



The nation's first family takes a cruise. Dad and Grandma hold Mary Jean, 4; next are Susan Elaine, 8, Mommy, and David, 12; Barbara Anne, 11, stands next to Grandpa.

value is double-edged; it consists of his own high capabilities—he thinks clearly and writes well—and of the very fact that he is the President's son. The Presidency is a lonely job. Even high-placed officials 'yes' the President when they should say 'no.' John, on the other hand, is completely frank and is a safe depository of the President's trust."

The habit of confidence between the President and his only son is very old. From the time John was old enough to wash himself, he enjoyed far-ranging bathroom discussions with his father. While John washed and Ike shaved, they discussed everything from military tactics to morals.

Strong, too, is the habit of father and son sharing important public moments. They were together on V-E Day. And when Stalin invited Ike to Russia, John went along as an aide. Asked for a toast, he amazed the five-star generals, marshals, and admirals, who had been toasting each other, by proposing a toast to "the common soldier."

BARBARA, TOO, has newly assumed a public importance. She always has stood in the background—the smiling, gracious member of the first family, with no particular role to play. Now, since accompanying her father-in-law on his 22,000-mile "pilgrimage in quest of peace," she has emerged from the wings and taken a place on the world stage. And, though officially she was not a stand-in for Mamie Eisenhower, that became her role. Everywhere she made a good impression.

Yet behind the glamour is a normal daily life. John, always a hard worker, arrives at his White House office about 7:50 a.m. and leaves around 6:30 p.m. "On occasion," he says, "this gives me the opportunity to visit with friends in the evening, but usually I'm ready for bed."

He tries to harness his time so he can cope with a long working day, meet some of the social demands upon him, and have some fun with his four children—David, 12, Barbara Anne, 11, Susan Elaine, 8, and Mary Jean, 4. "To find time for everything is the trick of the week," he says, "and

I'm not entirely successful."

Unable to commute from Washington, he gets home to Gettysburg only on week ends. Until recently, he shared a Washington apartment with a former West Point classmate, then he moved temporarily into a room on the third floor of the White House. "I have had no occasion to make other arrangements, since I am away very much of the time on trips," he says.

Barbara, "a weekday widow," has become part of the Gettysburg community. She is a Red Cross worker, an activity that grew out of her work in the Junior League in Washington. She also took a three-week course as a nurse's aide and now contributes a full day every two weeks to the local hospital.

When John is at Gettysburg, Barbara and he entertain informally, usually buffet-style. They may have dinner parties of eight to ten people, usually Army friends.

When the children have parties, John makes sure that the parties are simple. He wants no child to be able to point to some expensive gift and say, "See what I got at the Eisenhowers'."

Barbara has only part-time help with the housework. She likes to sew but says she never has time for it. She enjoys cooking, too, and does her own.

As for the children, "All four are individualists," Barbara says. "David's main interest is sports, whatever is in season. Anne takes ballet lessons, and Susan rides horseback. The two older children—David and Anne—also ride horseback, but less enthusiastically. Anne is taking violin lessons, and all the children are fond of the piano."

John has entrusted the details of child-rearing to Barbara and steps in only when there is need for stern discipline. As parents, they are permissive—up to a point. Ultimately, however, the children must do as they are told.

An only child himself, John wanted a large family. Overprotected in his own childhood, he also wanted his children to be given independence. And because their grandfather's house is the White

House, he has tried to keep them as far from the spotlight as possible. Following the birth of Mary Jean, a reporter asked John whether he would have preferred to have her born at the White House rather than at Walter Reed Hospital. Somewhat testily, he replied that the White House could hardly match Walter Reed's obstetrical facilities.

With Grandpa and Grandma Eisenhower, the children, especially David, enjoy a gay camaraderie. They see Barbara's parents, the Percy Thompsons, who now live in Gainesville, Fla., less often but nonetheless enthusiastically.

Thirteen years of marriage now are behind the younger Eisenhowers. They met after the war while John was serving with the occupation forces in Vienna. One night at a supper party, he met one of the 12 American girls working in the city—Barbara Jean Thompson, daughter of an Army colonel and, by her own description, "the only CAF-1 (a typist of the lowest rank) in the whole European theater." They began to see a great deal of each other, and soon John sent Mamie a cable asking her to ship a miniature of his West Point class ring.

John's parents knew what that request meant, although he had not mentioned Barbara in his letters. Ike had similarly ordered a class ring in his own courtship of Mamie. Some weeks later, the Eisenhowers received a transatlantic telephone call from John, introducing them to their future daughter-in-law.

JOHNS AND BARBARA enjoy a good marriage, not only because they have a great deal in common, but also because they balance each other. She is more outgoing and less inhibited than he. John has never been an athlete, though he likes golf and frequently plays with his father at Burning Tree Country Club near Washington and in Gettysburg. Barbara is a good sportswoman and likes to play golf, swim, play tennis, and ride horseback. "She's not a small-town girl," says George Horkan, "but she's also no Long Island sophisticate."

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