

Irish Roll Out Green Carpet for Kennedy



SEEK KENNEDY LOOK—The family resemblance may not be too obvious, but Mrs. Kennedy. A visit to his ancestral home here Mary Ryan and most of her neighbors in New Ross, County Wexford, Ireland, are dis-

tant relatives of U.S. President John F. Kennedy. The most famous landmark is the defiant statue of the "croppy boy" with right hand aloft, trailing the Irish flag, which commemorates the bloody battle of 1798 in which New Ross, the military key to the whole province of Munster, was nearly destroyed by fire.

But today there is a new atmosphere in the town. The ancient landmarks, traditions and symbols of a freedom

hard-won and dearly-held, are happy to share pride of place with the Stars and Stripes, emblem of the adopted land of the town's most illustrious family.

In the shops, in the hotels and in private homes one finds the American flag proudly on show and treated with the same honor afforded the Irish tricolor.

And with the new awareness of its kinship with the United States, has come a new prosperity to the town in the form of thousands of eager

tourists. Busts of the President are on sale everywhere.

About a half mile down the twisting road from Dunganstown, is a two-story house where James Kennedy and his wife live with their four children — Anna, Patrick, Peggy and Kitty.

James is Mary's brother and shares with her the honor of being the closest Irish relatives of the President. Kennedy, when he visited Ireland as a U.S. Senator, succeeded in locating James and his family for a chat.

Edward Keane, a genealogist who is an official of the national library in Dublin, has been tracing the Kennedy family tree from official parish records, tombstones and other documents.

"The Kennedys of the President's stock have been in the Dunganstown (Wexford) area for more than 200 years — 100 years before Patrick moved out and 100 years since," he said.

"Patrick's family had 27 acres of good arable land in 1824 and two adjoining Ken-

edy farms had a total acreage of 80 acres.

"In the famine days it was the landless men and the laborers who either died from hunger or were forced to emigrate. The Kennedy family certainly could not be included in those classes. They were fairly substantial, strong farmers."

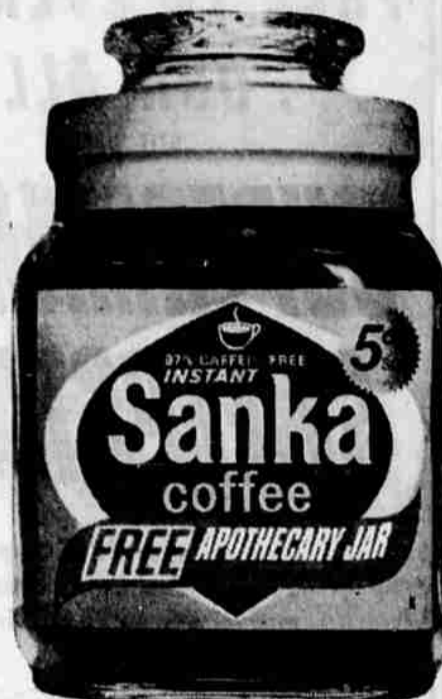
Vandenberg AFB, Calif. — The Air Force launched a satellite, presumably of the Discoverer series, Wednesday from this Pacific missile range base.

PRIZE FILM PREMIERED
New York — The prize-winning Russian film "My Name Is Ivan" had its premiere here Wednesday night before an audience of 40 UN ambassadors and stars of stage and screen.

NOSE BITER FINED
London — George Sandford, a window cleaner, was fined \$14 Tuesday for biting the nose of Alfred Nosworthy, who had pushed past him in a bus line.

