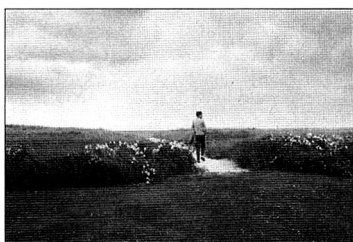


Mark Shaw

Monroe Gallery of Photography

At the height of his career in the 1950s and early '60s, Mark Shaw photographed the leading lights of Washington, D.C.,



Mark Shaw, *John Kennedy on dunes, Hyannis Port*, 1959, vintage gelatin silver print, 11" x 14". Monroe Gallery of Photography.

and Hollywood for *Life* magazine and covered fashion shows for *Harper's Bazaar*. The photographer was adept at introducing a sense of casual intimacy into what were in essence publicity shots. This retrospective show, compiled by David Shaw 40 years after his father's death, included portraits of Jackie Gleason at his dressing table and Coco Chanel on her divan, some of the photographer's advertising work, and a whole section of pictures of Audrey Hepburn taken on the set of *Sabrina* for *Life*. But the highlight was the album of 14 images of the Kennedy clan.

Having nurtured a family friendship, Shaw was a favored photographer of Jacqueline Kennedy, who is clearly at ease in these pictures. (Three weeks before the president's assassination, she wrote to the photographer, "The one of me and John looks like a Caravaggio—and the one of John, reflected in the table, like some wonderful, strange, poetic Matisse.") From the image of Jackie swinging Caroline in the shallow waters of Hyannis Port to that of the family sailing on Nantucket Sound, these are elegantly composed snapshots of photogenic people.

There is also the picture of the future president that John F. Kennedy—a politician who understood the value of a well-placed and evocative image—once called his favorite photo of himself. Taken in 1959, it shows a youngish man walking away from the photographer and toward the blustery dunes of Hyannis Port. The image emphasizes a rugged individualism. And because of what we know is coming, it seems to portend tragedy.

—*Kathryn M Davis*