own movies, and at Christmas reunions their family gifts alone add up to 110! It is an interesting thought that in these very modern times, when most families are limited to a very few children, many of the prominent families in the public eye are large ones. There is a big family in the White House today; another in England in the household of the American-born Lady Astor. Perhaps it's a coincidence. It may be a trend.

We went to London to see the Kennedys. We found them plunging into English life, taking it like ducks to water. The children love the red-coated palace guards, the colorful flower carts on the streets. The younger daughters come down from the convent at Rochampton to see the Queen's Doll's House; the older ones go to Ascot. They feel at home at the embassy; but with the informality of any American family they "do find it a bit strange," according to Mrs. Kennedy, "to have to telephone to one another from the various floors to make a date to meet in a certain room," rather than calling out in their accustomed casual fashion.

Mrs. Kennedy might be mistaken for one of her daughters. She is young, looks even younger, is slimmer than most of the girls, hasn't a gray hair, prefers running up and down stairs to taking the iron-gated lift, and is said to have the prettiest and best-dressed feet at Ascot. She is a connoisseur of her children, helps them with their homework, dances with them, makes a point of having at least one meal a day with them in spite of all the new demands upon her time. But for all her youthfulness, she holds undisputed authority, whether it's in telling Teddy he can have only one piece of candy or in advising her older daughters in the choice of their clothes.

If you're a mother of nine children, or even four or five, perhaps you'll like to know some of the very practical ideas that Mrs. Kennedy has about dressing her flock. She puts polo coats on all of them—boys and girls, from youngest to oldest—because they're always in fashion, can be used summer or winter, for school or vacation travel, and can be "handed down." She considers navy-blue suits and sweaters a sound principle because they're universally becoming and keep the necessary problem uncomplicated. Brown shoes are the rule, and only one hat a season, which they seldom wear except to church. Even in London they go bareheaded, except for state occasions. The girls live in sweaters and skirts, classic uniform of most Americans of their age. They all collect charm bracelets—a new charm for every birthday and Christmas. And they all love plaid. The daughters wear gray ones in skirts and capes, and Mrs. Kennedy herself chooses a soft gray-and-blue pattern in a trim little dressmaker suit.

When the children were young, she dressed them alike, and one of the most amusing and practical of their brother-and-sister acts was in their bathing suits. All suits and caps were the same color—bright blue, red or green—so make it easy for the nurse to keep a watertight

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LONDON TOWN

Mrs. Kennedy helps Teddy with his lessons. He wears his English flannels, grey shorts and maroon jacket. Mrs. Kennedy looks so young, so right, in her grey-and-blue-plaid tweed suit.

Rosemary in turquoise.

White tulle and ribbon for Kathleen.