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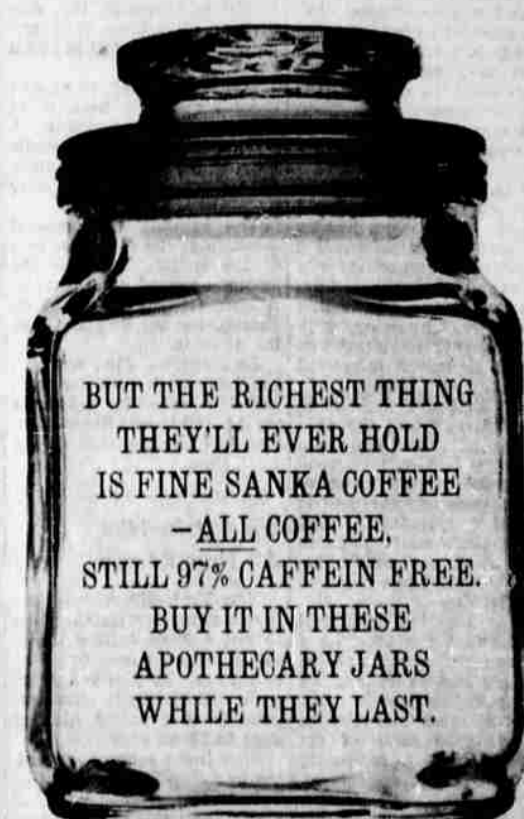
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By DONAL O'HIGGINS
United Press International

Dublin — They're rollin' out the green carpet all over this Emerald Isle for the expected visit of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, a returning son of Erin whose great grandfather set sail for the New World more than 100 years ago.

In the little river-port community of New Ross, in County Wexford, a special platform has been erected to ceremoniously welcome the President near the old cobblestone quayside where young Patrick Kennedy left in the mid-19th century.

New Ross, which will play host to the President during his planned stay June 26-29, is the most important town in the country today. But here in Dublin, in Cork, in Galway and in tiny villages throughout the country, the bunting is going up ("Dead Mile Faighte" it says in Gaelic — "100,000 Welcomes") for what may be the warmest reception ever given a visiting head of state.

"It is going to be the greatest reception in living memory," said Andy Minihan, chief organizer of the New Ross welcome.

Just about four miles from that ancient town lies the small cluster of houses known as Dunganstown where Mrs. Mary Ryan, a third cousin of the American president, is the

proud keeper of the ancestral Kennedy birthplace.

It was from a tiny, red-painted little dwelling with a galvanized red roof (where once there was a thatched covering) that young Patrick Kennedy set out for the immigrant ship. It was there President Kennedy's forebears lived at the time the great potato famine decimated the Irish and drove them in tens of thousands to find a new life in the United States.

Mrs. Ryan loves to chat about her famous kinsman, whom she has met twice already, but she said she is not planning anything special for her next meeting. "He knows what we are like and how we live and, somehow, I think he would be disappointed to find things all fussed up when he gets here," she said.

President Kennedy is as Irish as all get out and people are, indeed, getting "fussed up" over him however. But, despite some still-live hopes, he doesn't plan to kiss the Blarney Stone.

In fact, Press Secretary Pierre Salinger, who went to Ireland last month to make trip arrangements, said the President would not go to Blarney Castle, home of the famous stone. The Chief Executive's back condition and the acrobatics involved in kissing the stone would keep the President from trying it.

He who would kiss the stone must climb to the top of the old castle and lie flat on his back, grasp two upright iron bars and let a sturdy local boy hold onto his ankles. Then he inches his body through an opening above which rests the stone.

Next, his eyes facing the sky, the nape of his neck projecting toward the trees below, he must trust to the firm pair of Irish hands to haul him to safety by the ankles.

Is it worth it? The Irish poets think so. One wrote: "There is a stone that whoever kisses Oh, he never misses to grow eloquent."

"Tis he may clamber to a lady's chamber Or become a member of Parliament."

Quipped one Dubliner: The eloquence that the legendary stone is said to bequeath "would help solve some of his (the President's) 1964 election problems."

Perched atop a steep hill overlooking the River Barrow and lying some 90 miles southeast of Dublin, New Ross boasts a proud tradition of Irish fighting lore. With its population of just under 5,000, the outward appearance of the town was changed little in the years since President Kennedy's great grandfather lived there.

Many of the streets once

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